

O Timothy

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

A Monthly Newsletter for Spiritual Protection and Edification

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“Cultural factors...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...Spiritual protection is available and victory is possible, but it requires that church leaders take everything to a higher, stronger level if they want to be standing for the Word of God in the future.” Page 1.

Digging in the Walls: A month's worth of news items, republished from Friday Church News Notes. **Page 14.**



CULTURAL FACTORS IN THE WEAKENING OF CHURCHES ~ By David Cloud

The following is excerpted from [**THE DISCIPLING CHURCH: THE CHURCH THAT WILL STAND UNTIL JESUS COMES.**](#) New for March 2017. 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.

Following are some of the factors that have weakened the character of Bible-believing churches over the past 70 years and helped create a mixed multitude philosophy.

Theological Liberalism

Confidence in the Bible was weakened by theological liberalism and Darwinian evolution, and this greatly weakened the spiritual power of churches.

Though liberalism took many forms, at its heart it was an attack upon the authority of the Bible and it was an application of the theory of evolution to Bible history.

The Northern Baptists became liberal in theology at the beginning of the 20th century. (They were known as the Northern Baptist Convention until 1950, when the name was changed to American Baptist Convention.) For example, in 1918, Harry Emerson Fosdick, pastor of the influential Riverside Church in New York City, published *The Manhood of the Master*, denying that Jesus Christ is God. In 1926, the Northern Baptist Convention voted by a margin of three to one *not* to evict Riverside Church from the convention.

Liberalism entered the Southern Baptist Convention in the first half of the 20th century.

By 1902, J.W. Bailey of North Carolina wrote in the *Biblical Recorder* that there were a multitude of “theologies” in the Southern Baptist Convention. He said, “Theologies change every day. ... [Baptists do not stand for] formulated dogmas.”

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A Baptist pastorate that was probably largely unregenerate stopped depending on spiritual weapons and turned to carnal weapons such as programs and an efficient organization.

There was an emphasis on “efficiency” and “pragmatism” (using whatever works to produce a desired goal).

“Efficiency consisted not in purity or obedience, but in system, organization, and rationality in all areas of church activity. ... progressive church leaders held that the church in the modern age needed a polity based not on ancient authority but on science, rationality, and system. They looked to social scientists and efficiency experts such as Frederick Winslow Taylor, who in this era developed management into a science for producing efficient organizations” (*Restoring Integrity in Baptist Churches*, Kindle loc. 2167-2174).

In the 1920s, the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary appointed Gaines Dobbins as a “professor of church efficiency.” His 1923 book *The Efficient Church* had a wide influence. He claimed that Christ’s ministry in the Gospels was “the perfection of efficiency” and Paul was the “world’s greatest efficiency expert in religion.”

The churches began leaning to the spirit and wisdom of the times instead of God’s Spirit and God’s Word. Instead of separating from the world and its unenlightened thinking, they learned from the world.

They bowed to the American spirit of individualism and consumerism. They stopped requiring evidence of salvation and practicing discipline so as not to offend potential members.

The churches appeased the people’s idolatrous, me-centered desire to shop for a church that met their felt needs. They lowered the spiritual standards, became entertainment-oriented, borrowed the world’s music to make Christian music more appealing to the unsaved and carnal, softened the preaching, created “youth ministries” that encouraged the generation gap and were merely Christianized versions of the world’s pop culture.

By the last half of the 20th century, this spiritual appeasement produced the seeker-sensitive, megachurch movement.

The churches bowed to the influence of the “new morality” and allowed church members to live worldly lives. Such things as dating, pre-marital sex, drinking, jazz, rock, divorce, unisex fashions flooded the weak churches.

The churches bowed to the philosophy of non-judgmentalism and non-dogmatism that permeated society.

The concept of church as pilgrims and strangers in a foreign country was replaced by Americanism and flag waving.

The Social Gospel produced an emphasis away from evangelism and church planting. Building God's kingdom on earth through social-justice projects and maintaining good social order began to replace "saving brands from the burning."

In 1910, William Poteat, president of Wake Forest College, told the annual Southern Baptist Convention that Baptists were in the best position to save civilization.

In 1920, Richard Edmonds wrote, "Upon the Baptists of the South may rest the salvation of America and of the world from chaos and from sinking back into the darkness of the middle ages" (*The South, America and the World*).

The Public School System

Few things have done more to weaken Bible-believing churches than the public school system with its anti-God, anti-Bible, evolutionary, socialistic, globalistic agenda. It is a major tool of the "god of this world" in these end times. Christian parents have foolishly turned their children over to the hands of the devil to be brainwashed and sexualized and converted to the devil's agenda.

Public school attendance is a major reason why so few of the young people in the churches are true disciples of Christ, why, in fact, many of them become open enemies of Christ.

The public school system was one of the most negative spiritual and moral influences in my youth, and that was in a day wherein the schools in America were not nearly as degenerate as they are today.

I entered grammar school in 1955 and graduated from high school in 1967. As I recall, we weren't taught evolution or communism or multiculturalism or feminism or transsexualism.

In fact, for much of that time, we still had Bible reading and prayer in the schools. But even then the secularized environment and the blossoming rock & roll pop culture and the godless friends were devastating to my Christian profession.

My parents took me to church every time the doors were open, but how can a few hours in a weak church per week overcome 30 and more hours of immersion in the world?

By the time I was in junior high school, the Bible and prayer were kicked out of the nation's schools by fiat of the U.S. Supreme Court. Creationism was replaced by evolution. Biblical morality was replaced with moral relativism. The sexual revolution was glorified.

In 2015, I received the following testimony from a public school teacher:

"I teach math to twelve- to fifteen-year-old children in public school in a heavily Protestant-churched community in North Carolina. The students are absolutely addicted to cell phones. Many walk around campus plugged into their devices. Music and games are the most addictive. Posting of 'selfies' on Snapchat is very popular. All the immorality that we had to work hard to find when we were young is available to children in a second. Few, if any, are strong enough to resist biting the apple."

The truth of 1 Corinthians 15:33 guarantees that a church populated by kids educated in the public school system will be a weak church with weak Christian homes and weak youth. See also Psalm 1:1; Proverbs 19:27; Jeremiah 10:2; 2 Corinthians 6:14-18.

Pastor David Sorenson makes the following wise comment:

"I know of no greater passage of Scripture dealing with the matter of Christian education than Psalm 1. There probably is no institution in this country that more embodies the counsel of the ungodly, the way of sinners, and the seat of the scornful than the national public education establishment. With its systemic teaching of evolution which mocks creation, it certainly occupies the seat of the scornful. With its institutionalized sex education (that is little more than sex encouragement), it certainly is in the way of sinners. As it tacitly ignores the things of God under the guise of separation of church and state, it certainly is the counsel of the ungodly. The objective of Psalm 1:1 is to get our families out of the world and to get the world out of our families" (*Training Your Children to Turn out Right*, pp. 92, 93).

Pastor Kerry Allen comments on 1 Samuel 13:19-20:

"Children are arrows to be sharpened and shot at our enemy, the devil. Are we foolish enough to believe that if we give our arrows to the enemy, he is going to sharpen them for us? No, rather he will see to it that they are dull and useless against him. Wise warriors will never allow the enemy to tamper with their weapons of warfare" (*How Can I Except Some Man Guide Me?*)

I realize there are situations in which a child must attend public school for reasons that might be out of the parent's control. For example, there are divorced Christians that have to share custody with an unsaved parent. And in some situations, missionaries have chosen to send their children to a public school in a foreign country after weighing all of their options before the Lord. I know of two cases like this that have turned out right, and those children are serving the Lord. *But I must hasten to add that I personally know of only two!*

If children must attend public school, the key to having them turn out right for the Lord is intimate, godly involvement by the parents and a committed relationship with a strong church.

The same thing can be said about secular university. Pastor Mike Sullivant has the following observation:

“Very few that go off to secular university go on to serve the Lord. I’ve got one guy that is in engineering, but he lives with a Christian family off campus and comes home every weekend. His family is active in the church and during the summer he comes home to work and is faithful to church and goes to the activities. Pastor Bob Kelly said that the only way that a saved person could go to a secular school and turn out right is that he not be just an ATTENDER of a good church but that he be ACTIVELY INVOLVED in the church. I’ve seen some of our young people leave here and go to the university in Winnipeg and attend a church but they are not active in a church, and it seems that it is no better for them than if they weren’t going to church at all. I’ve never seen a non-active one make it without being scorched big time.”

Materialism and Working Mothers

Another key factor in the weakening of churches over the past 60 years is the breakdown of the home, and one of the chief causes of this is the frenzied pursuit of wealth and comfort with the accompanying phenomenon of working mothers.

During World War II, women entered the work force in great numbers because so many men were fighting overseas. (This phenomenon had begun in World War I, but it exploded in World War II.) When the war ended, the trend toward working moms did not stop.

Instead of being content with living on the father’s paycheck while the mothers attended to the essential business of keeping the home and caring for the children, mothers and fathers both entered the work force.

This was direct and brazen disobedience to God’s Word, and it was evidence that many homes and churches were following society rather than Scripture.

“That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed” (Titus 2:4-5).

The working mother phenomenon left children without close parental supervision and training, and the devil has filled the void.

Ron Williams, founder of the Hephzibah House in Winona Lake, Indiana, has many decades of experience working with troubled children from Christian homes. He issues the following warning:

“Small wonder many children and young people forge such strong loyalties to peers even though they are an

adverse influence on them. In the absence of a full-time mother, a child will naturally seek guidance, companionship and fulfillment from another source. Loyalties that should have been cemented with his parents and family are instead farmed out to evil-charactered peers readily provided by a satanically-dominated world. Mom, your children need you, not a surrogate hireling. You cannot be replaced by another. God has called you to be a ‘keeper at home,’ not to stunt your creativity or imprison you in an unfulfilling, demeaning role, but because you have been called to the high and noble office of a homemaker; a responsibility with unmeasurable rewards, heavy demands, great fulfillment, and inestimable blessing for you, your husband, and your children.”

If a married woman doesn’t have children or if her children are grown or if she can work part time without causing any harm to her family, that is a different situation.

The Rock & Roll Pop Culture

Rock music is the heart and soul of an ungodly global pop culture. It is the soundtrack of the modern youth culture. Originating in America and England, it spread throughout the world.

In most nations today, young people share the same philosophy, have the same values, wear the same fashions, love the same techno gadgets, have the same heroes, display the same attitude.

Rock music and the pop culture that it began to create in the 1950s weakened churches almost immediately and it has been weakening them ever since.

Young people were enticed, addicted, and brainwashed. The Pied Piper of rock reached into the church in which I was raised and captured the hearts of all of the young people. I don’t know of any exceptions.

I remember how I was affected by early rock & roll records in 1962, the year I turned 13. I was mesmerized. The feelings produced by the music were so powerful. Church was boring, but *this new world* was amazing! I couldn’t wait to quit church and live out my rock & roll fantasies, and I did that at age 17 when I graduated from high school and had my own car.

Rock music is enticing and transformational because it brings the philosophy of self-centeredness, rebellion to authority, and moral license.

The rock culture is not morally neutral. Rebellion against God’s holy laws is not a sideline of rock & roll; it is the heart and soul.

From its inception in the 1950s and 1960s, rock has preached rebellion and moral license. The rock philosophy is the

philosophy of “do your own thing; don’t let anyone tell you what to do.” It’s the me-first philosophy that lies at the heart of the self-esteem culture.

Rock preaches the ancient lie that the devil uttered to Eve: “God’s laws are restrictive; He is keeping you from enjoying life to the fullest; throw off His yoke and live as you please; be your own god.”

“Elvis changed our hairstyles, dress styles, our attitudes toward sex, all the musical taste” (David Brinkley, NBC News, cited by Larry Nager, *Memphis Beat*, p. 216).

“I’m free to do what I want any old time” (Rolling Stones, 1965).

“It’s my life and I’ll do what I want/ It’s my mind, and I’ll think what I want” (The Animals, 1965).

“You got to go where you want to go/ do what you want to do” (Mamas and Papas, 1966).

“It’s your thing/ do what you want to do” (Isley Brothers, 1969).

“We don’t need no thought control” (Pink Floyd, “Another Brick in the Wall,” 1979).

“I’m gonna do it my way. ... I want to make my own decision ... I want to be the one in control...” (Janet Jackson, “Control,” 1986).

“Nothing’s forbidden and nothing’s taboo when two are in love” (Prince, “When Two Are in Love,” 1988).

“... the only rules you should live by [are] rules made up by you” (Pennywise, “Rules,” 1991).

“So what we get drunk/ So what we smoke weed ... Living young and wild and free” (“Young, Wild and Free,” Snoop Dog and Wiz Khalifa, 2011).

“We can do what we want; we can live as we choose” (Paul McCartney, “New,” 2013).

“The whole Beatles idea was to do what you want” (John Lennon, cited by David Sheff, *The Playboy Interviews with John Lennon and Yoko Ono*, p. 61).

Little Richard **“freed people from their inhibitions, unleashing their spirit, ENABLING THEM TO DO EXACTLY WHAT THEY FELT LIKE DOING”** (*Life & Times of Little Richard*, p. 66).

At the heart of rock music is sexual liberty, which is brazen rebellion against God’s holy law of marriage. Again we quote the rock and rollers themselves as evidence for this:

“Everyone takes it for granted that rock and roll is synonymous with sex” (Chris Stein of the rock group Blondie, *People*, May 21, 1979).

“Rock music is sex. The big beat matches the body’s rhythms” (Frank Zappa of the Mothers of Invention, *Life*, June 28, 1968).

“The sex is definitely in the music, and sex is in all aspects of the music” (Luke Campbell of 2 Live Crew).

“Rock ‘n’ roll is synonymous with sex and you can’t take that away from it. It just doesn’t work” (Steven Tyler of Aerosmith, *Entertainment Tonight*, ABC, Dec. 10, 1987).

“Rock ‘n’ roll is 99% sex” (John Oates of Hall & Oates, *Circus*, Jan. 31, 1976).

“Pop music revolves around sexuality. I believe that if there is anarchy, let’s make it sexual anarchy rather than political” (Adam Ant, *From Rock to Rock*, p. 93).

“Perhaps my music is sexy ... but what music with a big beat isn’t?” (Jimi Hendrix, Henderson, cited from his biography *‘Scuse Me While I Kiss the Sky*, p. 117).

“Rock ‘n’ roll is sex. Real rock ‘n’ roll isn’t based on cerebral thoughts. It’s based on one’s lower nature” (Paul Stanley of KISS, cited from *The Role of Rock*, p. 44).

“That’s what rock is all about—sex with a 100 megaton bomb, THE BEAT!” (Gene Simmons of Kiss, *Entertainment Tonight*, ABC, Dec. 10, 1987).

“Rock ‘n’ roll is all sex. One hundred percent sex” (Debbie Harry of Blondie, cited by Carl Belz, “Television Shows and Rock Music,” *The Age of Communication*, Goodyear Publishing Company, 1974, p. 398).

Rock music represents the world of the sexual revolution: shacking up, hooking up, the homosexual agenda (LGBT, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transsexual), no-fault divorce, polyamory (multiple marriage partners).

The rock world is a sleazy, filthy world. It is impossible for a Bible-believing Christian to watch the Grammys or to read *Rolling Stone* and other rock magazines or even to browse the Walmart pop music department or the pop music section of the Apple iTunes store without seeing the continual flaunting of nakedness and fornication.

The lives of popular rock musicians have been filled with profanity, fornication, adultery, multiple marriages, homosexuality, lesbianism, alcohol abuse, drug abuse, tumult, covetousness, theft, and suicide.

No wonder the rock culture has weakened churches. Very few churches have been strong enough to overcome its pull and its influence on the people.

Pop Psychology

Pop psychology has also greatly influenced society over the past half century and in turn weakened the churches.

Humanistic psychology has greatly undermined biblical morality. It is based on the premise that man is basically good rather than a fallen sinner. It de-emphasizes personal responsibility for one's actions. Man is not a sinner, he is a victim (of his home life, his society, etc.). It has transformed sins into diseases (e.g., drunkenness is alcoholism).

At the heart of pop psychology is self-esteemism, which is exactly what fallen man wants. He wants to be the center of his universe. He wants to follow his heart and chase his dreams, and that is exactly what psychology encourages him to do.

The doctrine of self-esteem was developed by the fathers of the psychological counseling movement and has spread throughout that field and beyond to every level of modern society.

According to the doctrine of self-esteem, man must pursue his own self-love or self-confidence for the sake of psychological wholeness, and anything that damages self-esteem is wrong.

The mystical path to the development of self-esteem is psychological counseling. Since absolute rules produce guilt in those who don't live up to them, the pursuit of self-esteem emphasizes the need for "new rules which will allow us more freedom of movement and encourage us to accept ourselves just as we are" (E.S. Williams, *The Dark Side of Christian Counseling*, p. 116).

Atheist Abraham Maslow emphasized the need for self-esteem in books such as *A Theory of Human Motivation* (1943), *Motivation and Personality* (1954), and *Toward a Psychology of Being* (1955). He taught that a lack of self-esteem can lead to "neurotic trends." Rejecting the doctrine of the fall, he believed that man is basically good and there is "a positive, self-actualising force within each person that is struggling to assert itself" (Williams, *The Dark Side*, p. 114). If it is "permitted to guide our life, we grow healthy, fruitful, and happy" (*Motivation and Personality*, 1970, p. 122).

Dr. Nathaniel Branden has had a massive influence in the promotion of self-esteem through books such as *Psychology of Self-Esteem* (1969), *How to Raise Your Self-Esteem* (1987), and the *Six Pillars of Self-Esteem* (1995). He treats self-esteem as a basic human need that is essential for mental health. He says, "The first love affair we must consummate successfully in this world is with ourselves; only then are we ready for a relationship."

Douglas Groothuis identifies the self-esteem doctrine as New Age in character.

"Maslow's past-breaking efforts cleared the way for an exodus from the old psychological view of humanity toward a new human that is essentially good and has within himself unlimited potential for growth. A whole host of thinkers--Erich Fromm, Rollo May, Carl Rogers and others--sound this call. In humanistic psychology the self is seen as the radiant heart of health, and psychotherapy must strive to get the person in touch with that source of goodness. ... This is the message at the core of New Age teaching" (*Unmasking the New Age*, 1986, p. 78).

The pursuit of self-esteem puts one into contact with the god of end-times apostasy.

Though fashioned by God-haters such as Abraham Maslow, self-esteem doctrine has been promoted far and wide in Christian circles by a slew of Christian psychologists, with James Dobson leading the way.

Dobson claims that "lack of self-esteem produces more symptoms of psychiatric disorders than any other factor yet identified" (*Dr. Dobson Answers Your Questions about Confident Healthy Families*, 1987, pp. 73-74). His 1974 book *Hide and Seek* was designed "to formulate a well-defined philosophy--and approach to child rearing--that will contribute to self-esteem from infancy onwards." He says, "If I could write a prescription for the women of the world, I would provide each one of them with a healthy dose of self-esteem and personal worth (taken three times a day until the symptoms disappear). I have no doubt that this is their greatest need" (*What Wives Wish Their Husbands Knew about Women*, p. 35). He says, "... lack of self-esteem is a threat to the entire human family, affecting children, adolescents, the elderly, all socioeconomic levels of society, and each race and ethnic culture" (*What Wives Wish*, p. 24).

Dobson believes that lack of self-esteem is the cause of every social ill.

"Thus, whenever the keys to self-esteem are seemingly out of reach for a large percentage of the people, as in twentieth-century America, then widespread mental illness, neuroticism, hatred, alcoholism, drug abuse, violence, and social disorder will certainly occur. Personal worth is not something humans are free to take or leave.

We must have it, and when it is unattainable, everybody suffers" (*Dr. Dobson Answers Your Questions about Confident, Healthy Families*, p. 67).

To the contrary, the Bible lays the ills of society at the feet of fallen man and his rebellion against God. Jesus taught that murder, adultery, fornication, covetousness, deceit, theft, and such come from man's wicked heart (Mark 7:21-23).

David Seamands is another pioneer of the Christian self-esteem movement. His hugely popular books *Healing for Damaged Emotions* and *Healing of Memories* seek to heal the believer of "Satan's most powerful psychological weapon" which is "low self-esteem." He aims to take the client back into the past to recover and heal memories of events that injured one's self-esteem.

Seamands has been widely recommended by evangelicals, including James Dobson and George Verwer (*Youth With A Mission*), who wrote the foreword to *Healing for Damaged Emotions*.

Seamands' mystical path toward self-esteem is "healing of memories" through psychological counseling and New Age techniques. He promotes things as positive visualization, guided imagery, dream analysis, and venting of emotions. Through visualization, the individual is taught to imagine painful past events in perfect detail and to imagine Jesus entering the scenes to bring healing. This is not only vain fantasy; it is occultic and it is a recipe for communing with deceiving spirits masquerading as angels of light.

The self-esteem doctrine downplays and redefines sin.

The very popular and influential Robert Schuller, who was a pioneer in the "Christian" self-esteem movement, defined sin as "any act or thought that robs myself or another human being of his or her self-esteem" (*Self-Esteem: The New Reformation*, p. 14). He defined the new birth as "being changed from a negative to a positive self-image--from inferiority to self-esteem" (p. 68). He even said that Christ was "self-esteem incarnate" (p. 135). Schuller has been praised and promoted by a whose-who of evangelicalism, including Billy Graham, W.A. Criswell, R.C. Sproul, *Christianity Today*, National Association of Evangelicals, World Vision, Promise Keepers, James Dobson, Tony Campolo, Bill Bright, Paul Yonggi Cho, Jack Hayford, Ralph Reed, Bill Hybels, Paul Crouch, John Wimber, Ravi Zacharias, Lee Strobel, Chuck Colson, and Rick Warren, to name a few. (See "Evangelicals and Heretic Robert Schuller" at the Way of Life web site.)

The self-esteem doctrine promotes an unscriptural view of the conscience. While acknowledging that the conscience (an "inner voice") produces guilt and negative thoughts, the proposed solution is not the biblical path of regeneration

through repentance and faith followed by a Christian walk of obedience and confession. The proposed solution, instead, is to lower the standards of morality.

The atheistic founders of the self-esteem doctrine hated the holy God of the Bible and His holy law and sought to destroy His authority over men by denying His existence and teaching moral relativism and the pursuit of Self. Christian counsellors who have borrowed the self-esteem doctrine also tend to downplay the absoluteness of God's law, the necessity of strict obedience, and they replace the biblical means of soothing the conscience with psychological mumbo-jumbo.

Humanistic psychology has had a major influence on modern society, and it has caused the thinking of church members to be corrupted away from biblical thinking. Since most church members were educated in the public school system and are otherwise influenced by psychology, and since most of them are not serious students of God's Word, their thinking is more secular than biblical.

Most churches have not been strong enough to resist the onslaught of humanistic psychology. Most pastors have not properly educated the people or properly warned them. They have not stood plainly against heretical psychological principles. They do not want to "offend" the people and "drive them away."

The result has been weakened churches and mixed multitudes.

Democracy

Democracy is another factor that has weakened the discipline of churches.

The democratic political movement of modern times was birthed in America. The rule of kings was replaced with the rule of the people. Though America is not strictly a democracy; it is a democratic republic, which is a democracy under the rule of law, the emphasis is still on the rule of the people. The Declaration of Independence championed "the right of the people," while the United States Constitution begins with the words, "We the people." President Abraham Lincoln described the U.S. government as one "of the people, by the people, and for the people."

Multitudes of people flocked to America in search of people's rights.

In a great many ways democracy has been a great blessing, primarily in the areas of liberty and economic prosperity. It liberated men from the dictates of autocratic kings and state churches. It created a climate in which churches multiplied and world evangelism prospered. It was the search for liberty

and economic prosperity that brought the masses to America's shores and that spread American democracy to many nations.

A danger of this is in transferring the philosophy and attitude of "people's power" from the political realm into the church. The church is not a democracy. It is not "of the people, by the people, and for the people." The believer in Christ is spiritually translated into Christ's kingdom (Col. 1:13), and the church is an outpost of Christ's coming kingdom, and it is obligated to live under His Headship. The church is a theocracy ruled by Christ and His Word. Christ appoints governors, who are called pastors, elders, and bishops, and they have the rule over the church under Christ (Heb. 13:17; 1 Pe. 5:1-2). They don't have legislative power, because the church's laws are already settled in the canon of Scripture. Rather they have executive and judicial powers.

In the New Testament, we see the congregation participating in decisions, particularly in the selection of deacons (Acts 6:1-6). But this is not "people's power" in that it was done under the direction of and in coordination with the leaders.

What has happened in American churches, in particular, and in churches influenced by them, is the intrusion of the attitude of people's power. Too often, an attitude of "we are the people, and we will decide what we do" has replaced that of "we are the *Lord's* people and we will live strictly by His will."

This can best be seen by comparing churches today with those of former times.

Consider the following description of church discipline 150 years ago:

"The oversight of the members was minute and persistent. Their general conduct, their domestic life, their business, their connections in civil society, their recreations, and even their dress, were all deemed legitimate subjects for the strictest supervision" (J.J. Goadby, *Discipline in Early Baptist Churches*, 1871).

This was a perfectly biblical position, and people in that day commonly submitted to such discipline. The level of democracy and the modern focus on self had not yet ruined church discipline.

But today the attitude on the part of vast numbers of church members is that these things are *not* the business of the church. The attitude is more along the line of, "You can't tell me what I can or cannot do, how I dress, what music I listen to, how I conduct my family life and business, whom I associate with. Who do the pastors think they are?"

This thinking is evident in the way that so many churches "hire and fire" preachers, not on the basis of biblical truth and

righteousness, but on the basis of the whims of the people, as if pastors exist to do the bidding of the people and to please them. I think of a Baptist church in Tennessee that fired the preacher nearly every year and got a new one. Typically, it took a new preacher about a year to offend the main families in the church!

The Feminist Movement

The feminist movement has had a very powerful influence on modern society and on the churches.

It began in the second half of the 19th century with the push for women's suffrage, political equality (an equal voice and place for women in politics), workplace equality (equal pay for equal work), and female education. The first gathering devoted to women's rights was in 1848 with about 100 people in attendance. It was led by Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott. Full voting rights were granted to women in America in 1920.

By the early 20th century, the feminist movement was pushing for "reproductive rights," which refers to birth control and abortion. Many 19th century feminist leaders were opposed to abortion, but by the 20th century, feminism was at the forefront of the abortion rights movement which has resulted in the destruction of millions upon millions of unborn children.

The feminist movement has become ever more radical. It has pushed for "non-sexist" or "gender neutral" language (e.g., chairman becomes chairperson). It has often been an opponent of traditional marriage and has been at the forefront of homosexual rights. It has reconstituted goddess theology. Pressure for accommodation of women in all positions, has resulted in the lowering of physical standards for police, firefighters, and the military.

Feminism created the unisex movement and paved the way for homosexual rights. The pantsuit was invented in 1966 by homosexual fashion designer Yves Saint Laurent. Feminist Linda Grant said 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). The breaking down of the created distinction between male and female in the pop culture has, in turn, greatly encouraged the homosexual movement.

The feminist movement has had an influence in Bible-believing churches because so many professing Christian women are more influenced by feminist thinking than by the Bible. They consider feminine characteristics such as "a meek and quiet spirit" (1 Pe. 3:4) and modesty, shamefacedness, and sobriety (1 Ti. 2:9) to be outdated. As Don Boys points out, "For us to suggest that women be modest in apparel, attitude,

and actions as Paul commanded is almost quaint. Moreover, not only do feminists go ballistic but also many closet feminists in our churches are quick to demand the right to wear whatever they choose, even if the Apostle Paul or their husbands disagree” (“Megyn Kelly, *Whatever Happened to Modesty?*” donboys.cstnews.com, Nov. 17, 2016).

Christian mothers aren’t content to be keepers at home (Titus 2:5). They resist the Bible’s command that the wife submit herself to her husband as unto the Lord. The Scripture’s command that a woman not teach or usurp authority over the man is thought to be outdated (1 Ti. 2:12). They want an equal voice with the men in church affairs. They want their daughters to “follow their hearts,” even if that means playing male-dominated sports or pursuing something like a career in the infantry.

They bob their hair and wear pants (as a product of the feminist-influenced unisex fashion movement), and woe be to that preacher who tries to reprove them. It has been a long time since a Baptist preacher published a book by the title of *Bobbed Hair, Bossy Wives, and Women Preachers!* (That was the title of a 1941 pamphlet by Evangelist John R. Rice.)

Rice wrote, “The pulpit is a place for the strongest men that we have. The preacher in the pulpit should speak with an authority that is absolutely forbidden a woman to exercise.”

Where are those strong men today?

The feminization effect has resulted in a softening of the preaching and the militant stance of the church. God is a “man of war,” but very few preachers are. Christ took on the Pharisees and Sadducees, and Paul took on every heretic that raised his head, but such zeal is foreign to most so-called preachers. Martin Luther took on Rome and called the pope the antichrist and called the pope’s bull “all impiety, blasphemy, ignorance, impudence, hypocrisy, lying.” Charles Spurgeon took on the Baptist Union and railed against “soft manners and squeamish words” in the pulpit, calling for “dinging our pulpits into blads” [smashing them with forceful preaching]. Gilbert Tennent took on the Presbyterians of his day, lifting his voice in 1740 in the midst of a synod (a regional governing body) to warn that many preachers were unregenerate and calling them “rotten-hearted hypocrites, and utter strangers to the saving knowledge of God and of their own hearts” (Joseph Tracy, *The Great Awakening*, 1842).

This type of boldness is entirely unknown among convention Baptists, and it is exceedingly rare among fundamental Baptists.

The protest has long gone out of Protestants, and the “fundamentalism” has largely gone out of fundamentalists.

I am convinced that the feminization of society has resulted in a weakening of even the best churches and a rapidly growing de-emphasis on biblical militancy (being a soldier in Christ’s army).

The feminization of the churches can even be seen in a softening of the hymns. There is less forthrightness in the lyrics and less military boldness in the music.

New Evangelicalism

New Evangelicalism has greatly influenced and seriously weakened Bible-believing churches, even many of those who would say that they are opposed to New Evangelicalism.

The weakening came after World War II with the advent of a religious philosophy which its own leaders branded “new evangelicalism.”

During the first half of the 20th century, evangelicalism in America was synonymous with fundamentalism. Many historians make this connection, including George Marsden says, “There was not a practical distinction between fundamentalist and evangelical: the words were interchangeable” (*Reforming Fundamentalism*, p. 48).

When the National Association of Evangelicals (NAE) was formed in 1942, for example, participants included such fundamentalist leaders as Bob Jones, Sr., John R. Rice, Charles Woodbridge, Harry Ironside, and David Otis Fuller.

By the mid-1950s, though, a clear break between separatist fundamentalists and non-separatist evangelicals occurred. This was occasioned largely by the ecumenical evangelism of Billy Graham. Most of the stronger men dropped out of the National Association of Evangelicals. The terms “evangelicalism” and “fundamentalism” began “to refer to two different movements” (William Martin, *A Prophet with Honor*, p. 224).

The sons of evangelical-fundamentalist preachers determined to create a “New Evangelicalism.” They would not be fighters; they would be diplomats; they would have a positive rather than a militant emphasis; they would be infiltrators rather than separatists. They refused to be restricted by “a separatist mentality.”

The term “New Evangelicalism” defined a new type of evangelicalism to distinguish it from those who had heretofore borne that label. The term “new evangelicalism” was probably coined by Harold Ockenga (1905-1985), one of the most influential evangelical leaders of the 1940s. He was the pastor of Park Street Church (Congregational) in Boston, founder of the National Association of Evangelicals, co-founder and one-time president of Fuller Theological Seminary, first

president of the World Evangelical Fellowship, president of Gordon College and Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, a director of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, and chairman of the board and one-time editor of *Christianity Today*. In the foreword to Dr. Harold Lindsell's book *The Battle for the Bible*, Ockenga stated the philosophy of new evangelicalism as follows:

"Neo-evangelicalism was born in 1948 in connection with a convocation address which I gave in the Civic Auditorium in Pasadena. While reaffirming the theological view of fundamentalism, this address repudiated its ecclesiology and its social theory. The ringing call for a REPUDIATION OF SEPARATISM and the summons to social involvement received a hearty response from many evangelicals. ... It differed from fundamentalism in its repudiation of separatism and its determination to engage itself in the theological dialogue of the day. It had a new emphasis upon the application of the gospel to the sociological, political, and economic areas of life."

Ockenga did not create the movement; he merely labeled and described the new mood of positivism and non-militancy that was permeating his generation. Ockenga and the new generation of evangelicals, Billy Graham figuring most prominently, determined to abandon a strong Bible stance. Instead, they would pursue dialogue, intellectualism, and appeasement. They determined to stay within liberal denominations to attempt to change things from within rather than practice separation.

The New Evangelical would dialogue with those who teach error rather than proclaim the Word of God boldly and without compromise and separate from them. The New Evangelical would meet the haughty liberal on his own turf with human scholarship rather than follow the humble path of being counted a fool for Christ's sake by standing simply upon Scripture. New Evangelical leaders also determined to start a "rethinking process" whereby the old paths were to be continually reassessed in light of new goals, methods, and ideology.

Dr. Charles Woodbridge, a professor at Fuller Theological Seminary in its early days, a founding member of the National Association of Evangelicals, and a personal friend of men such as Harold Ockenga and Carl Henry, rejected the New Evangelicalism and spent the rest of his life warning of its dangers. In his 1969 book, *The New Evangelicalism*, he traced the downward path of New Evangelical compromise:

"The New Evangelicalism is a theological and moral compromise of the deadliest sort. It is an insidious attack upon the Word of God. ... The New Evangelicalism advocates TOLERATION of error. It is following the downward path of ACCOMMODATION to error, COOPERATION with error, CONTAMINATION by error, and ultimate CAPITULATION to error!" (Woodbridge, *The New Evangelicalism*, pp. 9, 15).

Each passing decade has witnessed more plainly to the truth of Dr. Woodbridge's observations. Toleration of error leads to accommodation, cooperation, contamination, and capitulation. This is precisely the path that evangelical Christianity in general has taken during the past 50 years, as New Evangelicalism has spread across the world.

The New Evangelical philosophy has been adopted by such well-known Christian leaders as Billy Graham, Bill Bright, Harold Lindsell, John R.W. Stott, Luis Palau, E.V. Hill, Leighton Ford, Charles Stanley, Bill Hybels, Warren Wiersbe, Chuck Colson, Donald McGavran, Tony Campolo, Arthur Glasser, D. James Kennedy, David Hocking, Charles Swindoll, Rick Warren, Bill Hybels, and a host of other men. New Evangelicalism has been popularized through pleasant personalities and broadcast through powerful print, radio, and television media. *Christianity Today* was founded in 1956 to voice the new philosophy. Through publishing houses such as InterVarsity Press, Zondervan, Tyndale House Publishers, Moody Press, and Thomas Nelson--to name a few--New Evangelical thought was broadcast internationally. New Evangelicalism became the working principle of large interdenominational organizations such as the National Association of Evangelicals, National Religious Broadcasters, Youth for Christ, Campus Crusade for Christ, Back to the Bible, Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship, World Vision, Operation Mobilization, the Evangelical Foreign Mission Association, World Evangelical Fellowship, the National Sunday School Association, etc. It was spread through educational institutions such as Fuller Theological Seminary, Wheaton College, Gordon-Conwell, BIOLA, and Moody Bible Institute.

Because of the tremendous influence of these men and organizations, New Evangelical thought has swept the globe. Today, almost without exception, those who call themselves evangelicals are New Evangelicals; the terms have become synonymous. Old-line evangelicals, with rare exceptions, have either aligned with the fundamentalist movement or have adopted New Evangelicalism.

Evangelicalism's compromise is seen in its repudiation of biblical holiness. It has broken down the walls of ecclesiastical separation as well as the walls of separation from the world. The old fundamentalism was staunchly opposed to worldliness. The New Evangelical crowd has modified this. The result has been incredible to behold. R-rated movies are given positive reviews in evangelical publications. Evangelical music groups look and sound exactly like the world. Evangelical Bible College campuses have the look and feel of secular colleges. The students wear the same clothes (or lack of clothes) as the world; they drink the same beer and liquor; they dance to the same music; they celebrate the same worldly events; they care about the same worldly concerns.

Richard Quebedeaux documented this more than 35 years ago in his book, *The Worldly Evangelicals*.

"The Gallup Poll is correct in asserting that born-again Christians 'believe in a strict moral code.' But that strictness has been considerably modified during the last few years ... the monthly question and answer column (patterned after 'Dear Abby') in *Campus Life*, Youth for Christ's magazine, gives the impression that more born-again high school age couples are having INTERCOURSE than is generally supposed. Among evangelical young people, MASTERBATION is now often seen as a gift from God. DIVORCE AND REMARRIAGE are becoming more frequent and acceptable among evangelicals of all ages, even in some of their more conservative churches. This new tolerant attitude toward divorce has been greatly facilitated both by the publication of positive articles and books on the problem by evangelical authors and by the growth of ministry to singles in evangelical churches. ... Some evangelical women are taking advantage of ABORTION on demand. Many younger evangelicals occasionally use PROFANITY in their speech and writing (though they are generally careful to avoid traditional profanity against the deity). Some of the recent evangelical sex-technique books assume that their readers peruse and view PORNOGRAPHY on occasion, and they do. Finally, in 1976 there emerged a fellowship and information organization for practicing evangelical LESBIANS AND GAY MEN and their sympathizers. There is probably just as high a percentage of gays in the evangelical movement as in the wider society. Some of them are now coming out of the closet, distributing well-articulated literature, and demanding to be recognized and affirmed by the evangelical community at large" (Quebedeaux, *The Worldly Evangelicals*, 1978, pp. 16, 17).

James Hunter in the book *Evangelicalism the Coming Generation* (1987) documents "the evolution of behavioral standards for students" at evangelical colleges:

"What has happened at Wheaton College, Gordon College, and Westmont College is typical of most of the colleges in this subculture. From the time of their founding to the mid-1960s, the college rules unapologetically prohibited 'profaning the Sabbath,' 'profane or obscene language or behavior,' playing billiards, playing cards and gambling, using intoxicating liquors or tobacco, theater and movie attendance, and any form of dancing—both on- and off-campus" (Hunter, p. 169).

Hunter goes on to observe that these rules have largely been dropped. Further, the worldliness on evangelical college campuses has increased significantly in the years since his book was published.

Describing this moral apostasy in *The Great Evangelical Disaster*, Francis Schaeffer said:

"How the mindset of accommodation grows and expands. The last sixty years have given birth to a moral disaster, and what have we done? Sadly we must say that the evangelical world has been part of the disaster. ... WITH

TEARS WE MUST SAY THAT ... A LARGE SEGMENT OF THE EVANGELICAL WORLD HAS BECOME SEDUCED BY THE WORLD SPIRIT OF THIS PRESENT AGE" (Schaeffer, p. 141).

The apostasy of today's evangelicalism was described by the Alliance of Confessing Evangelicals in the Cambridge Declaration. The declaration, signed by 80 theologians and church leaders, was released on April 20, 1996, at the end of a four-day conference in Cambridge, Massachusetts. The signers included James Montgomery Boice, J.A.O. Preus III, David Wells, Albert Mohler, and Michael Horton, and represented Lutheran, Reformed, Baptist, Congregational, and Independent denominations.

"Today the light of Reformation has been significantly dimmed. The consequence is that THE WORD 'EVANGELICAL' HAS BECOME SO INCLUSIVE AS TO HAVE LOST ITS MEANING. ... As Biblical authority has been abandoned in practice, as its truths have faded from Christian consciousness, and its doctrines have lost their saliency, THE CHURCH HAS BEEN INCREASINGLY EMPTIED OF ITS INTEGRITY, MORAL AUTHORITY AND DIRECTION. ... As evangelical faith becomes secularized, its interests have been blurred with those of the culture. THE RESULT IS A LOSS OF ABSOLUTE VALUES, PERMISSIVE INDIVIDUALISM, AND A SUBSTITUTION OF WHOLENESS FOR HOLINESS, recovery for repentance, intuition for truth, feeling for belief, chance for providence, and immediate gratification for enduring hope" (*The Cambridge Declaration*, 1996).

The Southern Baptist Convention is an example of the influence of New Evangelicalism. This is the largest "Protestant" denomination in America and it has a reputation of being staunchly and traditionally Bible believing, but when one examines the SBC at the congregational level one typically finds extreme worldliness.

The vast majority of SBC congregations do not preach separation from the world, and the teens in the churches commonly love the world's music, fashions, entertainment, etc. Like the world, they go almost-naked to the beaches, dance to rock & roll, wear whatever immodest fashions are in style, even get excited about occultic entertainment trends such as Harry Potter.

I grew up in Southern Baptist churches, and it was in a Southern Baptist youth group that I first learned to love rock music. The pastor's son and the deacons' sons had all of the latest rock albums, and I listened to them when I visited their homes.

Large numbers of those who attended the rock dances at my junior and senior high school were church kids. I don't recall even one kid in our church that had a serious relationship with the Lord. We professed Christ with our lips, but we loved the world with our hearts.

That which is sadly true of the Southern Baptist Convention is true of most other denominations today. Even fundamentalist Bible churches and independent Baptist congregations are following suit. They do not preach or practice separation from the world.

Television

Television's influence on modern society is nearly indescribable.

In looking back on my childhood growing up in a Baptist church, attending services at least three times a week, the three major influences that stole my heart for the world were public school friendships, pop music, and television, and the three were intimately associated. We got a television when I was about nine years old (1958), and though the programs were innocent compared to today, they certainly did not encourage me spiritually. We got our television a couple of years after Elvis appeared on the *Ed Sullivan Show*. By the time I reached junior high school, I did everything I could to stay home on Sunday nights, because that was when the most exciting programs were on, such as the *Disney Hour* and *Ed Sullivan*. I don't remember if I was home that Sunday night in 1964 when the Beatles appeared on Ed Sullivan, but I could have been. I was in high school and about that time my parents were having a lot of problems and had pretty much given up on trying to keep me in church. I had already started drinking and carousing with my public school buddies every weekend. There is no doubt that television and movies fed my carnal imagination and, together with rock & roll, inflamed me with a passion for the things of the world.

One of my sisters gives the following testimony:

"As a little girl, I can remember the television being on constantly. It was my 'friend' and a means of escape from the troubles and insecurities in my life. As I would watch a certain program, I would think, 'If I just had her personality or looks, I would be happy.' Later, when I was older and programming became increasingly wicked, I would stay up late and watch hours of mindless, foolish, empty sitcoms, totally oblivious to the damage it was doing to me. Like a drug, it was altering my mind. When I gave my life to the Lord in 1987, I realized how much of my life had been adversely affected by the media and television. The Lord cleansed my mind as I read His Word and replaced the vain, man-centered philosophies with Truth. We have made the deliberate choice not to have a television in our home today and have purposed to not set any wicked thing before our eyes (Psalm 101:3). A child needs to learn how to communicate with his family, not just sit in a trance in front of a TV."

Brian Snider had a similar experience growing up. He says,

"I always tell people that 3-4 hours of church a week can't hold a candle to 30-40 hours of television as far as power

and influence on a young kid. Church was boring; television was fun."

The following testimony describes the addictive power of television and its negative influence on spirituality:

"I got saved when I was 19 and used to watch television 8-10 hours a day and 26 hours on the weekends. When I started going to church and then through Bible College, where there were no televisions, I realized how much it had influenced the way I thought and perceived life. When we got married we decided not to have a television and have been thankful for it. It was only on deputation when we had more access to TV's and found when we turned them on that hours would easily be wasted, even just watching *FOX News*. Not to mention having to continually turn the commercials off. It got so annoying you either wanted to just leave it alone and not turn it off or miss something if you did turn it off. Unfortunately, leaving it on would win, and being aware of this we solidified in our minds we would not have a TV in our home, or cable for that matter. **Both the programming and the commercials are written by non-Christians who are trying to influence others with their pagan humanistic philosophies and lifestyles.** Cheating, illicit sex, drugs, homosexuality, teens in adult situations, Darwinism, cussing, and all kinds of things Christians shouldn't be setting before their eyes. Numerous times, even on 'conservative' *FOX News*, they had a story on prostitutes and actually showed a video of pole dancers."

Only the Lord knows how many Christian lives, homes, and churches have been spiritually weakened, even ruined, by television.

A few pastors of Independent Baptist churches used to preach against it and warn the people of its evil influence, but their number has decreased dramatically over the past 15 or 20 years.

The Internet/Smartphone

The great power of television has been eclipsed by that of the Internet. Today you don't need a television to access moral filth.

It was the **Internet** (beginning in the 1990s) and the **smartphone** (beginning especially in 2007 with the introduction of the iPhone) that have made the world and apostasy all intrusive.

No church today can escape the effect of this technology, from the cities of wealthy nations to the villages of Third World countries.

In the Internet/smart phone generation, church young people can access the pop culture at the touch of a finger. Church people can connect with any song writer and be influenced by his or her music, philosophy, and lifestyle.

Church women can be influenced by popular evangelical teachers such as Beth Moore.

Conclusion

We have described theological liberalism, the public school system, materialism and working mothers, the rock & roll pop culture, pop psychology, the feminist movement, New Evangelicalism, television, and the Internet.

These and other cultural and doctrinal factors have combined to create a perfect storm of end-time apostasy that every church must face.

And the Word of God tells us that this storm will grow stronger as the time of Christ continues to draw near.

"This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a

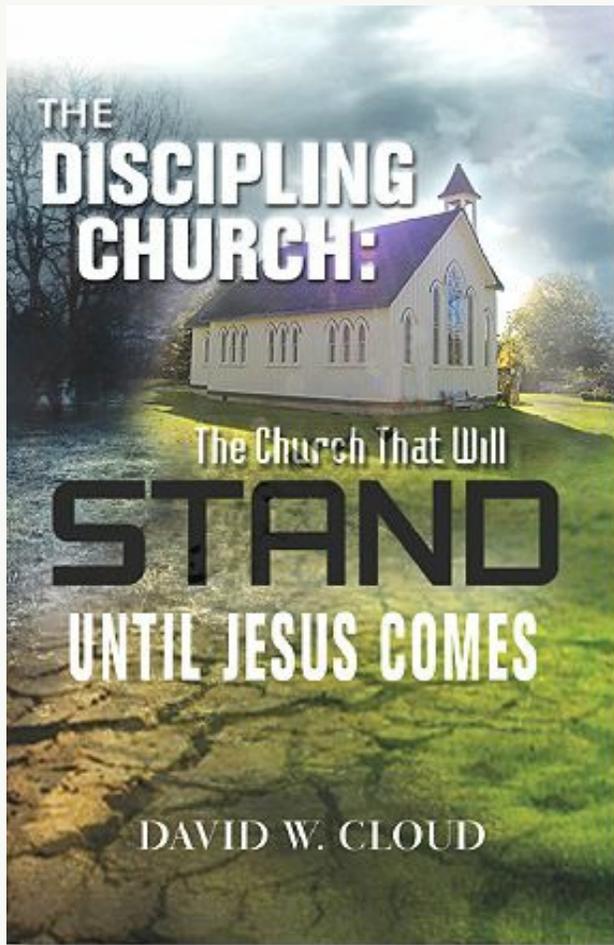
form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. ... But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived" (2 Timothy 3:1-5, 13).

"For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables" (2 Timothy 4:3-4).

The storm of end-time apostasy is amplified and empowered by the technology of our age.

Spiritual protection is available and victory is possible, but it requires that church leaders take everything to a higher, stronger level if they want to be standing for the Word of God in the future.

Evangelism must be more biblical. The door to church membership must be guarded more carefully. Love for Christ must be more fervent. Prayer must be taken more seriously. The church must be more deeply immersed in God's Word. Holiness must be pursued more earnestly. Discipleship must be more scriptural. Discipline and separation must be stricter.



The Discipling Church: The Church That Will Stand Until Jesus Comes

by David W. Cloud

This book aims to help the church planter establish churches on a solid biblical foundation and it exhorts the pastors of existing churches to move forward in their establishment of a Biblical church.

The keys are a regenerate church membership, one mind in doctrine and practice, serious discipleship, thoroughgoing 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.

Available From [Way of Life Online Store](#)

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?



PILGRIM CHRISTIANS AND THE CLOTHING ISSUE (Friday Church News Notes, July 28, 2017, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - "Dearly beloved, I beseech *you* as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul" (1 Peter 2:11). A pilgrim mindset is a fundamental aspect of the dress issue. The born again child of God says with Abraham, his father in the faith, "This world is not my home; I'm just passing through." The child of God knows that he lives in a fallen world that is in rebellion against his heavenly Father, and he does not want to be conformed to its ways (Romans 12:2). He therefore tests everything by God's Word. He is not afraid of being different. A pilgrim mindset was what motivated me to cut my long hair after I was saved at age 23. Far from being a non-issue, clothing is a fundamental issue in church and society. Clothing has been a fundamental issue ever since man fell and his heart became polluted and God "made coats of skins, and clothed them" (Genesis 3:21). Clothing is a language. It's called a social message, a fashion statement, "a prevailing mode of expression." American fashion designer Rachel Zoe said, "Style is a way to say who you are without having to speak" (goodreads.com). Vivienne Westwood, who created the rock punk look, said, "I think fashion is the strongest form of communication there is. ... It's only interesting to me if it's subversive: that's the only reason I'm in fashion, to destroy the word 'conformity'" (Jon Savage, *Time Travel: Pop, Media and Sexuality 1976-96*, p. 119). Pants on women in modern Western society broke two

fundamental Biblical principles: First, it broke down the God-ordained distinction of the sexes. It was blatantly created as a unisex fashion to deny that "God made them male and female" (Mark 10:6). Pants on women was nearly unknown in my grandparents' generation. One of my favorite photos is of my godly maternal grandmother hoeing peas in a long dress. Pants on women were invented by feminist designer Coco Chanel in the 1940s during World War II when women were leaving the homes to work in factories, but it took a while to catch on and overcome the resistance of biblical influence. It was the 1960s when the great change came on the back of the rock & roll revolution. The pantsuit was created by homosexual fashion designer Yves Saint Laurent in 1966 ("How Yves Saint Laurent Revolutionized Women's Fashion," *Business Insider*, Aug. 8, 2011). Laurent has been called "the man who put women in trousers" ("Celebrating Yves Saint Laurent," *Daily Mail*, June 2, 2008). The style was called "defiant," "irreverent," "daring," and "androgynous" (*Business Insider*, *Ibid.*). It was all about "in your face" rebellion and unisexuality. Models popularized the fashion by appearing with "slicked back hair and masculine posture." At first, respectable hotels and restaurants did not allow female guests to wear them. How far we have come! The pantsuit spoke of "an alignment with burgeoning feminist politics"; it declared, "If men can wear this, why can't I?" (*Ibid.*) Feminist Linda Grant observes 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). Pants on women was a major part of the unisex movement that has broken down the divinely-intended barriers between the sexes and has contributed to the current frenzy for transsexual rights. Second, pants on women are sexually 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* (“Calvin Klein: A Stylish Obsession,” *Entrepreneur*, Oct. 10, 2008). Tights worn as pants (leggings) were promoted by Gianni Versace, a homosexual fashion designer who was murdered in 1997. To “preach the Word” is to apply the Bible to every issue in life, and we intend to do so as long as God enables. As for older women, they are to set the spiritual and moral standard for the younger women, and the younger women are to train their daughters. The best time to learn to dress modestly is in childhood.

ISRAEL LOVES YOGA (Friday Church News Notes, July 28, 2017, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Israel’s current state of spiritual blindness is evident in a thousand ways, including the popularity of yoga. It is taught in kindergartens and used by the Israel Defense Forces. A report entitled “Om in the land of shalom,” *Israel21c*, March 26, 2017, observes, “Preschool yoga, prenatal yoga, workplace yoga, yoga for soldiers... yoga in its many forms has found its way into virtually every area of Israeli life. Even government ministries and the Jerusalem prosecutor’s office offer weekly yoga sessions to workers.” Israel is one of the few countries with a yoga training program for soldiers. There is even an Otiyot Hayyot (Living Letters) Yoga that unites Hinduism and Kabbalah. It is based on meditation on the letters of the Hebrew alphabet. Founder Yehudit Goldfarb says, “The simple movement patterns promote relaxation, integration and renewed vitality as they reveal spiritual light and life force within each letter.” In truth, this is combining the



darkness of Hinduism with darkness of Kabbalah. It is not surprising that yoga and Kabbalah can so easily be merged, since both are mystical paths to a pantheistic god. “Yoga” means “union” and refers to the union of man with the universe through meditation. The goal is to enter *Samadhi* (*self-collectedness*): “a state of deep concentration that results in a blissful, ecstatic union with the ultimate reality” (“Yoga,” *Encyclopedia Britannica Online*). The Kabbalah concept of god is very similar. In Kabbalah, the personal God of Scripture is replaced with *Ein Sof*, an impersonal omnipotent energy and infinite wisdom, “the divine infinity.” As with yoga, the goal of Kabbalah is to be united with the pantheistic *Ein Sof* through mystical practices. Kabbalah’s focus on enlightenment and spiritual power through the letters of Scripture is blind mysticism. The life and power of Scripture is not in the letters or in any allegorical meaning found in the letters; it is in the words and in the literal meaning of the words and in the gospel of Jesus Christ that those words reveal. Israel’s first Prime Minister, David Ben-Gurion, practiced yoga standing on his head. In front of his desert cottage, which is a museum today, is a statue of Ben-Gurion in a yoga position. His living room in the Negev featured a statue of Buddha and a small Buddhist shrine, and his office in his house in Tel Aviv featured multiple Buddha statues. He rejected Scripture and “envisioned a new type of Jew, ‘emancipated from religion,’ whose Judaism would be expressed by a national framework” (Motti Friedman, “The Making of the State,” The Jewish Agency for Israel, July 1998).

BEWARE OF KUNDALINI YOGA (Friday Church News Notes, July 28, 2017, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - One of the types of yoga popular in Israel and in many other parts of the world is kundalini. “Kundalini” is a Hindu concept that there is a powerful form of psychic energy at the base of the spine



that can be “awakened.” It is called the serpent, is purely occultic, and has resulted in many demonic manifestations. It is supposed to be located in the first of the seven “chakras” or power centers in the body. If the kundalini is awakened through such things as yogic meditation, chanting and dancing, and the laying on of hands, it can be encouraged to move up the spinal column, piercing the other chakras, eventually reaching the seventh chakra at the top of the head, resulting in spiritual insight and power through “union with the Divine.” Kundalini is purely occultic and has resulted in many demonic manifestations. It is said to create sensations of heat and cold, tingling, electric current, internal pressures, inner sounds and lights, buzzing in the ear, compulsive bodily movements and expressions (such as grimacing), uncontrollable emotional outbursts, loss of memory, a sense of an inner eye, drowsiness, and pain. Its own practitioners warn repeatedly about its dangers. The Inner Explorations web site tells of a man who, while dabbling in the activation of kundalini, experienced touches by invisible hands and animals that would attach themselves to him or bite him or lick his face. *The Ayurveda Encyclopedia* says, “Those who awaken their kundalini without a guru can lose their direction in life ... they can become confused or mentally imbalanced ... more harm than good can arise” (p. 336). The book *Aghora II: Kundalini* warns many times that “indiscriminate awakening of the Kundalini is very dangerous” (p. 61). It says: “Once aroused and unboxed Kundalini is not ‘derousable’; the genie will not fit back into the bottle. ... Those who ride Kundalini without knowing their destination risk losing their way”

(p. 20). In fact, the book says “some die of shock when Kundalini is awakened, and others become severely ill” (p. 61). It is likened to a toddler grasping a live wire (p. 58). Every form of yoga is a potential path to communion with demons.

U.S. PRESIDENT BEMOANS AMERICA’S PRIDE AND FORGETFULNESS OF GOD, 1863

(Friday Church News Notes, July 28, 2017, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - “It is the duty of nations, as well as of men, to own their dependence upon the overruling power of God, to confess their sins and transgressions in humble sorrow, yet with the assured hope that genuine repentance will lead to mercy and pardon, and to recognize the sublime truth announced in the Holy Scriptures, and proven by all history, that those nations are blessed whose God is the Lord. We know that by his divine law nations, like individuals, are subjected to punishments and chastisements in this world. May we not justly fear that the awful calamity of civil war which now desolates the land may be a punishment inflicted upon us for our presumptuous sins, to the needful end of a national reformation as a whole people? We have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of heaven. We have been preserved these many years in peace and prosperity. We have grown in numbers, wealth and power as no other nation has ever grown, but we have forgotten God. We have forgotten the gracious hand that preserved us in peace and multiplied, enriched and strengthened us, and we have vainly imagined in the deceitfulness of our hearts that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own. Intoxicated by our own unbroken success, we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to the God who made us” (Abraham Lincoln).

ROB BELL COUNSELS HURTING PEOPLE TO AVOID THOSE WHO



QUOTE SCRIPTURES LIKE

ROMANS 8:28 (Friday Church News Notes, August 4, 2017, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) -

Former megachurch leader Rob Bell, who has moved beyond the bounds even of the emerging church, is spouting his heresies on a “Bible Belt Tour” across the southern region of America. It’s actually a profitable place for him, since the South is filled to the brim with “cultural Christians” who have gone through the motions of “believing in Jesus” but have not been born again. Bell resonates loudly with unregenerate people who want Christ *and* the world. In Atlanta, he spoke at the Variety Playhouse. One of his themes seems to be to encourage doubts about God and the Christian faith and to rob people of spiritual and moral absolutes. During Q&A, a young man raised his hand and told Bell that “he was struggling with his faith” because he was told by a doctor that his wife and unborn baby probably won’t survive the delivery. He asked if he was wrong to be angry with God. Bell replied that he had “no easy answers,” but he would counsel him “to avoid people who will try to comfort him by quoting scriptures like Romans 8:28 (‘And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God’) and by telling him that his loss was somehow part of God’s mysterious will” (“Outlaw pastor Rob Bell shakes up the Bible Belt,” CNN, Jul. 28, 2017). In a 2005 interview with Beliefnet, Bell said, “[T]he church must stop thinking about everybody primarily in categories of in or out, saved or not, believer or nonbeliever.” In his influential book *Velvet Elvis*, which is popular with a

great many Southern Baptists, Bell described a wedding that he conducted for two pagan unbelievers who told him that “they didn’t want any Jesus or God or Bible or religion to be talked about” but they did want him to “make it really spiritual” (p. 76). Bell agreed with this ridiculous request and said that his pagan friends “are resonating with Jesus, whether they acknowledge it or not” (p. 92). Bell’s 2011 book *Love Wins* was more of the same. Not only does he preach near-universalism, he preaches a false god, a false christ, a false gospel, a false heaven, a false hell, you name it. He is a master at taking Scripture out of context and shoehorning his heresies into a text. These are the dangerous waters that contemporary worship music builds bridges to, as we have documented in the video presentation “[The Foreign Spirit of Contemporary Worship Music](#),” available as a free eVideo at <https://www.wayoflife.org/free-evideo/index.php>

THOUSANDS MARCH IN SUPPORT OF THE BUILDING OF THE THIRD TEMPLE

(Friday Church News Notes, August 4, 2017, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - On Monday evening, July 31, thousands of Israelis marched around the walls of Jerusalem’s Old City at the beginning of Tisha B’Av in support of the building of the Third Temple (“Israelis March Demanding Access to Temple Mount and Building of Third Temple,” *Israel Today*, Aug. 1, 2017). Tisha B’Av, meaning the ninth day of the month Av, is a mourning fast to remember the destruction of the first and second Jewish temples, which were destroyed on the same day (the first in 586 BC and the second in AD 70). On



Tisha B'Av, the Torah is draped in black. There is fasting and mourning, with the reading of the book of Lamentations and Jewish poetry called kinnot. Orthodox Jews believe that Tisha B'Av will be kept until the Messiah comes to build the temple and bring peace to Israel, at which time it will become a celebration. In truth, the third temple will be built by the antichrist and desecrated by his presence. "Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God" (2 Thessalonians 2:3-4).

HILLSONG DRUMMER SAYS GOAL OF CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP MUSIC IS TO "ENTER INTO THE PRESENCE OF GOD"

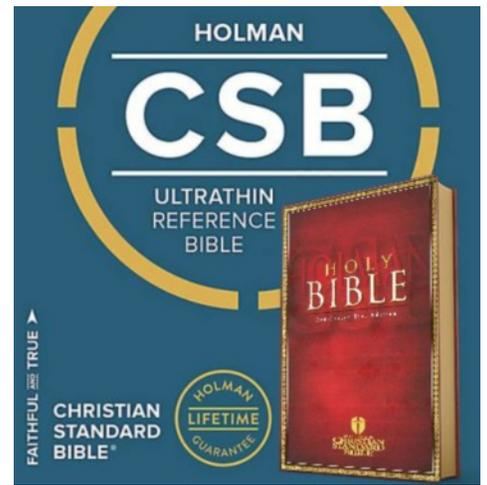
(Friday Church News Notes, August 4, 2017, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - In a recent interview, Matt Crocker, longtime drummer for Hillsong United and currently a worship leader, said, "My goal is to create an atmosphere for people to be able to enter into the presence of God and then hear the message of God through the actual speaking of it. I love the idea of teaming up with someone to create that atmosphere. It allows people to encounter His presence" ("Seeing the World in Wonder with Hillsong United's Matt Crocker," *WorshipMusician.com*, Jul. 21, 2017). This is a clear and accurate description of the objective and essence of contemporary worship. It's



all about a feeling, which is why it incorporates the backbeat, beat anticipation, and other forms of rock & roll dance syncopation, as well as unresolving chord sequences and other musical elements that have a sensual effect. Contemporary worship music's objective is in great contrast to sacred music, which works through the edification of the mind and heart. In the New Testament's teaching about worship music, there is not a hint of "entering into an experience with God," which is a nebulous thing that can easily lead to spiritual deception. "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord" (Colossians 3:16). "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour" (1 Peter 5:8).

PRESIDENT TRUMP BANS TRANSGENDERS FROM U.S. MILITARY

(Friday Church News Notes, August 4, 2017, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - President Trump has announced via Twitter that transgender people will not be allowed to serve in any capacity in the United States military, apparently signaling his decision to turn back the policy instigated by Barack Obama. Trump said, "After consultation with my Generals and military experts, please be advised that the United States Government will not accept or allow Transgender individuals to serve in any capacity in the U.S. Military. Our military must be focused on decisive and overwhelming victory and cannot be burdened with the tremendous medical cost and disruption that transgender in the military would entail. Thank you." This is good news for military readiness, assuming that the "presidential twitter ban" is actually implemented from top to bottom and that it is not overturned by activist military officers, the courts, or the next president.



SOUTHERN BAPTISTS EMBRACE GENDER-INCLUSIVE LANGUAGE IN THE BIBLE

(Friday Church News Notes, August 4, 2017, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from "Southern Baptists Embrace," *The Atlantic*, Jun. 11, 2017: "Last fall, the publishing arm of the 15-million member Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) released the Christian Standard Bible (CSB). LifeWay Christian Stores, America's largest Christian retailer, which is owned by the SBC, sells the translation at hundreds of its locations nationwide and touts it as a work of superior scholarship. But patrons are largely unaware that the denomination-approved translation is gender-inclusive. Such news would presumably shock many in the evangelical body. The denomination has affirmed that the Bible commands wives to submit to their husbands and that modern notions of transgender identity blur the line between God-ordained masculine and feminine roles. The group has passed numerous resolutions since the late 1990s publicly condemning Bible translations that attempt to utilize gender-inclusive language. When several revisions to the popular New International Version (1984) appeared to employ gender-neutral language, for example, Southern Baptists condemned the translation by name and chastised its publishers. A 2011 resolution even instructed LifeWay to cease selling the

translation in its stores. (LifeWay has continued to sell the NIV despite the resolution to remove it; the translation remains the most popular among Southern Baptists with a 40 percent share.) The rationale behind the rebuke was two-fold. First, inclusive translations abolish many gender-specific terms. For example, they may change ‘father’ to ‘parent,’ ‘son’ to ‘child,’ and ‘man’ to ‘mortal.’ And second, these translations added words and phrases not found in ancient manuscripts for the sake of inclusion. A common example is the translation of ‘brother’ as ‘brother or sister.’ In response to this perceived menace, the SBC commissioned its own Bible translation, the Holman Christian Standard Bible, which was finalized in 2003. It was intended ‘to champion the absolute truth of the Bible against social or cultural agendas that would compromise its accuracy.’ The translation was well received and the Bible battlefield quieted for more than a decade. But when a revision was released last fall, a number of the same ‘gender-neutral’ elements that the SBC previously condemned were inserted into its own translation. The CSB now translates the term *anthropos*, a Greek word for ‘man,’ in a gender-neutral form 151 times, rendering it ‘human,’ ‘people,’ and ‘ones.’ The previous edition had done this on occasion; the new revision adds almost 100 more instances. ‘Men of Israel’ becomes ‘fellow Israelites’; when discussing Jesus’s incarnation the ‘likeness of men’ becomes ‘likeness of humanity.’ The CSB translates the term *adelphoi*, a Greek word for ‘brother’ in a gender-neutral form 106 times, often adding ‘sister.’ ‘Brotherly love’ is translated ‘love as brothers and sisters.’”

EVIDENCE FOUND FOR THE BURNING OF JERUSALEM BY THE BABYLONIANS (Friday Church News Notes, August 11, 2017, www.wayoflife.org, fbs@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from



“Discovery Testifies to Babylonian Destruction of First Temple,” *Breaking Israel News*, Jul. 26, 2017: “On the eve of Tisha B’av, the fast day commemorating the destruction of the First and Second Temples, archaeological evidence of that destruction has been uncovered, verifying the truth of the Book of Kings and reaffirming that the Temples stood in Jerusalem. In a discovery the Israeli Antiquities Authority (IAA) called ‘mesmerizing proof’ of the Babylonian destruction of the First Temple, structures over 2,600 years old were exposed under collapsed layers of stone in Jerusalem’s City of David excavation park. ‘We have a very very clear destruction level’ showing signs of destruction by fire, said Dr. Joe Uziel, Excavation Director of the IAA. ... The City of David discovery was full of clues revealing the nature of First Temple-era life. Within the collapse, archaeologists found charred wood, grape seeds, pottery, fish scales and bones, and unique and rare artifacts. ... Dozens of clay storage jars, used for both grain and liquids like wine, were discovered, several of which had stamped seals depicting a rosette on the handle. The seals are typical of the end of the First Temple Judean period, said IAA excavation directors Ortal Chalaf and Dr. Uziel. The seals ‘were used for the administrative system that developed towards the end of the Judean dynasty,’ they said in a joint statement.” “And he burnt the house of the LORD, and the king’s house, and all the houses of Jerusalem, and every great *man’s* house burnt he with fire” (2 Kings 25:9).

HEAD OF U.S. COAST GUARD’S INSUBORDINATION (Friday Church News Notes, August 11, 2017, www.wayoflife.org fbs@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard, a branch of the U.S. Armed Forces, has publicly and brazenly stated that he will disregard his Commander-in-Chief’s announced ban on transgenders in the military. “Admiral Paul F. Zukunft, who took charge of the Coast Guard under former President Barack Obama, says he ‘will not break faith’ with transgenders under his command. ‘The first thing we did is we reached out to all 13 members of the Coast Guard who have come out’ as transgender, Zukunft said at an event at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, reports the *Hill*. In his comments, Zukunft referred to the Coast Guard’s first openly transitioning officer, Lt. Taylor Miller, who was featured in a *Washington Post* article about the effects of the ban on transgender members of the service. ‘I feel very unwanted,’ Miller reportedly said. ‘Mortified and embarrassed. Most people my age are worried whether they’re going to get a date or what apartment they’re going to rent. I’m worried about how I’m going to cover the cost of my hormones, hide from everybody and not get beaten up and murdered in an alleyway’” (“Coast Guard Chief Will Disregard Trump’s Ban,” *Breitbart*, Aug. 3, 2017). This is a huge mess which has the potential to bring great harm to the U.S. military and the nation at large. In fact, it already has. There was gross lack of wisdom on the part of President Obama in foisting his radical social agenda upon the military. There is lack of wisdom on the current



President's side in announcing a major policy change in such a slapdash manner (via his private Twitter account). And there is gross insubordination on the part of the Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard in making a public announcement that he will not obey a lawful order. It is evidence of the lawless spirit that has permeated American society.

MAINSTREAM MEDIA ADMITS DNA STUDY DOESN'T DISPROVE THE BIBLE (Friday Church News Notes, August 11, 2017, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from "Fake News Gets Major Blow," *Breaking Israel News*, Aug. 3, 2017: "After dozens of major media outlets published stories last week gleefully citing a scientific report claiming to 'disprove' the Biblical account of the Canaanite people, at least one mainstream site has been forced to issue a retraction as it quickly became clear that the 'debunking' was itself a hoax. The story first broke after an archaeological research team published a scientific paper on July 27 proving that today's modern-day Lebanese are the genetic descendants of the ancient Canaanite people. Using DNA extracted from two skeletons found in Sidon, Lebanon, the study traced the migration of the Canaanites from the land of Israel to Lebanon and concluded that their findings disproved the Biblical account in which God commands the Israelites to destroy the pagan people. ... Mainstream media immediately seized on the story, publishing such 'gotcha' headlines as 'Study disproves the Bible's suggestion that the ancient Canaanites were wiped out' (*The Telegraph*), 'The Bible was



WRONG: Civilisation God ordered to be KILLED still live and kicking' (*Express*), 'New DNA study casts doubt on Bible claim' (*Mother Nature Network*), and dozens more. None of the stories' authors bothered to check their Bibles first. ... [But] contrary to the media's claims, the story actually *proves* the Bible's accuracy [since the Bible says the Canaanites were not wiped out.] 'Yet it came to pass, when the children of Israel were waxen strong, that they put the Canaanites to tribute; but did not utterly drive them out' (Joshua 17:13). 'And it came to pass, when Israel was strong, that they put the Canaanites to tribute, and did not utterly drive them out' (Judges 1:28). ... A few days after running its original story, British news outlet *The Telegraph* publicly acknowledged its mistake, adding a correction beneath its article reading, 'The original version of this story erroneously said the Bible claimed the Canaanites were wiped. However, elsewhere in the Bible, it says the elimination was not successful.'"

IMAM IN CALIFORNIA PRAYS FOR ANNIHILATION OF THE JEWS (Friday Church News Notes, August 11, 2017, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from "Imam Ammar Shahin Cites Antisemitic Hadith," www.memri.org: "On July 21, the Egyptian-born American preacher Ammar Shahin delivered a Friday sermon at the Islamic Center of Davis, northern California, where he serves as Imam. In it he cited an antisemitic hadith, according to which the Muslims would fight the Jews on Judgment Day, and prayed to Allah to 'liberate the Al-Aqsa Mosque from the filth of the Jews' and to 'annihilate them down to the very last one,' not sparing any of them. 'Oh Allah, make this happen by our hands. Let us play a part in this,' he prayed in the sermon, which was posted on the Davis Masjid YouTube channel. Imam Shahin, who had earned a B.A. in Islamic studies in Egypt, traveled in 1999 to the U.S., where he obtained a



degree in computer engineering. He is listed as an instructor of the Zidni Islamic Institute, a California-based organization that teaches Sunni Islam in the West. Sheikh Ammar Shahin said, 'Allah does not change the situation of people until they change their own situation. The Prophet Muhammad said, "Judgment Day will not come until the Muslims fight the Jews, and the Jews hide behind stones and trees, and the stones and the trees say: Oh Muslim, oh servant of Allah..." ... Oh Allah, support the Al-Aqsa Mosque and the rest of the Muslim lands. Oh Allah, liberate the Al-Aqsa Mosque from the filth of the Jews. Oh Allah, destroy those who closed the Al-Aqsa Mosque. Oh Allah, show us the black day that You inflict upon them, and the wonders of Your ability. Oh Allah, count them one by one and annihilate them down to the very last one. Do not spare any of them.'"

FIRST U.S. COMPANY TO PLACE CHIP IMPLANTS IN EMPLOYEES (Friday Church News Notes, August 11, 2017, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from "Chipping Employees," *CBN News*, Jul. 24, 2017: "A Wisconsin company is set to become the first in America to give its employees the opportunity to have



microchip implants in their hand. Three Square Market is a developer of software used in vending machines and will pay for their employees to get chipped. About 50 employees at the company have volunteered to get the chip injection starting in August. The chips will be implanted in employees' hands to buy things in the break room, log into computers, open doors, and so on. 'It's the next thing that's inevitably gonna happen and we want to be a part of it,' said Three Square Market CEO Todd Westby. The chip is about the size of a grain of rice and will be implanted between the thumb and forefinger. The company will pick up the \$300 fee. 'Eventually, this technology will become standardized allowing you to use this as your passport, public transit, all purchasing opportunities, etc.,' Westby predicts in a blog post."

COASTLINE BAPTIST'S FAVORITE SUPER HEROES

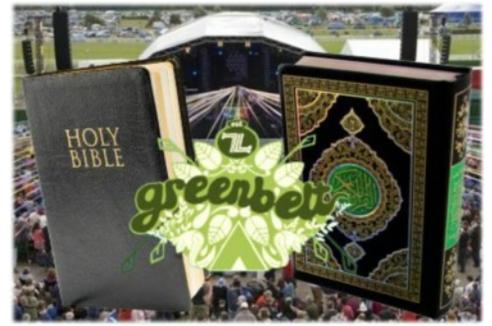
(Friday Church News Notes, August 18, 2017, www.wayoflife.org, fbs@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The average Independent Baptist church is moving toward the world and a contemporary stance at a fast pace. We have been warning about this for years, but most preachers have their heads in the sand, and the problem grows worse by the year. Many men who should know better continue to support schools that are producing contemporary preachers who are starting contemporary churches, all the while pretending that they don't support a contemporary stance. Consider Coastline Baptist Church of Oceanside, California, which is pastored by Steve Chappell, the brother of Paul Chappell, senior pastor of Lancaster Baptist Church, Lancaster,



California, and head of West Coast Baptist College. Paul's son Matt, who started the contemporary Rock Hill Church in Fontana, California, earlier this year, was youth pastor at Coastline for a few years after he left Lancaster and was thus mentored both by Paul and Steve. Paul ordained him for the new church plant on April 25, 2016, and has tweeted praise for the new work. In a blog at the founding of Rock Hill, Paul Chappell tweeted, "Thankful to hear from our son Matt tonight how the Lord is already working as they are planting Rock Hill Baptist Church in Fontana, CA." (The name "Baptist" rarely appears in connection with the church and appears to be trotted out only for show.) Robert Bakss, an out-and-out rock & roll pastor with an emerging philosophy who has caused a lot of confusion in Australian Independent Baptist churches, spoke at Coastline on February 5 of this year. (See [Baptist Church on a Slippery Slope](#), available in print or as a free eBook from www.wayoflife.org.) On Coastline's website under "Our Team," the ministers share their favorite super heroes. Worship Pastor Ryan Gass's is Wolverine; Assistant Pastor Jon Telles' is Captain America; Student Ministries Pastor J.J. Mordh's is Batman; Spanish Pastor Jairo Dominguez's is Spiderman; Office Secretary Lisa Chappell's is Wonder Woman. This type of thing is a huge green light for church youth to immerse themselves in worldly, sensual things that are forbidden by God's Word (Ephesians 5:11; 1 John 2:15-16). No wonder most churches have thrown away godly, modest dress standards when the minds of the leaders are filled with such garbage. (See also [Fantasy Dangers](#), a free eBook available from www.wayoflife.org.)

CHRISTIAN ROCK FESTIVAL FEATURES MUSLIM CHANTS

(Friday Church News Notes, August 18, 2017, www.wayoflife.org, fbs@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - This year's Greenbelt Festival, England's oldest and largest Christian



rock festival, will feature an opportunity to learn Muslim "healing chants." The teaching will be given by the Ansari Qadiri Rifai Tariqa, a Sufi organization, "founded on the Holy Quran" and devoted to "guiding seekers of Allah" ("Christian worshippers at Greenbelt can learn Islamic worship chants," *ChristianToday.com*, Aug. 7, 2017). Further Muslim influence will come through Muslim Abdalhamid Evans, who is scheduled to participate in "a fun and thoughtful conversation around the music and lyrics that move us as spiritual people." Greenbelt is literally filled with heresies. The festival began in 1974 and today is attended by about 20,000 people. It has drawn the biggest names in CCM, including Cliff Richard, Steve Taylor, Amy Grant, Kevin Max, Randy Stonehill, Larry Norman, Graham Kendrick, Jars of Clay, Tim Hughes, Sheila Walsh, Sixpence None the Richer, Russ Taff, Newsboys, All Star United, and Delirious. The "loosen up, don't be so strict, stop being judgmental" philosophy that permeates Contemporary Christian Music ultimately erases all boundaries. The world of Contemporary Christian Music, including the field of contemporary worship, is an ocean filled with every sort of spiritual and moral danger, and those who dabble with it are not wise and are opening a door of destruction to the next generation. Those who hold hands with the Gettys are holding hands with the Getty's friends such as Roman Catholic Matt Maher, and those who hold hands with Maher are holding hands with sacramental gospels, Mariolatry, contemplative prayer, veneration of saints and relics, and much more. There are no boundaries, which is open rebellion against God's Word. (We

deal with this in the free video presentation [The Foreign Spirit of Contemporary Worship Music](https://www.wayoflife.org/free-video/index.php) - <https://www.wayoflife.org/free-video/index.php>.) “Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away” (2 Timothy 3:5).

PASTOR DEFENDS USE OF CURSING RAP SONG (Friday Church News Notes, August 18, 2017, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - A pastor in Los Angeles, California, is unapologetic for showing a curse-filled rap by Jay-Z in his church. Marcus Murchinson, pastor of Tree of Life Missionary Baptist Church, said that not only does he support the use of cursing in rap music, he even curses in his prayers to God. He says, “I learned that God can handle that” (“Pastor Defends Use of Explicit Jay-Z Song,” *Christian Post*, Aug. 8, 2017). This is carnal, nearly blasphemous thinking. God can “handle” anything, but that is not the issue. God has specifically commanded that His people use wholesome language. “Let NO corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers. And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice” (Ephesians 4:29-31). Observe that corrupt communication grieves the Holy Spirit. Peter cursed and swore when he denied the Lord, but it was sin and he repented of it (Matthew 26:74-75). The growing acceptance of cursing

among professing Christians, in daily speech, in music, and in movies, is a sign of apostasy, not true liberty.

USA TODAY REPORT SAYS “EVERYONE WILL BE IMPLANTED WITH A MICROCHIP” (Friday Church News Notes, August 18, 2017, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - In a recent *USA Today* article a professor of sociology argues that most humans will have a microchip implant in the



future. Noelle Chesley of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee says, “It will happen to everybody. ... Maybe not my generation, but certainly that of my kids” (“You will get chipped--eventually,” *USA Today*, Aug. 9, 2017). Three Square Market, a company in Wisconsin, recently became the first firm in America to microchip their employees (in a volunteer program). About 3,000 people have embedded chips in Sweden to ride the national rail system without showing a ticket. Dangerous Things, a company in Seattle, claims to have sold “tens of thousands” embeddable chips via its website. It’s difficult to know how far the embedded chips will be accepted, but we know that the antichrist will require all people “to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads” (Revelation 13:16). This mark is not further identified, so it is impossible to know if it is electronic, but an electronic mark would make sense as it could contain a great deal of information about the individual. The antichrist is coming in the Lord’s time, but the grace of God teaches me to look for the blessed hope, which is the appearing of Jesus Christ rather than the antichrist (Titus 2:11-14).

DESPISE NOT THE DAY OF SMALL THINGS (Friday Church News Notes, August 18, 2017, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - “For who hath despised the day of small things? for they shall rejoice, and shall see the plummet in the hand of Zerubbabel *with* those seven; they *are* the eyes of the LORD, which run to and fro through the whole earth” (Zechariah 4:10). One purpose of Zechariah’s prophecies was to encourage the remnant that had returned from Babylon. The temple they were building was very inferior to Solomon’s, and the ministry of its few priests was as nothing compared to the hundreds of well-trained ones who ministered in the days of Solomon and Hezekiah, but the remnant was exhorted not to despise the day of small things or faint in the day of trouble. They were to look ahead to the glory of Christ’s kingdom when a “greater than Zerubbabel” would rule (Zec. 4:10). This is an important message to New Testament saints. The work of the Great Commission appears small and insignificant in comparison to the great things of this present world; the progress is slow and the difficulties great. Most New Testament churches are small and lowly. Most New Testament believers are “the weak things of the world” (1 Co. 1:27). In most places and times, the response to the gospel has been small. But in truth, the work of Christ’s churches is the most important business on earth, and the lowly saints of this present age will rule and reign with Christ in His glorious eternal kingdom. New Testament believers have been translated into the kingdom of Christ spiritually (Col. 1:13), and believing churches are the outposts of Christ’s kingdom in this present world. Through gospel preaching and discipleship, the churches are gathering and preparing “a people for his name” from among the nations to exhibit the exceeding riches of his grace in future ages (Eph. 2:7). Therefore, when viewed from God’s perspective, which is the only right perspective, the office of a pastor is far



more important than that of president or prime minister, and the faithful labors of the lowliest saint are more important than that of the captains of industry or the kings of technology. Like the remnant of Jews who built the temple in Zechariah's day, the saints in the New Testament churches must not despise the day of small things. "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).

STUDY THE BIBLE WITH THE KING OF ROCK & ROLL (Friday Church News Notes, August 25, 2017, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The Museum of the Bible in Washington, D.C., has published a new Bible reading plan for Psalms featuring notes from Elvis Presley's personal Bible. Called "Rockin' Through the Psalms with the 'King,'" the plan is designed for the YouVersion Bible app. That's a great name for a Bible for the "me" generation, and no one represents that generation better than Elvis. As the "king of rock & roll," he was one of the fathers of the music that has done more to destroy biblical morality in modern society than any other one thing. Journalist David Halberstam observed: "In cultural terms, [Elvis's] coming was nothing less than the start of a revolution" (*The Fifties*). Elvis biographer Peter Harry Brown observed, "Elvis Presley didn't just represent a new type of music; he represented sexual liberation" (*Down at the End of Lonely Street*, p. 55). Elvis Presley stood for everything rock & roll stands for: sexual

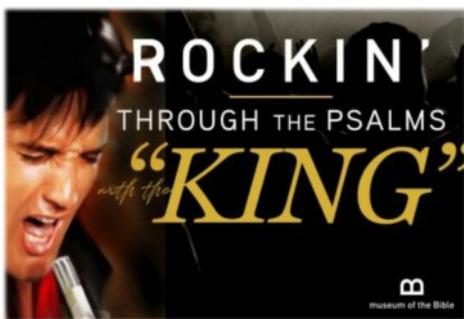
license, rebellion against authority, self-fulfillment, moral debauchery, all glossed over with a thin veneer of humanistic spirituality. In a television interview last week in memory of the 40th anniversary of Elvis's death, his wife of six years, Priscilla, mentioned the multiple affairs that the rock & roll king had during their marriage. She said, "Living a lifestyle of rock & roll is difficult, because it's that old saying, you know, sex, drugs, and rock & roll. It is there." When the interviewer asked, "He was living that life?" Priscilla replied, "They all did." In an interview with Mike Amor, she said, "He wasn't faithful." It was his unfaithfulness that destroyed their marriage. As for Elvis's testimony of faith in Christ and his love for Gospel music, the Bible says, "They profess that they know God; but in works they deny *him*, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate" (Titus 1:16).

KILLING OFF DOWN SYNDROME BABIES (Friday Church News Notes, August 25, 2017, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - A report by *CBS News On Assignment* describes the disappearing of Down syndrome due to prenatal testing and abortion. Since the tests were introduced in Iceland in the early 2000s, "the vast majority of women--close to 100 percent--who received a positive test for Down syndrome terminated their pregnancy" ("What kind of society do you want to live in?" *CBS News*, Aug. 15, 2017). Denmark has a "termination rate" for Down syndrome of 98%; France, 77%, and the United States, 67%. Helga Olafsdottir, a counselor at Landspítali University Hospital says, "This is your life--you have the right to choose how your life will look like. We don't look at abortion as a murder. We look at it as a thing that we ended. ... Life isn't black and white. Life is grey." In fact, God's Word *is* black and white, and it says, "Thou shalt not kill" (Exodus 20:13).

NEW \$72 MILLION STADIUM FOR THE FOOTBALL GOD (Friday Church



News Notes, August 25, 2017, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - A high school in Katy, Texas, has unveiled a new \$72 million football stadium. Currently it is the most expensive high school stadium in America, but there are plenty of outrageously expensive ones, such as a \$60 million one in Allen, Texas. One being built in McKinney, near Dallas, will cost more than \$70 million. (That is peanuts, of course, in comparison with professional football stadiums, such as the new one for the Atlanta Falcons that cost \$1.6 BILLION.) Texas was once known for its Bible-believing churches, but football is God today. In a report on a drought in west Texas that was killing the grass on football fields, the *Los Angeles Times* observed that this is serious because "football is God and the field is church" ("In West Texas," *Los Angeles Times*, Oct 3, 2011). In 1982, the famous sports announcer Howard Cosell, while viewing the largest Sunday football game attendance in Texas history, said, "The Cowboys are more than a football team in Dallas; they are a religion." He was right. Professional sports is a religion in America, and it is not only professional sports. Collegiate Memorials markets "alma mater caskets" featuring the logos of more than 200 colleges and universities. By choosing an alma mater casket, individuals show "an expression of loyalty to their alma maters as well as their favorite collegiate sports teams." With the love for college football at near insane levels, someone is cashing in on the fervor by offering to allow the sports fan to take his favorite college



team logo with him to the grave. Morality and sports are almost completely separated in the minds of large numbers of people. A 1995 survey of 1,240 adults in *Sports Marketing Newsletter* asked people to name the athletes they most admired. The first four were Magic Johnson (an admitted serial adulterer), Tonya Harding (convicted conspirator for the violent attack upon fellow-skater Nancy Carrigan), O.J. Simpson (held financially liable by a jury for murdering his wife), and Mike Tyson (convicted rapist). The situation has only gotten worse since then. A person's god is that which he loves and serves. Sports is one of the chief idols in the lives of people today, and God hates idolatry. The prophets and apostles of old preached directly against idolatry. So should we. "Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen" (1 John 5:21).

BARCELONA'S CHIEF RABBI SAYS JEWS ARE DOOMED IN EUROPE (Friday Church News Notes,



August 25, 2017, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from "Following attack, Barcelona's chief rabbi says his community is doomed," *The Times of Israel*, Aug. 18, 2017: "The Jewish community in Barcelona is 'doomed,' because authorities in Spain do not want to confront radical Islam, the chief rabbi of Barcelona warned on Friday, a day after the deadly car-

ramming attack in the city. Rabbi Meir Bar-Hen has been encouraging his congregants to leave Spain, which he called during an interview with JTA a 'hub of Islamist terror for all of Europe,' for years before the attacks Thursday and Friday, he said. At least 14 victims and five suspected terrorists were killed in Barcelona and the resort town of Cambrils, 75 miles south of the city. 'Jews are not here permanently,' he said of the city and region. 'I tell my congregants: Don't think we're here for good. And I encourage them to buy property in Israel. This place is lost. Don't repeat the mistake of Algerian Jews, of Venezuelan Jews. Better [get out] early than late.' ... Part of the problem exposed by the attacks, Bar-Hen said, is the presence of a large Muslim community with 'radical fringes.' Once these people are 'living among you,' he said of terrorists and their supporters, 'it's very difficult to get rid of them. They only get stronger.' He also said this applied to Europe as a whole. 'Europe is lost,' he said."

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