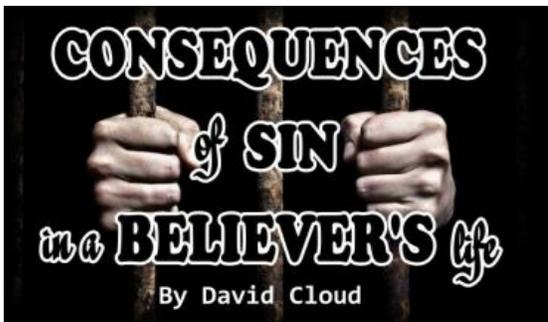


O Timothy

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

A Monthly Newsletter for Spiritual Protection and Edification

Volume 35 - Issue 4 - April 2018



“God doesn’t want to chasten His people; He wants to lead them by His Word. ‘I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye. Be ye not as the horse, or as the mule, which have no understanding: whose mouth must be held in with bit and bridle, lest they come near unto thee’ (Ps. 32:8-9)” **Page 4.**

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



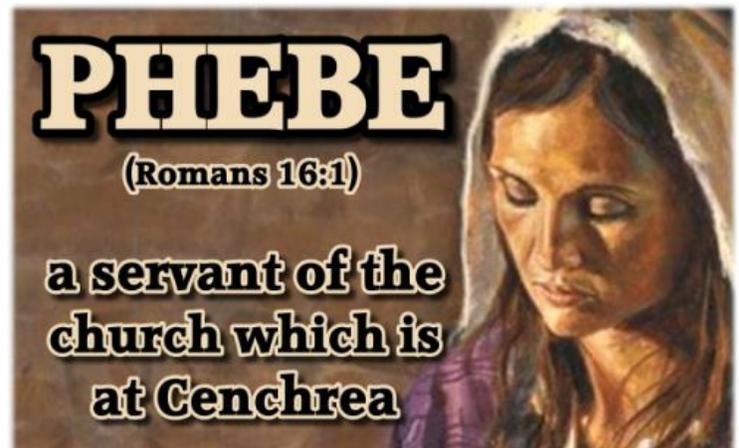
PHEBE (Romans 16:1-2) ~ By David Cloud

The following is from [Woman and Her Service for God](#), 200 pages, available from Way of Life Literature.

Phebe was a sister in the Lord. She was saved. She knew Jesus Christ as her Lord and Saviour.

Phebe was a servant of a church. This was the church at Cenchrea, which was a seaport that served Corinth.

- “Corinth was situated on the middle of the isthmus, and had two harbours, or ports: Cenchrea on the east, about eight or nine miles from the city; and Lechaenum on the west. Cenchrea opened into the Aegean Sea, and was the principal port” (Barnes).
- Phebe as a servant of the church at Cenchrea teaches us the importance of church membership and the



importance of faithfulness to the church. We serve the Lord Jesus Christ, but we serve Him in this world through the assembly. It is the house of God, the pillar and ground of the truth (1 Ti. 3:15). Those who despise the church today and despise church membership are disobeying the clear teaching of Scripture.

- Some commentators have speculated that Phebe was a deacon at Cenchrea, but a woman does not qualify for the office of deacon. The Greek word “diakonos” is often used of servants of Christ in general, as in Romans 16:1 and Colossians 4:12. But when it is used for the *office* of a deacon, it requires that the holder be the husband of one woman, which is limited to men (1 Ti. 3:12).

Phebe had a powerful testimony.

- She had the testimony of commendation by the apostle Paul.
- She had the testimony of a servant. A servant is not a great thing in this present world. People labor and strive *not* to be servants. But servants are great in Christ’s kingdom (Mt. 20:26-27). One of Christ’s names is “Servant” (Isa. 42:1-7; 49:5; 50:10; 52:13; 53:11). The Messiah as God’s Servant is a major theme of the Gospels (Joh. 4:34; 5:30; 6:38; 8:29; 14:31; 17:4). The Gospel of Mark describes Christ as the Servant who is always doing God’s will. No lineage is given in Mark, because a servant needs none, and there is no information about Christ’s birth or early life. The keyword is “straightway,” which is the language of a servant who is busy in his master’s service. See Mk. 1:10, 18, 20, 21; 2:2, 3:6; 5:29; 6:25, 45, 54; 7:35; 8:10; 9:15, 20, 24; 11:3; 14:45; 15:1. By this standard (that the person with a

servant’s heart is great in God’s eyes), it is evident that many godly women will be great in the kingdom that will be established after the overthrow of this present world system.

- Phebe also had the testimony that she was a succorer of many. This was the essence of her Christian life. She did not live for herself. She lived for Christ and lived to minister to the saints, to help in the service of Christ wherever possible, however possible.

Phebe was one of Paul’s helpers. She was sent by Paul on business to the church at Rome. She was probably carrying the Epistle of Romans, one of the most important writings in human history. We see that women had a major role in the early churches, and it wasn’t limited to the home or to teaching children.

Phebe was to be received “in the Lord, as becometh saints.” The believing woman in Christ should be treated with great respect. This has not been the way of most societies in this world, except for those which were highly influenced by Scripture. but the Lord’s people are in Christ’s kingdom spiritually (Col. 1:13), and we must treat one another according to Christ’s laws rather than the world’s.

Phebe was to be assisted in her business. Paul instructed the believers to give her whatever assistance she needed. We aren’t told exactly what her business was or what she needed, but whatever she needed the church was to give her. It was a blank check for a servant of Christ. What we learn is that women can do any business in the church that is not forbidden by Scripture (such as teach men or hold positions of authority), when they are so appointed, and those so appointed should be honored by the brethren.

O TIMOTHY Magazine

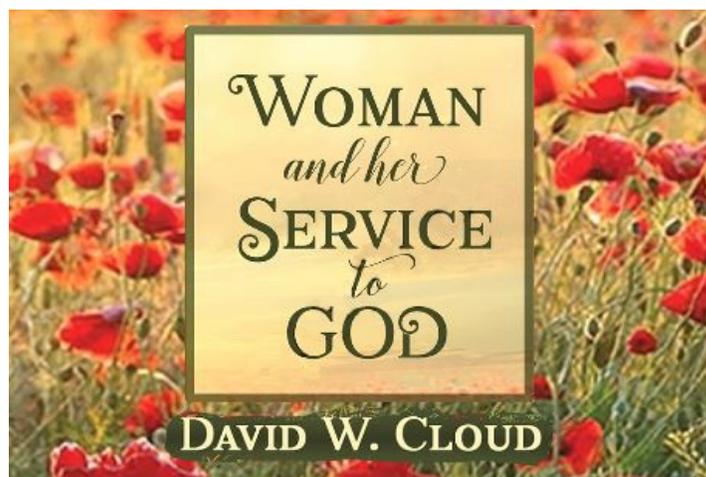
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The born again child of God has “everlasting consolation through grace” (2 Th. 2:16), but this does not mean he can live as he pleases.

Those who don’t believe in eternal security say that this doctrine makes it easy for the believer to sin, but this is because they don’t understand the Bible’s doctrine of eternal security.

First, the Bible teaches that salvation changes the person’s life so that he is a new creature in Christ (2 Co. 5:17). If the individual doesn’t have a change of life, he is not saved, no matter how much he professes to know Christ (1 Jn. 2:3-4). The born again child of God can still sin, but he no longer wants to sin. He has new loves and a new direction. The biblical doctrine of eternal security goes hand-in-hand with the doctrine of a changed life. See John 10:27-29 and 1 John 3:1-3.

There are many biblical evidences of salvation, contrary to what some teach. Steven Anderson, for example, says the child of God can kill someone and still be saved because he has prayed the sinner’s prayer and therefore has eternal security. He says,

“No matter if you quit church, even if you did something awful like kill somebody or kill yourself, ok, God will not take away your salvation from you” (“*Basic Soul-winning Demonstration*,” www.youtube.com/watch?V=BXMA4xOS5BY, 8:08f).

But the Bible plainly states that such a person was never saved (1 John 2:9; 3:10, 14-15; 4:20).

Second, if a true believer does sin, there are many consequences, and ultimately there is a sin unto death for those who do not repent.

So if a person lives in continual disobedience to God, either he is not saved or he is in a backslidden condition and ultimately in danger of the sin unto death.

There are consequences to sin in the Christian life.

Broken Fellowship with God (1 John 1:5-7)

The blessings of the Christian life are unlimited, but one of these is more valuable than all others combined, and that is fellowship with God in Christ. The saved individual can walk and talk with God every moment of every day. The blood of Jesus Christ has forever removed the great chasm between his soul and God that once existed because of his sin.

By faith in Christ’s blood, the believer enters into the very presence of the great and wonderful God.

The Christian might be nothing in the eyes of society, but he can walk with the Lord of Glory. He might be condemned, even hated, by men, but he is the apple of God’s eye and can bask in God’s affection. The Christian might not be able to gain the hearing of even one of this world’s nobility, but he can converse at will with the King of kings. The Christian might have to endure sickness, ridicule, poverty, and many other sore trials, but the individual that walks with God learns there is in that communion a joy, a peace, a sweetness, a wisdom, and a strength that makes all trials lose their ultimate bitterness. The Christian might be lonely for human companionship; his friends might even forsake him; but he knows he has a Friend that sticketh closer than a brother.

What a treasure is fellowship with God! And this treasure is through Jesus Christ. The precious Lord Jesus, the Lord of glory, is the Christian’s portion. The Christian is a part of His very body, of his flesh, and of his bones (Eph. 5:30). This is how intimate is the relationship between God and the believer.

But in this present life, the believer must choose to walk in the light, to follow hard after God’s will, to confess

his sins, or he will not enjoy the fellowship with God for which he was redeemed.

Powerlessness in Prayer (Psa. 66:18; 1 John 3:22)

Unconfessed sin and disobedience hinders prayer, and that is no light matter.

Powerlessness in prayer affects one's marriage (1 Pe. 3:7). It affects one's children. Nothing is more important than prayer in raising children for Christ. It affects one's spiritual victory, because prayer is part of the armor of light (Eph. 6:10-18). It affects one's nation (1 Ti. 2:1-2). It affects one's church. It affects one's evangelism efforts.

Bad Influence

Walking in carnality and spiritual darkness results in a bad influence on others, and this can have eternal consequences.

Consider Lot. He walked according to the flesh and lived after his own thinking and appetites rather than by God's Word and made his own choices rather than seeking God's will (Ge. 13:10-13). As a consequence he wasted his life in Sodom instead of walking with God as his uncle Abraham did. He was saved and his righteous soul was vexed by the wickedness of Sodom (2 Pe. 2:7-8), but he did not separate from that place when he had a chance.

His folly had a great influence upon his own family. His wife and married daughters and their sons were not saved and perished in Sodom (Ge. 19:12-14, 26). Lot lost all of his property and ended up in a miserable cave (Ge. 19:30). His daughters learned the wicked ways of Sodom and committed incest with their own father (Ge. 19:31-38).

David also had a bad influence when he sinned with Bathsheba. He brought reproach upon the name of God by the heathen (2 Sa. 12:14). His illegitimate son died, and some of his other sons rebelled against him.

I think of a man who was backslidden and instead of encouraging his son to serve the Lord and attend Bible college as he wanted to do after graduating from high school, he put pressure on him to go to secular college.

Because of the father's bad influence, the young man did not do what he had long believed God wanted him to do,

and only the Lord knows what the long term effect will be.

God's Chastening (Hebrews 12:6-13)

The Lord does not stand idly by while His children live in sin. He takes active steps to bring them into His perfect will.

We see many important lessons about divine chastening and even chastening in general:

- Chastening is love (He. 12:6).
- Chastening is evidence of salvation (He. 12:8).
- Chastening is for the purpose of producing holiness (He. 12:10).
- Chastening is not pleasant (He. 12:11). If it is pleasant it is not effectual.
- Chastening yields good fruit (He. 12:11).
- Chastening must be received (He. 12:12-13).

These verses picture a backslidden believer. His hands are hanging down because he is not serving the Lord. His knees are feeble because he is not praying as he ought.

He is in danger of being turned aside even more if he does not receive God's chastening and repent.

How does God chasten?

- He chastens through the Scriptures (2 Ti. 3:16).
- He chastens through preaching (2 Ti. 4:2; Re. 2:16).
- He chastens by allowing Satan to sift us (Lu. 22:31).
- He chastens through sickness and trouble (Ps. 32:4-5; 38:1-3, 18; 119:67, 71). When Abraham went to Egypt and lied about his wife he got into trouble with the king of Egypt (Gen. 12:10-20).
- He chastens by church discipline (1 Co. 5).
- He chastens through death (1 John 5:16-17).

Ananias and Sapphira committed the sin unto death (Acts 5:1-11). Some at Corinth committed this sin (1 Co. 11:30). David almost committed this sin (2 Sa. 12:13-14).

God doesn't want to chasten His people; He wants to lead them by His Word. "I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye. Be ye not as the horse, or as the mule, which have no understanding: whose mouth must be held in with bit and bridle, lest they come near unto thee" (Ps. 32:8-9).

Loss of Opportunities for Service and Fruit

A life lived outside of God's will is a great loss! Precious hours, days, weeks, and months that could have been used for God's service are wasted on vanity, and sacrificed on the altar of self, sin, and worldliness. Gifts and talents that could have been developed and dedicated to God are squandered. Spiritual fruit that could have been borne for God's glory is not borne.

Perhaps the most awful part of lost opportunities is this: they can never be regained. They are lost forever.

Only in this life can we exercise our God-given office as ambassador and preach the gospel to the lost (2 Co. 5:20). Only in this life can we stand for God and His truth in an evil and antagonistic world. Only in this life can we choose to resist sin for the glory of Jesus Christ.

My dad said he was called to preach as a young man, but he did not surrender to that and he regretted it all his life.

A Day of Accounting at Christ's Judgment Seat

Not all sin is dealt with in this present life. "... some men they follow after" (1 Ti. 5:24).

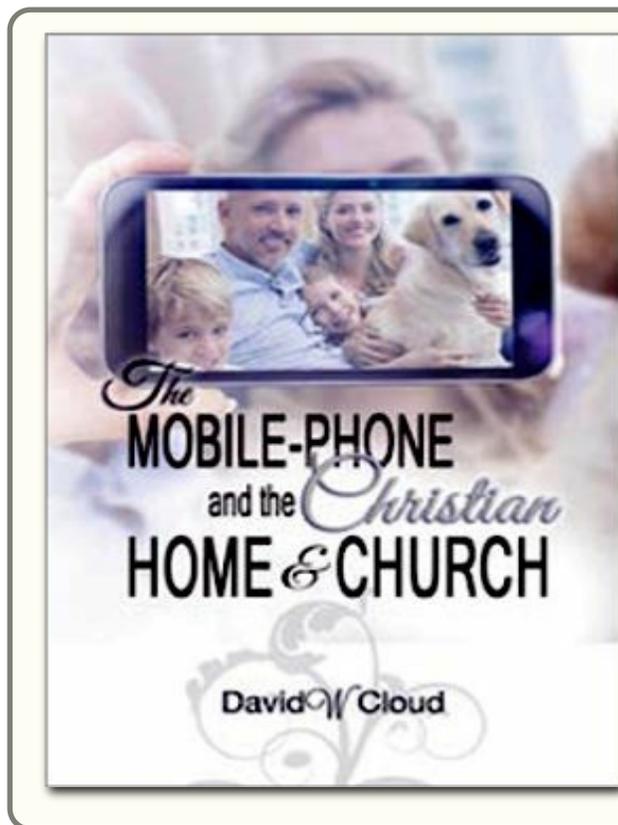
What will the judgment seat of Christ involve for the careless Christian?

- It will mean loss of reward (1 Co. 3:11-15). The context of the judgment seat of Christ is service to Christ in His great harvest.
- It will mean loss of treasure (1 Ti. 6:17-19).
- It will mean loss of position (Re. 2:26-27).
- It will mean shame and disgrace (1 Jn. 2:28).

What a terrible thing it will be to ignore God's perfect will and then to stand at the judgment seat of Christ, in the presence of saints and angels, and suffer the disgrace of being judged for having lived in rebellion or indifference against the will of God and thus having promoted the cause of Satan in one's earthly life.

Either way, therefore, lost or saved, careless professors of faith in Christ should not be left to be comfortable in their waywardness. We must sound a trumpet warning against spiritual carelessness.

Those that do not have clear evidence of salvation are most likely lost and bound for eternal damnation. If they are saved but are spiritually pygmyed like Lot, they will suffer the consequences of the wayward Christian.



The Mobile Phone and the Christian Home and Church

A Youth Discipleship Course

by David W. Cloud

Many Christian homes and churches are losing a frightful percentage of their young people to the world.

This practical and far-reaching youth discipleship course deals with the parent's part, the church's part, and the youth's part in winning and discipling young people. It covers salvation, child discipline, the Christian home environment that produces disciples, reaching the child's heart, Bible study techniques, how to protect young people from dangers associated with the Internet and smartphones, how to use apologetics, and many other things.

It deals with how to train young people to be effective Bible students and how to involve them in the church's ministry. The course deals with eleven biblical principles of spiritual protection that young people must build into their own lives.

[Available From Way of Life Website](#)

The LION

The lion is mentioned 150 times in Scripture.

Samson killed a lion (Jg. 14:5). So did David (1 Sa. 17:34-36) and Benaiah (2 Sa. 23:20). A lion killed the disobedient prophet in 1 Ki. 13:23-24. Daniel was thrown into the lions' den, where God protected him (Da. 6:16-23).

Satan is likened to a roaring lion that "walketh about, seeking whom he may devour" (1 Pe. 5:8).

The Bible describes the lion as described as brave (2 Sa. 17:10), bold (Pr. 28:1), strong (Pr. 30:30), fierce (Job 28:8), stealthy (Ps. 10:9; 17:12; La. 3:10), ravaging (Ps. 22:13).

The Asiatic lion (*Panthera leo persica*) was once common in Israel but has been extinct since the end of the 19th century, due largely to unchecked hunting under Ottoman rule.

A male lion can reach 3 meters (10 feet) long and weigh 180-225 kilos (400-500 pounds).

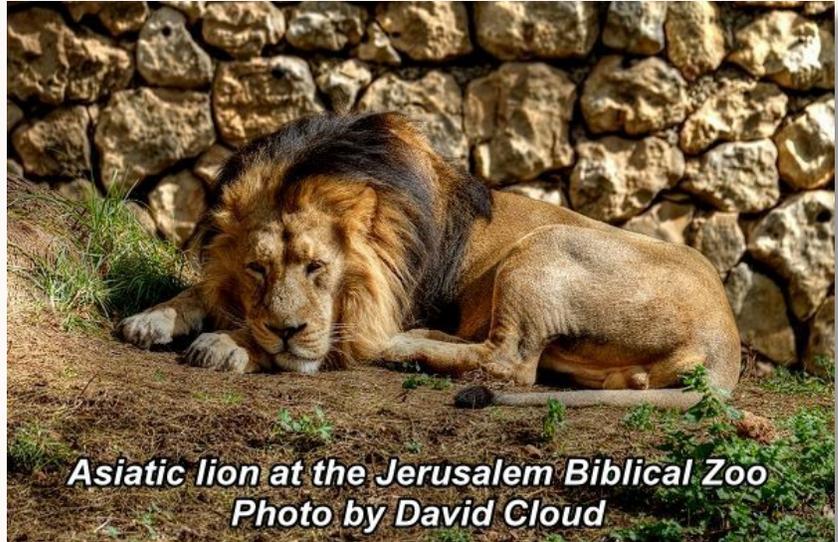
A lion can leap as far as 11 meters (36 feet) and run up to 80 kph (50 mph), but it can only run that fast in a straight line and for a short distance.

They usually live and hunt in groups called prides.

A male lion's roar can be heard by humans up to 8km (5 miles) away and has been measured at 114 decibels. One Hebrew word for lion is "shachal," meaning the "roarer" (Pr. 26:13).

They are very strong and can carry off a complete buffalo carcass.

The lion's blow is one of the most powerful forces in nature. "The leg, or forearm, as it is called, measures 19 inches around, and is made up of the hardest of hard bone, with muscle and tendons as strong as the strongest wire. The foot measures 8 inches across. When this foot



strikes an animal, the lion shoots out its terrible claws, which are hidden, when it walks, inside the joints of the toes. They tear the flesh off an animal as we would strip the peel from an orange. The force with which these claws are driven in is almost more than we can believe. ... The forearm of the lion is worked by great muscles at the shoulder, and the blow which it makes is really like the blow from a steam hammer. No wonder that it can kill a man or a big animal with ease" ("The Three Strongest Things in the Animal World," *The Human Interest Library*).

Interestingly, another Hebrew word for lion is "layish," referring to a crushing blow (Pr. 30:30).

In Joel 1:6, the Assyrian army is likened to the teeth and jaws of a lion. Its sharp teeth and strong jaws can rip huge chunks of meat from a carcass.

Lions are very intelligent hunters that can capture animals that are faster and more agile. Their night vision is six times better than humans.

In 1898 two lions in the Tsavo region of Africa (Kenya-Uganda) killed an estimated 135 men who were working on a British railway project as accounted in John Henry Patterson's *The Man-Eaters of Tsavo*. One of the lions was shot nine times before it died.

Jesus Christ is the Lion of the tribe of Judah (Re. 5:5), and when He reigns on earth, the lion will lie down with the fatted calf (Isa. 11:6).

Be CAREFUL about VIDEO GAMES

By David Cloud

“See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is” (Eph. 5:15-17).

Video games are very addictive and they are great time wasters. Also many of them have very wicked content. Even the more innocent games use rock music as a background, thus addicting young people to the sensual rock rhythms.

If young people are allowed to play video games, they must be carefully chosen and the play time must be strictly limited by the parents.

Addiction

“The more we looked into it the more we found that gaming was taking over the lives of kids.”

“Some studies suggest that gaming is absolutely taking over the minds of children all together.”

“Virtual life becomes more appealing than real life.”

Beware of role playing games. Nothing takes over young people’s hearts and minds more than these. They are called MMORPG (massively multiplayer online role-playing games).

The most addictive games in 2015 are the following: Madden, Dota 2, Grand Theft Auto, Tetris, Candy Crush Saga (the company is valued at \$7.5 billion), Minecraft, EverQuest (called “never rest” and “ever crack”), The Sims (player has omnipotent control over people), World of Warcraft (called World of War Crack), Call of Duty (the last two are played by more than 100 million players), Halo 3 (called Halodiction), Total War, Pong, Civilization, Diablo 3, Super Meat Boy, Team Fortress

2, Dark Souls 2, Counter Strike, Starcraft 2, Persona 4 Golden, Monster Hunter 3, Elder Scrolls, Angry Birds, Faster Than Light, Peggle, League of Legends, Civilization V, Pokemon.

Even in remote places like Nepal, gaming competition is becoming popular. A report on Nepali gamers in the *Kathmandu Post* (Aug. 29, 2015) was entitled “By Their Bootstraps.” Gaming started in Nepal in internet cafes in 2010. The 2015 Colors E-sports Carnival at the Civil Mall had 500 participants competing at *Defense of the Ancients* (DOTA), a multi-online battle game.

Occult

Many of the video games are occultic. Consider the current craze, Pokémon Go. Almost overnight it has become the most popular mobile game in American history, increasing the stock market value of part owner Nintendo more than 50%. “Pokémon Go, the newest iteration of the nearly 20-year-old Pokémon franchise, engages players in an ‘augmented reality’ where they try to find and capture Pokémons hidden throughout the real world. The *Australian Business Review* has suggested that it may be a ‘watershed moment’ in the development of virtual reality” (“Pokémon Go craze drawing gamers to church,” *Baptist Press News*, July 15, 2016). The game “uses the mobile phone’s camera to create the perception that the Pokémon characters are actually in front of the players.” It is so engaging and addictive that people have crashed their automobiles and walked into dangerous situations. Two men recently fell off a cliff near San Diego while engaged in the game.

Pastor David Brown, First Baptist Church of Oak Creek, Wisconsin, who made the effort to investigate *Pokémon* and apply the test of God’s Word to it in 1999, says, “The name *Pokémon* is derived from POKET MONster. ...

One of the first things I did was to find out who produced the Trading Card Game. Here is an exact quote right from the Web page of the producer -

‘The *Pokémon* Trading Card Game is a new collectable Card Game that is made and distributed by *Wizards of the Coast*.

The same company that made the best-selling game ... *Magic: The Gathering*.’ *Wizards of the Coast* also owns TSR, the producers of *Dungeons & Dragons*.

When I discovered who owned the American *Pokémon* Trading Card Game rights, I knew it was not just an innocent card game for elementary school children. [The *Pokémon* rap mantra says]: ‘I will travel across the land/ Searching far and wide/ Each *Pokémon* to understand/ The power that’s inside/ Gotta catch them all.’ ... To be sure it is a game, but a game that does not glorify God! When God says something is wrong, it is wrong regardless of what form it is in. Not only that, but many of the kids who play this game *are* seduced into believing the principles that the game subtly teaches” (Dave Brown, “*The Problem with Pokémon*”).

In the official literature, the main characters of the game are described as headstrong, stubborn, quibbling, hormonal, having a fascination with and trying to “score” with the opposite sex, self-centered, vindictive, obnoxious, and prone to cross-dressing!

Pokémon promotes the search for occultic power. The cards are called “energy cards.” Players engage in “pretend” occultic warfare.

Currently there are 729 species of *Pokémon* monsters, and 151 of them are sought by *Pokémon Go* players. Two of them are named *Abra* and *Kadabra*, long associated with magic. The *Abra* card promotes the ability to read minds. The *Kadabra* character has a pentagram on his forehead.

What an incredibly dangerous, wicked influence for children! Nintendolife says there are poison types, psychic types, dark types, fairy types, dragon types, and ghost types.

There is nothing innocent about *Pokémon*. It is a clever attempt at demonic mind-control. For more about the dangers of *Pokémon* see “*The Problem with Pokémon*”

by David Brown, <http://logosresourcepages.org/Occult/more.docx>

Violence

Beware of violent games. One of the most popular is *Grand Theft Auto*. Players assume the role of lawless, destructive criminals who kill innocent bystanders, policemen, and military personnel, “while dealing with only temporary consequences.” It has been called a cop-killing training machine.

Some of the versions require the player to torture people in brutal ways to advance to new levels. Sexual elements include hiring and killing prostitutes (by means of the player’s choice of fist, machete, bat, or gun). Real life murders have been committed by people who were obsessive players of *Grand Theft Auto* and have even admitted to being inspired by the game.

Wasting Time

“How long wilt thou sleep, O sluggard? when wilt thou arise out of thy sleep? Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep: So shall thy poverty come as one that travelleth, and thy want as an armed man” (Prov. 6:9-11).

The average gamer spends eight hours per week playing video games. This equates to 416 hours per year.

Last year, a teen told me he wanted to learn to study the Bible on his phone, but when I asked to look at his phone, I found that it was filled with games. I challenged him to get rid of them and to spend that time on Bible study and other profitable things. I told him that until he was willing to put aside wasteful things, he wouldn’t make much progress in his spiritual life.

One young Christian lady we know became concerned about how much time she was spending on video games, and she decided to figure it up. She concluded that she was spending three months out of a year playing games! She deleted the games from her iPad and is spending that time memorizing Scripture and other profitable things.

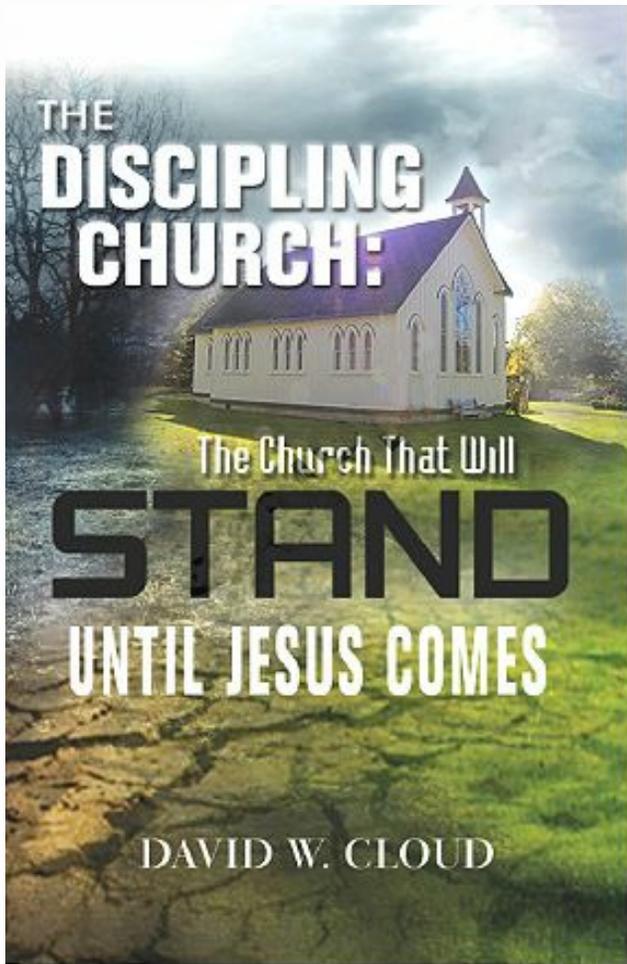
Young people who want to find God’s will must learn to be careful about time. “Redeeming the time, because the days are evil” (Ephesians 5:16).

To redeem the time we must learn how to set priorities.

- A major priority is Bible study and prayer. The young person must not allow anything to interfere with his devotional life. Not only must he give time to it, but he must also give his attention to it. If something is crowding out the Word of God and making it impossible to meditate, that thing should be put out of one's life (Mk. 4:19).
- Another priority is to be faithful to the assemblies (Heb. 10:25). As a new believer at age 23, I determined that I would never take a job that would keep me out of church, and the Lord always provided jobs that didn't interfere with the Lord's service.
- Nothing must be allowed to hinder my Christian life and the will of God. Multitudes of young people have backslidden and gotten out of God's will because of secular education and jobs, as we have already noted.

To redeem the time we must learn to fill our lives with wholesome and eternally profitable things. God has filled even this fallen world with wonderful things for those who are wise enough to choose excellent above the empty. We deal with this in the section of "The Youth." A few examples of profitable things are Bible study, evangelism, wholesome music, church ministries, good literature, educational documentaries, photography, learning new skills, creation science, geology, history, and physical exercise.

The most profitable occupation is to seek the Lord. The creation is fascinating, but the Creator is far more so, and to try to enjoy God's creation without putting God first in your heart and life is idolatry. Above all, the wise young person will study God.



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, 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.

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



The First Great Awakening of the 1720s to the 1760s, which greatly affected America and England, was characterized by powerful preaching that plowed the soil of man's heart deeply by God's law to awaken souls from the slumber of self-righteousness and worldliness, to bring conviction of sin and knowledge of God's holiness and wrath in order to lead to true repentance and saving faith in Jesus Christ.

In this age of shallow evangelism in which the mere head-nodding agreement of one or two verses about sin are thought to suffice to produce saving faith, we would do well to study messages such as the following by Gilbert Tennent.

It should be noted that Tennent, George Whitefield, Jonathan Edwards, and other prominent preachers of the Awakening were Calvinists (though others such as the Wesleys weren't), and the error of sovereign election was a real hindrance to the revival, in our estimation. But they were right about the type of preaching that awakens sinners in such a manner that they will be brought under Spirit-wrought conviction so that they flee from the wrath to come to take hold of Christ.

Note the depth of the teaching. Note the plainness of speech. Note the severity of reproof.

Of course, Western society has been dumbed down greatly since the 18th century, and the average person today--yea, probably the average preacher--cannot understand the language of the Awakening preaching, and the very dumbing down of literacy is the product of the rejection of God's Word and the fact that the Bible is no longer used in public education as it was 400 years ago. Vaunted, arrogant Humanism does not exalt; it degrades.

Gilbert Tennent, *The Justice of God*, c. 1740

That God had authority to enact laws appears evidently from His creating all. As His infinite and eternal excellency makes Him worthy of absolute sovereignty and dominion, so His producing all by His almightiness gives Him an irrefragable right thereto. Human power is derived, delegated and limited, but His is original and absolute. And, Almighty God having annexed the sanction of rewards and punishment to the law he has given His creatures, His truth stands engaged to execute the same upon suitable objects; which is likewise necessary to answer the designs of government.

This execution therefore, of the sanction of the law, or conformity thereto, in dealings of God with His creatures, is His declarative justice, and with this even all His acts of sovereignty do really harmonize, which appears by considering the properties of divine justice, which are these following, i.e.:

1. Divine justice is impartial; with Him is no respect of persons in judgment ... Justice will not spare for the sake of the multitude, greatness, or nearness of the guilty. Did not Sodom and Gomorrah perish by fire, and was not the whole antediluvian world drowned with water? And what vast multitudes of people may we suppose did the aforesaid cities, together with Zeboim and Admah, contain? And how much more the whole world before the flood? And yet all were destroyed by a sudden and terrible stroke of divine justice.

And when the angels, those spirits of excelling dignity, sinned, did not divine justice cast them into an abyss of woe? And does it not still confine them in chains of darkness to the judgment of the great day? When Adam, our federal head, had transgressed the covenant, was he

not banished from that paradise of pleasure he before possessed and kept out of it by a flaming sword? ...

2. Divine justice is universal, so that not one sin can escape severe punishment, either in the sinner or surety: Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them (Galatians 3:10).

3. Divine justice is inexorable, no importunities can alter its course. When once a sinner's season of mercy expires, Jehovah refuses to be entreated. Though Noah, Daniel, and Job, were in it, as I live, saith the Lord God, they shall deliver neither son nor daughter; they shall but deliver their own souls by their righteousness (Ezekiel 14:20). This is twice repeated in that chapter to show the infallible certainty and unspeakable importance of the truth delivered. The Almighty cannot be corrupted or bribed. ...

This subject speaks terror to all ungodly and Christless sinners of every kind. How deplorable is their case who must drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of His indignation (Revelation 14:10)!

O! let the secure and impenitent transgressor think on the following particulars:

1. That God, upon the account of His justice and judgments, is called the great and dreadful God (Daniel 9:4). Likewise, mighty and terrible (Deuteronomy 7:21). With God, says Job, is terrible majesty (Job 37:22).
2. That the wages of every sin is death, and that you have been guilty of a prodigious multitude, attended with awful aggravations: sins against light and love, against law and Gospel, mercy and judgments; your iniquities, for number, rival the stars, and for aggravation, are red as crimson.
3. That the justice of God will not, cannot pass by one of them, except you repent, but will surely proportion pains equal to all their number and heinousness. For as has been observed, it is impartial, universal, inexorable. And now, seeing every imagination of the thoughts of your hearts has been since your birth until now, only evil continually, and all your words and actions evil; for a corrupt tree cannot bring forth good fruit,

neither can he that is in the flesh please God, how dreadful must that wrath be which is proportioned to them all! Surely it is,

1st. Incomprehensible wrath; the most fearful imagination cannot fully represent it by its most gloomy ideas. Who knoweth the power of Thine anger? even according to Thy fear, so is Thy wrath (Psalm 90:11).

2nd. It is unavoidable wrath. If we take the morning wings and flee to the uttermost ends of the earth, lo, there God's all-seeing eye will discern us, and His righteous arm arrest us. If we ascend to the top of Carmel, or descend into the deeps of the ocean, or seek to conceal ourselves with the curtain of obscurity, darkness and retirement, even there our persons and purposes will be open to the all-penetrating eye of God. For the darkness is as the light to Him, and the night shines as the day (Psalm 139:1-12). Sinners, you cannot escape by policy, for God is infinite in wisdom; nor by power, for He is infinite in strength, as Job observes, He is wise in heart, and mighty in strength: who hath hardened himself against Him, and hath prospered? (Job 9:4). Nor can you escape by flight, for Jehovah is omnipresent.

3rd. It is eternal wrath (Mt. 25:46); it will continue as long as God endures; never, never, never shall it know a period. O! this gives it a dreadful and heart-rending accent! And...

4th. It is intolerable wrath. If the Redeemer, who was personally innocent and supported by the Godhead, cried so dolorously under this wrath, how can your hands be strong or your hearts endure when a jealous God deals with you, who are full of real and crimson guilt, and shall have none to succor you? And do you think that that just God, who spared not His own beloved Son, when He but stood in sinners' place, but smote Him dead by the sword of His justice and made all the waves of His almighty vengeance beat upon Him and roll over Him, will spare you who are covered all over with real and scarlet guilt? No, friends, Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption (Galatians 6:7-8).

Gilbert Tennent, "Solemn Warning," 1735

Awake, Awake Sinners, stand up and look where you are hastning, least you drink of the Hand of the Lord, the Dregs of the Cup of his Fury; the Cup of trembling, and wring them out, Isai. 51.17.

Awake ye Drunkards, and weep and howl, Joel 1.5. For what can ye expect (so continuing) but to drink of that Cup of Trembling I but now mention'd. Awake ye profane Swearers, and remember ye will not get a drop of Water to cool your cursing cursed Tongues in Hell, when they and you shall flame in the broad burning Lake, Luke 16.24. God has said he will not hold you Guiltless, that take his Name in vain, Exod 20.7.

Awake ye unclean Adulterers, and Whoremongers, and remember that without a speedy Repentance, your dismal abode shall be ever with unclean Devils, the Soul of a God shall be avenged upon you, Jer. 5.8, 29.

Awake ye Sabbath-Breakers, and reform; or God will break you upon the Wheels of his Vengeance, and torture you eternally upon the Rack of his Justice, Neham. 13.16, 17, 18. And let all other sorts of profane Sinners be entreated to awake out of Sleep and consider their Danger.

Awake ye covetous griping Nabals, and read what the Apostle James says to you, Chap 5. 1 to 6. Go to now, ye rich Men, weep and howl for the Miseries that shall come upon you. The Rust of your Gold and Silver shall be a Witness against you. Ye have lived in Pleasure upon Earth, and been wanton, you have nourished your Hearts as in a Day of Slaughter. Here we may Note by the Way, that those who live like Beasts here, and will not be induc'd by any Perswasive to repent, reform and act like Men, shall howl like Beasts hereafter, without being heard or pitied, 1 Cor. 16.13. Prov. 1.26.

Awake ye secure Moralists, and lifeless, sapless Formalists, who are Strangers to the Power of experimental Religion: Remember your shadowy Appearances, can't deceive the Rein trying God, Gal. 6.7. Nor your dry Leaves of husky spiritless Duties, secure your guilty Souls, from an astonishing overwhelming Inundation of his high and terrible Displeasure, Mat. 5.20.

Awake every of you that are yet in a Christless unconvinced State! Are you not asham'd to sleep all the

Day in Sloth, while some are trembling, troubled and distress'd about their Souls, who are not greater Sinners than your selves? Nay, perhaps not near so great; what sleep? while others are crying Night and Day with Tears, and heavy Groans to God, for pardoning Mercy, who have no more precious Souls than you. Sleep! While others are labouring hard and taking Heaven by Storm! What sleep! While some are travelling fast to the heavenly Jerusalem, and rejoicing in the Way with Joy unspeakable and glorious.

What will ye draw the Curtains of a carnal Security, and false Hope about you, and sleep to Death and Hell, even when the meridian Sun of the Gospel shines full in your Face, and Life and Immortality is brought to Light, and God, and Christ, his Ministers, Word, Providences, and your own Consciences, are ringing a loud Alarm, a Peal of Thunder in your Ears to awake you: That you may consider your Ways, and turn your Feet to God's Testimonies.

Will you sleep with Fire in your Bosoms? (the unpardon'd Guilt of Sin) with the Curse of God upon your Souls, the Heavens frowning upon you, and shut against you, the burden'd Earth travelling under you, and Hell yawning wide to devour and consume you I Mayn't I say to you as Moses to Israel, Deut. 29.4. Yet the Lord hath not given you a Heart to perceive, and Eyes to see, and Ears to hear, unto this Day.

O! Is it not to be fear'd that God in Justice has left you to a Spirit of Slumber? Because you shut your Eyes against the Light, John 3. That you should sleep and never awake.

Jer. 51.57. And I will make drunk her Princes, and her wise Men, and her Rulers, and her mighty Men; and they shall sleep a perpetual Sleep, and not awake, saith the King, whose Name is the Lord of Hosts.

Prov. 6. 9. How long wilt thou sleep, O Sluggard? when wilt thou arise out of thy Sleep?





The following is excerpted from [*SCIENTISTS WHO BELIEVE THE BIBLE*](#), ISBN 978-1-58318-150-8. This book debunks the view that no true scientist today is a creationist. It features the testimonies of 95 scientists with doctorates who reject evolution and believe in a six-day creation. 100 pages, available in print or as a free eBook from Way of Life Literature, www.wayoflife.org.

Today, 155 years after the publication of Darwin's *On the Origin of Species*, there are still thousands of scientists who disagree with the Darwinian view of evolution. These can be divided into four general categories: Christian "young earth" creationists, Christian "old earth" creationists, non-Christian theistic evolutionists, and those who believe in an undefined intelligent Designer.

In 1979, *Science Digest* reported that "scientists who utterly reject evolution may be one of our fastest-growing controversial minorities," and stated that "many of the scientists supporting this position hold impressive credentials in science" (Larry Hatfield, "Educators Against Darwin," *Science Digest Special*, Winter 1979, pp. 94-96).

According to recent research, **there are an estimated 113,000 Darwin skeptic scientists and academics in the United States alone** (Neil Gross and Solon Simmons, *How Religious Are America's College and University Professors?*, working paper Harvard University, Oct. 5, 2006).

"A 2005 poll by the Louis Finkelstein Institute for Social and Religious Research found that **60% of American**

medical doctors reject Darwinism, stating that they do not believe humans evolved through natural processes alone. Thirty-eight percent of the American medical doctors polled agreed with the statement that 'humans evolved naturally with no supernatural involvement.' The study also reported that one-third of all medical doctors favor the theory of intelligent design over evolution" ("Evolution," *Conservapedia*).

In the American public at large, a Gallup poll in 2012 found that 46% are young-earth creationists and 32% adhere to some form of God-guided or theistic evolution, while only 15% adhere to Darwinian naturalistic evolution. Among those with post graduate degrees, 25% believe in young-earth creation and 42% hold to some sort of theistic evolution, while only 29% hold to naturalistic evolution.

The situation is similar in Britain. In spite of a century and a half of brainwashing and bullying since Darwin published *On the Origin of Species* and his "bulldog" Thomas Huxley formed his X-Club, a large percentage of the citizens do not accept it.

"In January 2006, the BBC reported: 'Just under half of Britons accept the theory of evolution as the best description for the development of life, according to an opinion poll. Furthermore, more than 40% of those questioned believe that creationism or intelligent design (ID) should be taught in school science lessons'" ("Evolution," *Conservapedia*).

A 2006 survey in Israel by the Samuel Neaman Institute found that **59% of the Jewish population believe that man was created by God as described in the Torah**, which is the first five books of the Hebrew Scripture. By the finding of this survey, only 28% of Israelis believe in evolution.

Jewish organizations that hold to creation include the National Conference of Synagogue Youth and the Association of Orthodox Jewish Scientists. Jewish scientists with Ph.D.s who hold to creation include Morris Goldman, parasitologist; Edward Simon, professor of biology at Purdue University; Nathan Aviezer, physics; Lee Spetner, Ph.D. from MIT and former biophysicist at Johns Hopkins University; Gerald Schroeder, Ph.D. nuclear physics from MIT; Yaacov Hanoka, Ph.D. in solid state physics; Allan Sandage, Ph.D. from Cal Tech; and Mortimer Adler, editor of *Great Books of the Western World* and considered by many to be “one of the greatest thinkers in history.”

Many other Jewish Ph.D.s, while not creationists, are Darwin doubters. These include Paul Ehrlich, Nobel Laureate; Ernst Chain, one of the principal discoverers of antibiotics; Arno Penzias, astrophysicist Nobel Laureate; and David Berlinski, American educator and author. These believe in a long age for the universe but doubt the Darwinian theory of evolution.

Dr. Jerry Bergman has compiled a list of 3,000 “Darwin Skeptics,” including about a dozen Nobel Prize winners. See <http://www.rae.org/pdf/darwinskeptics.pdf>

Bergman has a private list of about 1,000 names of persons who do not want their names on a public list “because of real concerns over possible retaliation or harm to their careers.”

Bergman says, “I estimate that, if I had the time and resources, I could easily complete a list of over 10,000 names” (“Darwin Skeptics: A Select List of Science Academics, Scientists, and Scholars Who Are Skeptical of Darwinism,” Aug. 24, 2014).

This is a result of the Darwinists who act like howler monkeys and Nazi SS troopers to try to stomp out every vestige of “creationism” from the field of science.

The Discovery Institute has published “**A Scientific Dissent from Darwinism**” -- www.discovery.org. On

the front page is the following quotation from David Berlinski, Ph.D., Philosophy, Princeton University:

“Darwin’s theory of evolution is the great white elephant of contemporary thought. It is large, almost completely useless, and the object of superstitious awe.”

As of April 2014, the list had been signed by about 840 scientists who agree with the following statement:

“We are skeptical of claims for the ability of random mutation and natural selection to account for the complexity of life. Careful examination of the evidence for Darwinian theory should be encouraged.”

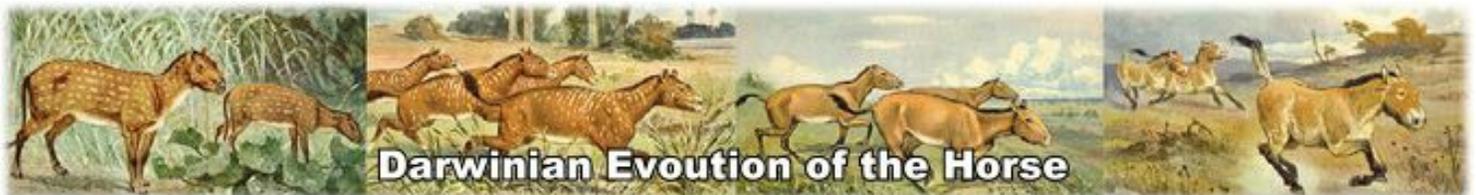
Of course, even if NO scientist disputed evolution, this does not mean it is correct. The Bible says, “Let God be true, but every man a liar” (Romans 3:4); and Jesus said, “I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes” (Matthew 11:25).

But it is a fact that thousands of men and women with higher degrees reject evolution.

The **Creation Research Society** membership consists of more than 600 men and women who hold advanced degrees and are committed to biblical creationism.

The **Korea Association of Creation Research** membership includes 450 scientists, **150 of them with Ph.D.s**. The President of KACR is **Young-Gil Kim**, Ph.D. in material science and engineering. For 15 years he was a professor with the Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology. He is the inventor of important high-tech alloys. In 1995, he founded Handong Global University with the objective of integrating biotechnology and mechatronics. (We would ask Bill Nye, “How has a belief in creationism hindered Dr. Young-Gil Kim’s science?”)

There is a growing creationism and intelligent design movement in Brazil and elsewhere.



DIGGING IN THE WALLS

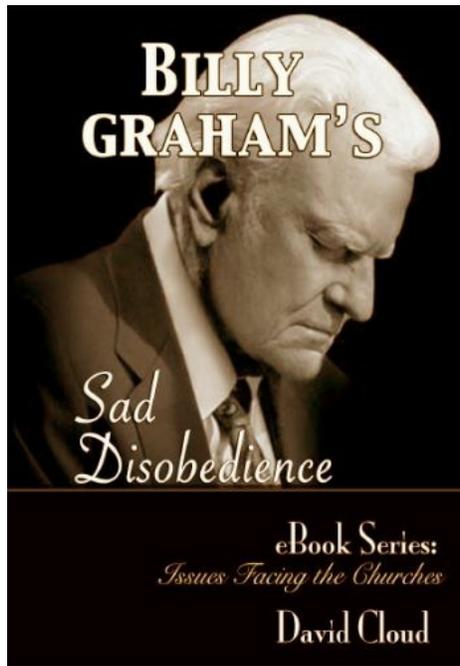
God commanded the prophet Ezekiel to dig in the walls of Israel's temple and observe the evils being done in secret by apostate religious leaders of that day. "Then said he unto me, Son of man, dig now in the wall ... And he said unto me, Go in, and behold the wicked abominations that they do here. So 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?



BILLY GRAHAM DEAD AT AGE

99 (Friday Church News Notes, February 23, 2018,

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

- Evangelist Billy Graham died on February 21, 2018, at age 99. He has been called "America's Pastor" and was consistently voted one of the world's most popular men. This reminds us of Jesus' words in Luke 6:26, "Woe unto you, when all men shall speak well of you! for so did their fathers to the false prophets." For the pragmatic objective of gaining a wider audience, Graham compromised endlessly. He largely invented "ecumenical evangelism," which has done so much to build the apostate "one world church." He turned thousands of converts over to wolves in sheep's clothing in heretical churches. Refusing to obey Jude 3 and earnestly contend for the faith once delivered to the saints, he pampered and praised every type of false teacher, including theological modernists who deny Christ's divinity, virgin birth, and resurrection, and Roman Catholics

who trust Mary to get them into heaven. For example, in his 1959 San Francisco Crusade, Graham honored the notorious Episcopal Bishop James Pike by having him lead in prayer. In an article in *Christian Century*, Pike declared that he no longer believed the fundamental doctrines of the Christian faith. Refusing to obey Acts 20:27 and declare all the counsel of God, Billy Graham narrowed his message to a pathetically small element of truth and focused on the "positive." He promoted all sorts of unscriptural things, including Pentecostalism, Christian rock music, and corrupt Bible versions, such as the Today's English Version, which twists every major text dealing with Christ's deity. By 1966, Graham said belief in the virgin birth is not an essential doctrine and claimed that it is possible that Adam was an "ape-man" (*United Church Observer*, July 1966). By 1988, Graham told *U.S. News & World Report* that theology no longer meant anything to him: "World travel and getting to know clergy of all denominations has helped mold me into an ecumenical being. We're separated by theology and, in some instances, culture and race, but all that means nothing to me any more" (*U.S. News & World Report*, Dec. 19, 1988). (Extensive documentation of these things can be found in *Billy Graham's Sad Disobedience*, available as a free eBook from www.wayoflife.org.)

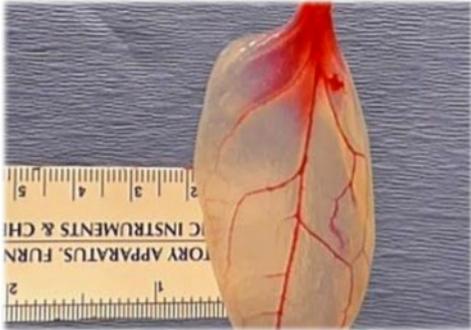
KNOWLEDGE SHALL INCREASE (Friday Church News

Notes, March 2, 2018, www.wayoflife.org,

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

- About 2,500 years ago, during the Persian Empire, an angel told the prophet Daniel, "But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book,

even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased” (Daniel 12:4). We are seeing a dramatic fulfillment of this in our day. Recent inventions and discoveries include the following:



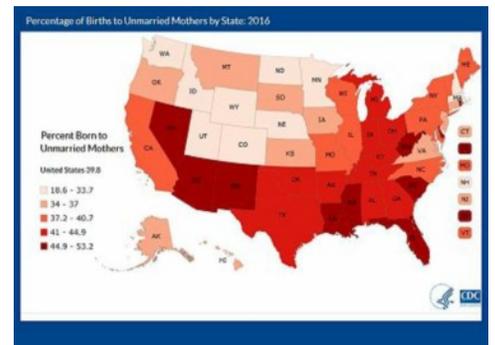
Scientists have transformed a spinach leaf into a sheet of beating human heart cells (“Spinach Leaf Transforms,” ARSTechnica.com, Mar. 28, 2017). “By peeling away the cells from a spinach leaf and seeding the cellulose matrix left behind with heart cells, researchers were able to create a beating sheet of human heart tissue--complete with a functional vascular system. The proof-of-concept experiment, appearing in the May issue of *Biomaterials*, provides an intriguing plant-based approach to generating realistic tissues for grafts and transplants. ... Though the vasculature of plants is fundamentally different from that of animals, the structures and cell access are similar. Plus, cellulose--the main organic polysaccharide left standing in decelled leaves—is known to be biocompatible, that is, it’s safe in humans and already used in other tissue-engineering applications, such as wound healing. This sparked ideas in the study’s authors, led by bioengineers at Worcester Polytechnic Institute in Massachusetts.” **Microsoft is planning to store data on DNA in the next three years.** DNA is so efficient that “it’s theoretically

possible to store all of the information humans have ever recorded in a space roughly the size of a double garage (“Microsoft Plans,” sciencealert.com, May 27, 2017). Recently scientists recorded 215 petabytes (215 million gigabytes) of information on a single gram of DNA, and progress is being made to speed up the recording process and lower the cost. It’s amazing how that the blind forces of evolution could produce ultra-complicated DNA while harnessing DNA for computer data storage requires the application of intelligence. I speak tongue in cheek, of course. **Israeli researchers at Hebrew University in Jerusalem have invented a process to detect landmines by using a combination of lasers and molecularly engineered bacteria that glow in proximity to the explosives**



(“Shining a Light: Glowing Bacteria Helps Find,” NoCamels.com, Apr. 25, 2017). The process can be used to detect and clear landmines, 100 million of which are buried in over 70 countries.

MULTITUDES OF AMERICAN BABIES BORN TO UNMARRIED MOTHERS (Friday Church News Notes, February 23, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from “Babies Born to Unmarried Women,” CNSNews.com, Feb. 21, 2018: “In



three states--Mississippi, Louisiana and New Mexico--a majority of the babies born in 2016 were born to unmarried mothers, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. In another 19 states, more than 40 percent of the babies born in 2016 were born to unmarried mothers. Only three states in the union had fewer than 30 percent of the babies born to unmarried mothers. Mississippi led all states in the union for the percentage of babies born to unmarried mothers in 2016. There were 37,928 babies born in the state during the year, according to the CDC, and 20,173--or 53.2 percent--of them were to unmarried women.”

CHRIST’S WONDERFUL INVITATION (Friday Church News Notes, March 2, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - “*At that time Jesus answered and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes. Even so, Father: for so it seemed good in thy sight. All things are delivered unto me of my Father: and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal him. Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and*



learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light" (Matthew 11:25-30). This invitation is issued by the Trinity. When we examine the context, we see the amazing fact that the Son of God is inviting sinners into the intimate relationship that He has with the Father. The invitation is a revelation of God's marvelous character. How incredible that the Almighty God would care whether His fallen, unholy creatures know and love Him! Even after redemption, we are pathetic sinners who fail continually to come up to the glory of God, yet God desires our love and is keenly aware of whether we love Him and how much we love Him (e.g., Revelation 2:4). Salvation is coming to a person, knowing a person, having an intimate relationship with a person. And the *rest* in the Christian life comes by an intimate personal walk with Christ. This is the path of no "burn out." The believer has a yoke to wear and a service to render, but it is not a yoke of drudgery, of religion, of mere duty. It is a restful, enjoyable yoke. It is not a heavy yoke that is held by a cruel taskmaster; it is a light yoke that binds me to a loving Saviour. He is in the yoke with me, and He does the heavy pulling.

THE POWER OF THE DESIGN ARGUMENT FROM NATURE
(Friday Church News Notes, March

2, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The design argument from nature can be a powerful tool in evangelism. Consider the case of Dr. Jobe Martin: 'In the fall of 1971 I went to Baylor University in Dallas and gave my first lecture. It was on the evolution of the tooth. I talked about how these fish scales gradually migrated into the mouth and became teeth. A couple of students came to me after the class that day and said, 'Dr. Martin, have you ever investigated the claims of creation science?' I had never even heard of it. So I said, 'Sure, I'll look into this with you.' And I'm thinking, kind of as a cocky young professor, 'I'll blow these guys away.' Well, they asked me to study the assumptions that the evolutionists make. In all of my eight years of scientific education, I had never had a single professor tell me about an assumption. So we started looking at the assumptions. I began to realize that evolutionists are making some claims that are based on assumptions that aren't valid, when they tell us that rocks are so old and these kinds of things. Then they asked me to start studying some animals and see if I thought that animal could have evolved. The first thing that we studied together was this little bug called the bombardier beetle. This little insect, which is about a half inch long, mixes chemicals that explode. I began to think, O.K., how would that evolve? If evolution is true it had to somehow evolve that. Let's assume it is evolving this defense mechanism, but the first time that it finally produces the explosion, what happens to the bug? Well,

it is destroyed by the explosion, and we know that splattered bug pieces don't evolve. So I thought, how could this have happened? Well, [because of the intricate way it is built] it doesn't blow itself up. It has another little factory inside itself and it manufactures a chemical that acts as a catalyst, so when it squirts that chemical into these other chemicals that are in a suspended state it produces the explosion. And it has an asbestos-lined firing chamber to protect itself. And it has two little twin tail tubes, and it can aim these tubes out the side, even out the front. Let's say a spider is coming up toward its side and it doesn't have time to turn around and shoot. It can just take its little gun turret, aim it out to the side, and shoot. If you are listening to the explosion all you hear is a single pop, but scientists have now put that sound into slow motion, and it is like about a thousand sequential little explosions that are so fast that all we hear is one pop. So you think, why would that be? It was a curious thing for the scientists that are studying this little bug. A lot of them are at Cornell University and some other places. What they discovered was that if it were just one big explosion, the little bug would be jetted away by the force! But as long as it is a sequential explosion, the bug with his little legs can hang on. How



would evolution explain a sequential explosion? This little bug messes with all of the theories of evolution. There is no way a slow, gradual process is going to produce this bug. There is no way, even, that the newer theories, such as punctuated equilibrium, can explain this bug. I began to realize that this little bug needed to have all of its parts there at once or you just don't have the animal. And my stomach started to churn. My wife will tell you that my stomach churned for five years. It took a five-year struggle for me to begin to flip the way I think, from thinking in an evolutionary way to thinking that this creature was created fully formed just like it is. That went against everything I had ever learned" (Jobe Martin, *Incredible Creatures that Defy Evolution 1*, ExplorationFilms.com).



Billy Graham greets visitors outside Black Madonna shrine at monastery in Czestochowa, Poland, in 1979

THE DAY THAT BILLY GRAHAM WELCOMED PILGRIMS TO A MARY SHRINE (Friday Church News Notes, March 9, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - New Evangelicalism, with its brash "repudiation of separatism," exploded on the scene in the late 1940s and transformed the face of Christianity in my lifetime, and Billy Graham was its most prominent face. (See [New Evangelicalism: Its History, Characteristics, and Fruit](#), which is available as a free eBook to read or download from www.wayoflife.org.) No one did more in this generation

than Billy Graham to make the Roman Catholic Church acceptable to "evangelicals" and to build the one-world apostate church. The apex was when he stood outside of the shrine of the Black Madonna of Jasna Gora in Czestochowa, Poland, in 1979, with a Catholic bishop and greeted the pilgrims who were venerating Mary as the sinless Queen of Heaven and interceder for sinners. What could be more confusing than for a Baptist preacher to do such a thing rather than lift his voice against this cursed false gospel? A photo of the event was published in Graham's own *Decision* magazine in February 1979, but the caption under the photo merely said, "Mr. Graham greets people outside a national shrine at the monastery in Czestochowa." Graham was in Poland at the invitation of the late Pope John Paul II, who was a great Mary worshiper. The Black Madonna was one of his favorite pilgrimage sites. In his general audience of December 13, 1995, he called Mary "Mediatix" and "Co-Redemptress" and spoke of her "exceptional role in the work of redemption" ("Council's Teaching on Mary Is Rich and Positive," Dec. 13, 1995, *L'Osservatore Romano*, English edition). In his general audience of May 7, 1997, the Pope said, "Mary is the path that leads to Christ" (Vatican Information Service). How many Polish people have gone to an eternal hell because of Rome's false gospel? Yet Graham did not have even any clear word of warning about this. He often praised the Pope but never exposed his false gospel. Graham preached in Rome's churches and accepted Rome's awards but did not condemn Rome's great errors. Graham's visit to Jasna Gora was a real event, but it was also a metaphor of how that Graham

invited multitudes upon multitudes of people into the arms of Rome throughout the world, Rome with its false sacramental gospel and false sacramental christ and its false spirit. To bless false teachers is an exceedingly serious business. "Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into *your* house, neither bid him God speed: For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds" (2 John 1:9-11).

BILLY GRAHAM'S ECUMENICAL GOSPEL A TWO-EDGED SWORD (Friday Church News Notes, March 9, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- I grew up in a Southern Baptist home and some of my earliest memories are hearing Billy Graham preach on radio and television. He was upheld as a spiritual hero by everyone I knew. It has been said that Graham preached the gospel to more people than any person in church history, but his great ecumenical compromise (working with and supporting every type of church) was a two-edged sword that probably sent more people to hell than to heaven. Consider my wife's conversion. When she was a teenager, she and her mother heard Graham preach on television when they were



living in Alaska. That led them to attend church where they were eventually saved. But in a significant way, it was *in spite of* Graham that they were saved, because he taught people to go to “the church of your choice.” He did not carefully distinguish between churches. When my wife’s mother decided to go to church the following Sunday, she intended to go to a Methodist church which probably did not preach a clear gospel. She was under the impression that “all churches are the same,” and Billy Graham had said nothing in his message or invitation to indicate that her thinking was wrong. The only reason she ended up in a Baptist church where a plain gospel was preached was because the Lord graciously intervened. It was winter, and she couldn’t get up the icy hill to the Methodist church, so she went to the Baptist church instead, not because of Billy Graham but in spite of him. This is why Billy Graham was called “Mr. Facing Two Ways.” His ecumenical gospel saved some and damned more. As we document extensively in the book [*Billy Graham’s Sad Disobedience*](#) (available as a free eBook from www.wayoflife.org), he turned multitudes of seekers over to Roman Catholic, Orthodox, and modernistic Protestant churches. Contrariwise, the apostle Paul did not merely preach “a positive gospel”; he preached the true gospel and also exposed false gospels. He said, “But



though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed” (Galatians 1:8). Strong language and godly language. Paul plainly identified the Galatian heretics as those who were cursed. Like His Master, Paul did not warn of error in vague generalities.

BILLY GRAHAM AND CHRISTIAN ROCK (Friday Church News Notes, March 9, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Billy Graham had a huge influence on the spread of Christian rock music. Before I was saved, I lived and breathed rock & roll music, and I know for a fact that there is nothing godly in rock music, and I am talking the *music* and not the lyrics or words. Secular rockers know and readily admit that their music is largely about sex, and such music can never be redeemed for the worship of a thrice holy God. “Christian rock” is confusion. It is apostasy. It is deception. It is wickedness. Following are just a couple of the many quotes we could give along this line: Gene Simmons of KISS said, “That’s what rock is all about--sex with a 100 megaton bomb, *THE BEAT!*” (*Entertainment Tonight*, ABC, Dec. 10, 1987). Jimi Hendrix said, “Perhaps [my music] is sexy ... but what music with a BIG BEAT isn’t?” (David Henderson, *Scuse Me While I Kiss the Sky: The Life of Jimi Hendrix*. p. 117). Tina Turner said, “Rock and roll is fun, it’s full of energy ... It’s *naughty*” (*Rock Facts*, Rock & Roll Hall of Fame and Museum). Luke Campbell of 2 Live Crew said, “The sex is definitely in the music, and sex is in ALL ASPECTS in the music.” Observe



that these quotes refer to rock’s rhythm rather than to the lyrics. These rock & roll experts are saying that the sexuality is in the rock rhythm. Yet Billy Graham was so lacking in spiritual discernment and so controlled by pragmatism that he used rock to draw crowds of young people. When Graham died, he was applauded by Christian rockers of every stripe (“In Memory of Billy Graham,” www.classicchristianrockzine.com). I don’t know of even one Christian rocker who warned of Graham’s great compromise, because they are one spirit with him in one world church building. *Christianity Today’s* obituary documented Graham’s role in popularizing Christian rock as follows: “In the 1990s he reengineered the formula for his ‘crusades’ (later called ‘missions’ out of deference to Muslims and others offended by the connotation). His standard ‘youth night’ was revolutionized into a ‘Concert for the Next Generation,’ with Christian rock, rap, and hip-hop artists headlining the event, followed by Graham preaching. This format drew record numbers of young people who cheered the bands and then, amazingly, listened carefully to the octogenarian evangelist” (Marshall Shelley, “Evangelist Billy Graham Has Died: America’s Pastor Shaped Modern Evangelicalism,” *Christianity Today*, Feb. 2018). For

those who have eyes to see and ears to hear, this is a very loud warning about a deep level of spiritual compromise. A person's view of Billy Graham tells a lot. He was Mr. Ecumenism, Mr. One World Church, and those who love him are part of that "church," though most are ignorant of the fact. It is an issue of spiritual discernment or the lack thereof. An individual that has the spirit of Psalm 119:128 and Jude 3 cannot be a part of any type of ecumenism. Loving all of the truth and hating error and fighting for the faith once delivered to the saints is the very opposite of what Billy Graham stood for. Billy Graham talked about the truth, but he had no passion to fight for it. That is not biblical Christianity. Biblical prophets and preachers are warriors. "Therefore I esteem all *thy* precepts concerning all things to be right; and I hate every false way" (Psalm 119:128). "Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort *you* that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints" (Jude 1:3).

THIRD TEMPLE GROUP ISSUES COIN FEATURING IMAGE OF TRUMP (Friday Church News Notes, March 9, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The Temple in Zion (Hamikdah



Betzion) organization is issuing a half shekel temple tax coin featuring the images of Persian King Cyrus and U.S. President Donald Trump on one side and the Third Temple on the other. This is in recognition of Trump's support for Israel and his public recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital. Currently there is no Jewish temple, of course, but the Temple in Zion is one of the groups preparing for the building of the Third Temple. Others are the Temple Institute, the Temple Mount Faithful, and Women for the Temple (who are practicing to bake bread and to dye and weave priests' vestments, among other things). In 538 BC, Cyrus issued a proclamation ordering the rebuilding of the Second Temple. The Temple in Zion and associated groups hope that President Trump will institute the building of the Third Temple. Hillel Weiss, chairman of the group, says, "The Trump Declaration must continue with a declaration of the role of the Jews in establishing the Temple in its place. Only then will President Trump's international ambitions come true in the Middle East" ("Israeli Group Issues Temple Tax Coin," *Israel Today*, Feb. 26, 2018). Revelation 11 describes the measuring of the Third Temple in the time when the Two Witnesses prophesy in Jerusalem during the first half of the Antichrist's reign.

PETER RUCKMAN MURDERS SONS BEFORE TAKING HIS OWN LIFE (Friday Church News Notes, March 16, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - On February 28, Peter S. Ruckman, Jr., son of the late Pastor Peter Ruckman of Pensacola, Florida, murdered his two sons and then



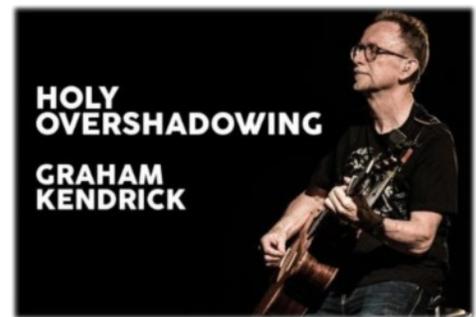
committed suicide at his home near Chicago ("Professor, 2 teenage sons shot to death," *Chicago Tribune*, Mar. 5, 2018). Peter Jr., who was called P.S., was a professor of political science at Rock Valley College. The boys, Christopher and John, attended Rockford Christian Schools and were rock & roll musicians and video game enthusiasts. Chris was a rock guitar prodigy, and his father helped him get opportunities to perform with various blues bands. Ruckman's wife filed for divorce in July last year and shared custody of the boys. Peter Ruckman, Jr.'s father, who died in 2016, was pastor of Bible Baptist Church in Pensacola and author of many books. He promoted the goofy heresy that the King James Bible is "advanced revelation" over the Greek and Hebrew from which it was translated. In January 1985, when I was a young missionary, I wrote to him and said that I believed that he had done a lot of damage to the cause of the King James Bible because of his "strange thinking, multiple divorces, angry spirit, arrogance, Alexandrian cult mentality, extremism regarding the KJV being advanced revelation, and bizarre private doctrines." Ruckman said, "If all you have is the 'original Greek,' you lose light" (*Manuscript Evidence*, p. 336), and, "God slammed the door of revelation shut in 389 BC and slammed it shut again in 1611" (*The Monarch of Books*, p. 9). In

1972, Ruckman (whose first wife had divorced him) married the young divorced wife of a former Bible student. When one-third of his church members (Brent Baptist) voted in opposition of this marriage, he started Bible Baptist. In 1988, his second wife sued for divorce and he subsequently married a member of his church. Ruckman's language was caustic, crude, vicious, even vile, some of it unquotable in a family publication. He claimed to have discovered truths that no one else in church history had discovered. These include the following: All female church-age saints will receive 33-year-old male bodies at the Rapture; when someone is born again, his soul is literally cut loose from the inside of his fleshly body; demons are winged creatures ranging in size from that of flies to eagles; the soul is an invisible bodily shape; in Christ's kingdom 12 nations will populate outer space. (For more about this see [What about Ruckman?](#), which is available as a free eBook from www.wayoflife.org.)

THE GETTYS TEAM UP WITH GRAHAM KENDRICK (Friday Church News Notes, March 16, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbs@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Among all of the contemporary worship musicians, I consider Keith and Kristyn Getty perhaps the most dangerous, because what they are offering is wrapped in a package that



is attractive to “fundamentalists” and Independent Baptists. They aren't writing the typical CCM 7-11 music (7 words sung 11 times); their lyrics have scriptural substance. But that “conservative-appearing” package is a bridge to truly great spiritual danger. The Gettys represent the whole exceedingly dangerous world of contemporary worship music as definitely as does Darlene Zschech and Hillsong, and any bridges that Bible-believing churches build to the Gettys are bridges built to the one-world church and even to secular rock. We have mentioned the Gettys' warm relationship with Roman Catholic musician Matt Maher. Most recently they have teamed up with Graham Kendrick for the song “My Worth Is Not in What I Own” on his new, yet untitled, album (“Graham Kendrick Teams Up with the Gettys,” www.hallels.com, Feb. 26, 2018). “My Worth” has been released as a single. Kendrick is one of the most prominent names in Contemporary Praise Music and one of his objectives is to break down denominational barriers and create ecumenical unity. He was co-founder of the ecumenical March for Jesus, which has brought together every type of denomination and cult including Roman Catholic and Mormon. A biography at Kendrick's web site says: “Crossing international and denominational barriers, his songs, like the popular *Shine Jesus Shine*, have been used by countless small church events to major festivals—including Promise Keeper rallies, Billy Graham crusades and a four million-strong open air CATHOLIC MASS in the Philippines capital Manila, where THE POPE ‘SWUNG HIS CANE IN TIME TO THE MUSIC’” (“Shine Jesus Shine,” GrahamKendrick.



co.uk). Kendrick is a charismatic of the most radical sort and promotes the “kingdom now” and Word-Faith heresies. In the 1970s, he was a member of the Ichthus Christian Fellowship which welcomed the so-called Toronto Blessing with its meaningless gibberish, spirit slaying, hysterical laughing, barking, braying, rolling. Kendrick claims that he was “baptized with the Holy Spirit” in 1971 after attending a charismatic meeting. He says, “It was later that night when I was cleaning my teeth ready to go to bed that I was filled with the Holy Spirit! ... and I remember lying at last in my bed, the fixed grin still on my face, praising and thanking God, and gingerly trying out a new spiritual language that had presented itself to my tongue with no regard at all for the objections thrown up by my incredulous brain! ... That was a real watershed in my Christian experience” (Nigel Smyth, “What Are We All Singing About?” www.freedomministries.org.uk/ccm/nsmyth1.shtml). To bypass one's thinking and to refuse to test everything by Bible doctrine is blind mysticism, which is always a recipe for spiritual delusion. Instead of yoking together in music ministry with such people, the Gettys should be warning about them. Majesty Music and Bob Jones University have been promoting the Gettys' contemporary hymns by toning down the rhythm, and this bridge will bring dramatic changes within the next 10

years. (For documentation see “[The Gettys: Pied Pipers of Contemporary Worship Music](#),” a report at www.wayoflife.org.)

MALE PROSTITUTION AT THE VATICAN (Friday Church News Notes, March 16, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The following is excerpted from “Male Prostitution Big Business at Vatican,” PulpitandPen.org, Mar. 6, 2018: “The world is shocked upon hearing that there is a seedy world of priests at the Vatican who pay for sex with other males. But given the history of the Roman Catholic Church and its tragic celibacy policy, homosexuality, pedophilia and even bestiality are all-too-common among the priesthood. Forbidding to marry or to engage in the holy sexual union of marriage is a sign of works-righteousness and pagan religion (1 Timothy 4:3). The consequences of demanding celibacy have been terrible and are regularly read about in the daily newspaper. A male escort named Francesco Mangiacapra compiled a 1200 page dossier identifying more than 34 actively gay priests and six gay seminarians at the Vatican. How did he know who they were? Personal...experience.

Cardinal Cresenzio Sepe of the Archdiocese of Naples forwarded the dossier to the Vatican, even though none of the priests identified were in Naples, because he felt that the



corruption near and in the Vatican City should be exposed. The dossier compiled by the male prostitute mostly contains conversations and evidence produced by gay ‘hookup’ apps like WhatsApp, Grindr and Telegram, where the priests would arrange for sexual encounters with the gigolo. Information provided from social media platforms like Facebook was provided as well. A book was printed on the subject of the gay priest subculture of the Vatican last March, but it was largely ignored by the Romanists. So then, the male prostitute compiled the raw data into the dossier and began to send it to people whom he felt would expose it. He did so, he says, because he could no longer stand the hypocrisy of the church. Just as it is in America, the religious press wouldn’t publish the material because it would be viewed as damning, and so the secular press had to do it for them. ... When Pope Francis argued that the Romanist church should be more welcoming to homosexuals, it seems that it was an unnecessary gesture. See Jonathan Merritt, ‘This Vatican adviser is moving Catholics toward LGBT inclusion,’ ReligionNews.com, Jun. 6, 2017.”

DISNEY’S CONTINUED DESCENT INTO MORAL PERVERSION (Friday Church News Notes, March 16, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The following is excerpted from “Elsa Coming Out as a Lesbian?” CBN.com, Mar. 1, 2018: “A sequel to the hit-film [*Frozen*] is set to release in November 2019, and now an interview with the film’s writer and co-director, Jennifer Lee, in the *Huffington Post* raises the possibility



that Elsa could be getting a girlfriend. The movement started when fans and LGBTQ activists grabbed a hold of the film’s hit song ‘Let It Go’ as their ‘coming out anthem’ -- and once a sequel was announced, social media became flooded with the hashtag ‘GiveElsaAGirlfriend.’ Petitions even circulated to give the character a female love interest. When Lee was asked about whether or not she was going to officially inaugurate Elsa into the LGBTQ community, she said the film’s team has been discussing the possibility. ‘I love everything people are saying and people are thinking about with our film,’ she told the Post. ‘That it’s creating dialogue, that Elsa is this wonderful character that speaks to so many people.’ Disney added an openly gay tween to the hit series *Andi Mack*, and the Disney series *Doc McStuffins* targeted preschoolers with a pro-lesbian message in the ‘2 Moms’ episode.”

EVOLVING COMPUTER CODE

(Friday Church News Notes, March 16, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is from CreationMoments.com, January 31, 2018: “Some years ago, a major international software company took out some commercials on British television. The theme of the commercials was that their software was now better than it had ever been because it had evolved. The

commercials showed images of dinosaurs and so-called primitive animals as they evolved into more modern, up-to-date varieties. As I said, the object of the commercials was to convince the public that the software applications they were selling were better and more sophisticated than their products had been previously. Darwin's theory of evolution, and its neo-Darwinian variants, suggests that organisms have gradually got more complex by the spontaneous appearance of new DNA code. There is, of course, an analogy between computer programming code and the



arrangement of information in DNA—except that DNA information is a great deal more complex than a computer app. If I had been one of the programmers of these software apps, I think I might have felt a little

insulted. Granted, the new software versions were much better than the previous generations, having more and more useful routines. But each of these sophisticated features had been designed, planned and coded by software engineers. No information was introduced randomly by blind evolution. All new information was the result of highly intelligent design. This reasoning, incidentally, is just one of many reasons why evolution is impossible. New DNA code has even less chance of appearing by itself than a new programmed feature has of appearing in these software applications.”

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- Standing for the whole counsel of God. (Acts 20:27; Jude 3)
- Challenging Christian workers to uphold the truth and resist the apostasy of our times. (1 Timothy 6:20-21)
- Exposing the spirit of error and compromise within Christendom (Hosea 4:6a; 2 Tim. 3)
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