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

DIGGING IN THE WALLS:
A month’s worth of news items, republished from Friday Church News Notes. Page 12.

God The lukewarmness, unholiness, and worldliness is evident in the emphasis on parties, games, fun, and entertainment. It is a Christianized version of modern society’s emphasis on entertainment. The average church’s calendar speaks volumes about its true heart and soul. Youth meetings are all about fun with a veneer of spirituality and a dab of Bible.” Page 3.

LANCASTER/WEST COAST PERFORM ROMAN CATHOLIC MATT MAHER WORSHIP SONG ~ By David Cloud

The West Coast Baptist College choir has produced a new worship video featuring Roman Catholic Matt Maher’s “Because He Lives (Amen).”

It is beautifully sung and professional produced, and the words are OK. The music is questionable, but the problem with the music is subtle.

The glaring issue is that the very choice of this song is evidence that Lancaster Baptist Church is addicted to contemporary worship music produced by the most ecumenical, one-world church people on earth. There is no possibility that the young people singing this song and the leaders leading it and the people producing it are not listening to full-blown contemporary music in their private lives.

Of all the myriad of songs and hymns and spiritual songs that exist, why would a fundamental Baptist church that is allegedly anti-ecumenical choose such
a song by such a man? Can some Lancaster supporter please answer that for me?

Matt Maher is a Roman Catholic ecumenical bridge builder. He prays to Mary and worships the consecrated wafer of the Catholic mass as very Jesus. Maher has led worship in the presence of three popes: John Paul II, Benedict XVI, and Francis.

Can a man who prays to Mary as the Queen of Heaven and worships a piece of bread and honors the pope as the Vicar of Christ be of the same Spirit as a fundamental Baptist? Can such a man’s “Jesus” be the Jesus of the Bible? Sure, he is using the Bible’s words, but he defines those words entirely differently than a Bible-believing Christian.

Does a large Baptist Bible College not understand these simple and very fundamental things? Do they not know anything about ecumenism and Romanism? Do their preachers and supporters not understand these things and not care about truth?

Maher’s stated goal in ministry is to bring together all denominations and build the “one-world church,” and he has got his hooks into many Baptists. He has not hidden this. He says, “I’ve had co-writing sessions with Protestants where we had that common denominator, and I’ve seen in a very radical way the real possibility of unity” (“Common Bonds,” Christianity Today, Oct. 27, 2009).

Those who join hands with Matt Maher, such as Chris Tomlin and the Gettys and the Gaithers, know this and obviously agree with it (Amos 3:3).

Paul Chappell and his staff think that they can mess around with this music and not have a terribly negative influence on the present and future generations of churches, but they are deeply deceived. And every pastor who is supporting them in the “adaptation” of contemporary worship is the blind following the blind. Every one. Every single one.

For more on this see the report “Matt Maher: Building the One-World Church Through Music” on the Way of Life Website.
There is a shocking lack of passion for Christ, holiness, and separation from the world in a great many fundamental Baptist churches.

A large percentage of church members only give lip service to separation and holy living. Though they might “dress up” a bit for church services, in their daily lives, they look like the world, talk like the world, think like the world.

They are not cold; they are not hot; they are lukewarm; and we know what Christ thinks about lukewarmness.

“I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thouwert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth” (Revelation 3:15-16).

God’s purpose for man is that he love the Lord with all of his being. This is repeated three times in the law of Moses and three times by Christ. God must be first in man’s thinking and actions. Anything less is idolatry.

“And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might” (Deuteronomy 6:5).

“And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment” (Mark 12:30).

The lukewarmness, unholliness, and worldliness is evident in the emphasis on parties, games, fun, and entertainment. It is a Christianized version of modern society’s emphasis on entertainment. The average church’s calendar speaks volumes about its true heart and soul. Youth meetings are all about fun with a veneer of spirituality and a dab of Bible. The entertainment program might be interrupted for a few moments for a little Bible study, a short sermon, and a prayer, but soon it’s back to the “real program” of fun. The “senior citizen’s” program is little different from the youth’s.

The lukewarmness, unholliness, and worldliness is evident in the emphasis over the last couple of decades on “lightening up” and not being “too strict.” This is in direct disobedience to Scriptures such as the following:

“Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you” (2 Corinthians 6:17).

“Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God” (2 Corinthians 7:1).

“And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them” (Ephesians 5:11).

“Abstain from all appearance of evil” (1 Thessalonians 5:22).

“Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world” (Titus 2:12).

“My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations” (James 1:2).

“Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God. (James 4:4).

“Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded. Be afflicted, and mourn,
and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to heaviness” (James 4:8-9).

“Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever” (1 John 2:15-17)

The fundamental thing that is missing in so many church members’ lives is a true passion for the Lord Jesus Christ. In far too many cases, it isn’t that they have left their first love; it’s that they have never had a first love.

It is impossible for an lukewarm church to stand against the hurricane force winds of apostasy in these days.

The following is from the **ONE-YEAR DISCIPLESHIP COURSE**, ISBN 978-1-58318-117-1. This powerful course features 52 lessons in Christian living. It can be broken into sections and used as a new converts’ course, a discipleship course, a Sunday School series, a Home Schooling or Bible Institute course, or for preaching outlines. The lessons are thorough and practical. There is an extensive memory verse program built into the course, and each lesson features carefully designed review questions. Following are some of the lesson titles: Repentance, Faith, the Gospel, Baptism, Eternal Security, Position and Practice, the Law and Grace, Christian Growth and Spiritual Victory, Prayer, the Armor of God, the Church, the Bible, the Bible’s Proof, Daily Bible Study, Key Principles of Bible Interpretation, Foundational Bible Words, Knowing God’s Will, Making Wise Decisions, Christ’s Great Commission, Suffering in the Christian Life, The Judgment Seat of Christ, Separation - Moral, Separation - Doctrinal, Tests of Entertainment, Fasting, Miracles, a Biblical Testing Mindset, Tongues Speaking, the Rapture, How to Be Wise with Your Money, the Believer and Drinking, Abortion, Evolution, and Dressing for the Lord. 8.5X11, coated cover, spiral-bound. 221 pages.

“...I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God” (Romans 12:1-2).

Knowing God’s will begins with surrender of myself as a living sacrifice to serve Christ.

This refers to full surrender. A sacrifice doesn’t have its own will and plans. It is dead to self and alive only to God. But the large percentage of Christians surrender only partially. They reserve portions of their lives out of bounds for God. They say they want to do God’s will, but they aren’t willing to go wherever He leads and do whatever He wants, without reserve. They don’t put everything on the table before God. They wouldn’t dream of surrendering to such an extent that they are ready to leave their job, their property, their families, their friends. Large numbers of people have told me that they are desperate to find a sound church, but they aren’t willing to relocate for that purpose. The bottom line is that they aren’t fully surrendered to God’s will. He has made it perfectly clear in His Word that the church is to be preeminent in the believer’s life (Acts 2:42; 1 Tim. 3:15; Heb. 10:25). They are surrendered with part of the heart, not the whole heart. I don’t know how many times people have told me that they couldn’t dream of serving God in
a place like Nepal. There are few laborers in the Lord’s great harvest fields because so few have surrendered unreservedly.

*Surrender is a free-will decision.* God does not force us to be saved, and He does not force us to devote our lives wholly to Him after salvation. He wants us to do this from a willing heart. Thus, there are hard choices that must be made for those who want to know God’s will. I must choose to dedicate myself to Christ rather than to the pursuit of selfish desires. I must deny the flesh and pursue the Spirit. Most people devote their lives to money, pleasure, ease, comfort, security, prestige, and such things. The child of God has the privilege of pursuing a higher calling.

*Surrender is a decision that is motivated by God’s love.* We love God because He first loved us. We do not pursue the will of God in order to be saved; we pursue it because we are saved and we want to please the One who has saved us by His grace through the great price that was paid on Calvary.

*Surrender is a reasonable decision.* It is reasonable because knowing and serving God is the purpose of life (Ecclesiastes 12:13). It is reasonable because life apart from God’s will is vanity. That is the theme of the book of Ecclesiastes. If I use my life for anything other than God’s service, I am throwing it away. It is also reasonable to dedicate my life to Christ because God’s will brings great reward (Hebrews 11:24-27). A missionary who was later martyred once said, “A man is not unwise to give up that which he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose.”

*Surrender is a personal decision.* Young people are often deeply concerned about what other young people are thinking and doing. There is “peer pressure,” but if I want to know God’s will I must move beyond that and focus my attention on pleasing God alone.

*Surrender is also a daily decision.* Dedicating myself to the Lord’s will is not something that can be done once; it must be done repeatedly. Many times a person will get fired up at a church meeting or a summer camp or a Bible conference, and he or she will surrender to the Lord’s will, but due to the pressures of life and spiritual warfare this decision can fade away if it is not renewed daily.
Many Christians seek help from Ayurvedic practitioners. This is especially true in South Asia, but it is a dangerous practice.

Consider the example of a young man with blood cancer (leukemia). The medical doctors wanted to give him modern medicines to possibly cure the disease, but his family was told by Ayurvedic practitioners that their treatments could cure it. The family believed them and chose to give him the Ayurvedic medicine and not to give him the modern medicine. For several months he was given Ayurvedic medicine. For a little while, he seemed to be getting better, but then he became worse and worse. Finally, in desperation, the parents took him back to the hospital. The medical doctors said that while the patient was taking Ayurvedic medicine the disease had advanced rapidly and now it was too late to help him.

When the medical doctors at the hospital first counseled the family, they strongly advised against using Ayurvedic treatment. They said that they have been working with blood cancer patients for many years and they have never seen one healed by Ayurvedic. They said that if Ayurvedic could heal cancer, it would be written about in medical journals all over the world.

This type of thing has happened countless times. Instead of seeking proper modern medical treatment, the patient seeks help from Ayurvedic practitioners, and instead of getting better they get worse. Many times they die because they wait too late to seek modern medical care that could have helped them.

**What Is Ayurveda?**

1. Ayurveda is Hinduism.

Ayurvedic practitioners claim that it was received from the Hindu gods by gurus through yogic meditation. Note the following quote from the *Ayurveda Encyclopedia*:

“The knowledge of Ayurveda was handed down from Brahma to Daksha Prajapati, onto the Ashwin twins (the divine doctors), then passed to Indra. Sage Bharadvaja volunteered to go to heaven to receive this wisdom from Indra, and so became the first human to receive the knowledge of Ayurveda” (*The Ayurveda Encyclopedia*, published by Health Harmony, New Delhi, 2006, p. xxiii).

“The methods used to find this knowledge of herbs, foods, aromas, gems, colors, yoga, mantras ... came through Divine revelation. ... Originally four main books of Vedic spiritually existed. These are known as the Vedas: Rik, Sama, Yajur, and Atharva. Ayurveda was used along with Vedic astrology (called Jyotish, that is, one’s inner light). Eventually, Ayurveda was organized into its own compact system of health and considered a branch of Atharva Veda” (*The Ayurveda Encyclopedia*, p. 3).

So we see that Ayurveda is Hinduism.

2. The goal of Ayurveda is to teach the individual that he or she is God.

Ayurveda is based on the false doctrine that God is all things (pantheism) and that man is God. Again we will quote from the *Ayurveda Encyclopedia*:
"According to the Vedic philosophy, life is Divine and the goal of life is to realize our inner Divine nature. Ayurvedically speaking, the more people realize their Divine nature the healthier they are. Thus it is the responsibility of the Ayurvedic doctor to inspire or help awaken the patient to their own inner Divine nature. ... When patients are taught they have this Divinity within themselves, they feel a connection to life and God (however each patient defines God)" (The Ayurveda Encyclopedia, p. 8).

This goes back to the devil’s lie to Eve in the Garden of Eden that she would be as God (Gen. 3:4-5).

3. Ayurveda claims that spiritual energy flows throughout the universe and can be manipulated for health.

This energy is called prana, and the flow of energy must be balanced for good health.

According to the Bible, there is no such thing as prana.

4. Ayurveda claims there are three body types.

Ayurveda practitioners prescribe remedies to bring each body type into good health.

"According to Ayurvedic medicine, there are three body types: Kapha, Pitta and Vata. The Kapha body type is individuals who tend to be of larger build with equally wide shoulder and hip regions. The Pitta body type is a medium build person and the Vata type is more slight or petite. Body types, according to Ayurvedic medicine, have a tendency to suffer from particular ills and complications that can be addressed by countering with specific types of foods” ("Ayurveda Medicine," EmaxHealth.com, Mar. 2, 2012).

There is no scientific evidence for the three body types or for the Ayurvedic remedies. This is Hindu mythology.

5. Ayurveda uses idolatrous practices to achieve its goals.

In addition to Ayurvedic herbs and medicinal remedies, Ayurvedic practitioners prescribe idolatrous practices, such as yoga, mantras, acupuncture, aromatherapy, color therapy, gem therapy, astrology, psychology, architectural harmony, and yagya (ceremonies soliciting the aid of Hindu gods).

Yoga is a major part of Ayurveda. There is a lengthy section in The Ayurveda Encyclopedia on Yoga. Yoga means union and its goal is to achieve union with the Hindu concept of god.

What Is the Error of Ayurveda?

1. Ayurveda is demonic in origin.

The Bible warns the believer to avoid anything that is of the devil and that is associated with idolatry.

"Neither be ye idolaters, as were some of them..." (1 Corinthians 10:7).

"Wherefore, my dearly beloved, flee from idolatry" (1 Corinthians 10:14).

"But I say, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to devils, and not to God: and I would not that ye should have fellowship with devils. Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils: ye cannot be partakers of the Lord’s table, and of the table of devils. Do we provoke the Lord to jealousy? are we stronger than he?” (1 Corinthians 10:20-22).

"Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty” (2 Corinthians 6:14-18).

"Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen" (1 John 5:21).

There is no doubt that Ayurveda is of the devil. We have seen that it is pure Hinduism, and Hinduism is a religion of the devil.

The Bible teaches that idolatry began at the Tower of Babel after the global Flood of Noah’s day. This was about 4,200 years ago or 2,200 years before the coming of Christ.

The building of the Tower of Babel is described in the following passage:

"And Cush begat Nimrod: he began to be a mighty one in the earth. He was a mighty hunter before the LORD: wherefore it is said, Even as Nimrod the mighty hunter
before the LORD. And the beginning of his kingdom
was Babel, and Erech, and Accad, and Calneh, in the
land of Shinar. ... And the whole earth was of one
language, and of one speech. And it came to pass, as
they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain
in the land of Shinar; and they dwelt there. And they said
one to another, Go to, let us make brick, and burn
them throughly. And they had brick for stone, and
slime had they for morter. And they said, Go to, let us
build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach
unto heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be
scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth.
And the LORD came down to see the city and the
tower, which the children of men builded. And the
LORD said, Behold, the people is one, and they have
all one language; and this they begin to do: and now
nothing will be restrained from them, which they have
imagined to do. Go to, let us go down, and there
confound their language, that they may not under-
stand one another’s speech. So the LORD scattered
them abroad from thence upon the face of all the
earth: and they left off to build the city. Therefore is the
name of it called Babel; because the LORD did there
confound the language of all the earth: and from
thence did the LORD scatter them abroad upon the
face of all the earth” (Gen. 10:8-10; 11:1-9).

This was the beginning of the world’s idolatrous
religions. It was led by a proud kingdom builder named
Nimrod. The desire to build a tower to heaven had a
religious meaning associated with astrology (worship
of the sun and moon and stars). The ancient Babylonians
weren’t trying to build a tower that could reach the stars
physically. They were building a tower that could reach
the stars spiritually. They wanted a religion that would
connect them with “the gods” through idolatrous rituals
and pagan philosophy.

Revelation 17:5 says that Babylon is the mother of all
false religions. That is where the false religions originated.

What happened in those days after the worldwide flood
is described in Romans 1:21-23.

“But because that, when they knew God, they glorified him
not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in
their imaginations, and their foolish heart was dark-
ened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became
fools, And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God
into an image made like to corruptible man, and to
birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things.”

Hinduism is a direct descendent of Babylonian religion.
The following Hindu practices can be traced back to
ancient Babylon: idol worship, plurality of gods,
goddesses, mother goddesses, sun worship, moon
worship, astrology, serpent worship, curses and hexes on
one’s enemies, seeking good fortune through rituals,
using drugs to connect with God, rituals for the prosperity
of the dead, and the promise of perfect health through
religious practices.

2. Ayurveda makes false promises.

Ayurveda promises perfect health and long life.

The Ayurveda Encyclopedia is subtitled “natural secrets
to healing, prevention, and longevity.”

Deepak Chopra, the most prominent practitioner of
Ayurveda in America, claims that aging can be reversed.
Actress Demi Moore believes she will live to age 130
through Ayurveda.

The Bible teaches that sickness and death stem from
man’s Fall. We live in a world that groans under a curse,
and even those that are born again are subject to it (Rom.
8:22-23). We live in a body of death (Rom. 7:24). Our
bodies die because of sin. “The wages of sin is death...”
(Romans 6:23).

God didn’t always heal sick believers even in the early
churches. Paul had a sickness that God didn’t remove (2
Cor. 12:7-10). Paul’s conclusion to this matter was the
opposite of those who claim God’s will is total health.
He said: “Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in
reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses
for Christ’s sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong”
(2 Cor. 12:10). Paul understood that God has not
promised perfect health in this present world, and he
accepted God’s will.

Timothy was physically weak and often sick (1 Tim.
5:23). Paul did not heal him and did not instruct him to
practice Ayurveda!

Trophimus, Paul’s co-worker, was left behind in Miletum
because he was sick and God did not heal him (2 Tim.
4:20).

The New Testament Christian faith does not teach us to
expect total health in this present world. It teaches us to
live by hope, and hope that is seen is not hope. In the
following passage, the apostle Paul taught that the
believer is subject to all sorts of trouble in this present
world, but in the next life we will have a resurrected body and will no longer have sickness and death.

“For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God. For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope, Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body. For we are saved by hope; but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for? But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it” (Romans 8:18-25).

The Bible says that this present world is under God’s curse because of man’s sin, and there will not be complete freedom from sickness and trouble in this life.

So we see that Ayurveda makes false promises that deceive people.

The Bible says the devil is a liar and the father of lies (John 8:44).

3. Ayurvedic medicine can be dangerous to your health.

There are no controls over Ayurvedic medicine. There is no way to know whether the ingredients are even safe.

Tests have shown that a large percentage of Ayurvedic medicine contains harmful levels of poisons such as lead, mercury, iron, and arsenic.

To combine these metals and minerals such as mica with herbs is called “rasa shastra.” The mixtures are called bhasmas. It is an ancient Hindu practice. According to this doctrine, a combination of metals with herbs results in health cures. Although Ayurvedic practitioners believe that their mixing techniques make these formulations safe, the scientific evidence shows this is not true.

This is a myth, and the practice can be hazardous to one’s health, because heavy metals are poisonous if used in large dosages or for extended times.

“The result of Ayurveda rasa shastra medicine in the U.S has resulted in multiple instances of heavy metal poisoning. Children are especially at risk of developing neurological problems due to heavy metal poisoning.”

Studies were published in the Journal of American Medical Association in 2004 and 2008. “The researchers concluded that several Indian-manufactured products could result in lead and/or mercury ingestions 100 to 100,000 times greater than acceptable limits” (U.S. Food and Drug Administration’s caution alert about Ayurvedic medicine, Oct. 16, 2008).

During 2011-2012, the New York City Department of Health found six cases of lead poisoning in pregnant women who used Ayurvedic medicine. Lead poisoning can damage the brain, kidneys, nervous and reproductive systems, and can injure the developing infant.

Cases of poisoning by Ayurvedic medicine have been found in Canada.

One adult male was admitted to a hospital with vomiting and diarrhea. He had been poisoned by taking one tablet daily of an Ayurvedic medicine he had purchased in India “to increase vigor.” The level of lead in his blood was nearly three times what it should have been. An analysis of the medicine found that each tablet contained poisonous levels of lead, mercury, and arsenic (“Heavy Medal Poisoning from Ayurvedic,” British Columbia Medical Journal, March 2008).

In another case, a young man was admitted to a hospital with nausea, vomiting, and abdominal pain. He had been taking an Ayurvedic powder to manage his diabetes. He had purchased it from a temple in India. An analysis of the medicine found that it contained poisonous amounts of lead.

The Canadian government banned the sale of Ayurvedic medicine in 2005 because of the high levels of metals like lead, mercury, and arsenic.

The European Union banned the import and sale of Ayurvedic medicine in 2011.

One of the supplements prescribed by Ayurvedic practitioners is Guggul, a tree extract. It has been linked to severe organ damage in some people. “In 2011, an article in the Canadian Journal of Gastroenterology reported a case of an otherwise healthy young woman who...

These are just a few examples. There are doubtless thousands and thousands of cases in which people have been poisoned and have even died because of Ayurvedic medicine.

4. **Ayurveda is filled with liars and quacks.**

The field of Ayurvedic medicine has always been populated by quacks and deceivers who make false promises and sell worthless remedies.

It is not uncommon for Ayurvedic practitioners buy cheap drugs and mix them with other things to make concoctions that they sell for a lot of money.

One pharmacist told us that Ayurvedic practitioners buy cheap medicine from him in large quantities, grind it into powder, add flour and powders to it, and then sell it expensively as Ayurvedic medicine. It is a hoax, and multitudes of people spend their money on this type of thing.

Consider Prakash Barvaliya of Ahmedabad, India. He bought generic ointments such as anti-bacterial creams and mixed these with other things and put his own label on it (“Ayurvedic quack’s clinics raided,” The Times of India, Aug. 14, 2012).

In 1995, Jonie Flint sued Deepak Chopra and other Ayurvedic practitioners because her husband died after being treated by them for leukemia. He was told that he had “heat” in his spleen and bone marrow, “wind” in his stomach, and pressure on his nerves, and he was put on an Ayurvedic “purification” treatment that included herbal products and a mantra. He spent $10,000 on Ayurvedic services and products. In December 1993, Flint was told by the Ayurvedic practitioners that his leukemia was gone, but he died of leukemia four months later. Deceived by the Ayurvedic doctors, he did not seek proper medical care.

In 2012, Mahadeo Mahadik died of kidney disease after spending Rs. 5 lakh (US $7,500) on Ayurvedic doctors. They had promised that he would be cured (“Two ayurvedia quacks cheat 65-year-old of Rs. 5 lakh,” DNA India, Aug. 16, 2012).

This type of thing has happened literally millions of times over the centuries to people who have relied on Ayurvedic practitioners.

**Conclusion**

Christians who seek help from Ayurvedic medicine are disobeying God and are placing themselves in spiritual and physical danger. They are also a bad example for others.

Modern medicine is a blessing from God. The Bible says that in the last days “knowledge shall be increased” (Daniel 12:4). God is the one who controls the times and gives knowledge to men.

“Daniel answered and said, Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are his: And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding” (Dan. 2:20-21).

Modern medicine is part of the explosion of knowledge that has happened in the last 150 years in fulfillment of Bible prophecy. Modern inventions include electricity and the light bulb, telephone, radio, railroads, automobiles, airplanes, atomic power, rockets, television, computers, and mobile phones.

During this same time, God has also given men new wisdom about the human body and healing.

Doctors have discovered that microscopic germs cause diseases. Modern microscopes were invented so that doctors could examine germs that cannot be seen with the unaided human eye. Doctors invented vaccinations to prevent many diseases, including rabies, smallpox, cholera, and polio. They discovered that wounds would heal better if they were kept clean. They discovered anesthesia so that patients could be put to sleep and not feel the pain of surgery. Doctors invented the X-ray and CAT scans so that they could see things inside of the body such as the bones and the lungs and the heart. Doctors discovered antibiotics such as penicillin, which
have saved countless people from dying by infection. They invented amazing surgical techniques, such as open heart surgery and heart transplants. They invented hip replacements and knee replacements. These modern medical practices have been a blessing to people all over the world.

Typically, modern medicines and procedures are rigorously tested for years. Before medical companies are allowed to sell a medicine and doctors are allowed to use it, it must be repeatedly and extensively tested on animals and people. They have to know whether the medicine will cause bad effects and whether it will interact with other medicines in a negative way. They have to determine the proper dosage. Modern medicines are subjected to hundreds of tests before they are approved for use by the public.

Consider what was required to gain approval of RotaTeq, a rotavirus vaccine that has saved the lives of multiplied thousands of children. First, the product had to be tested in animals. Then it was tested in ever-larger studies on humans. Finally, it was tested in a massive study called Phase III. The following account is given by Paul Offit, co-inventor of the vaccine.

“The Phase III trial for one rotavirus vaccine, Rotateq, included more than 70,000 children from eleven countries, tested for four years at a cost of about $350 million. If stacked one on top of another, patients’ records from the trial would have exceeded the height of the Sears Tower in Chicago. The FDA allowed the manufacturer of RotaTeq to make claims about safety and effectiveness only after those claims had been supported by rigorous scientific studies; otherwise, it wouldn’t have licensed the product” (Offit, Do You Believe in Magic? p. 95).

Ayurvedic medicine is not subject to any of this type of testing. Ayurvedic practitioners are a law unto themselves. In fact, as we have seen, Ayurvedic medicine often contains very harmful ingredients.

In sickness, the wise believer will first seek God and ask for healing, as Paul did.

“And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure. For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me” (2 Cor. 12:7-8).

The wise believer will also use the resources that God has given us in these end times, and that includes modern medicine.

This does not mean that the believer blindly follows modern medicine and puts himself unquestioningly into the hands of medical doctors. We should pray for wisdom in all situations.

“Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths” (Proverbs 3:5-6).

But the wise believer will stay away from anything that is associated with idolatry and demonism and deception.
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?

THE NATIONAL QUARTET CONVENTION’S ROCK & ROLL FEST (Friday Church News Notes, March 30, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- In recent decades, the National Quartet Convention (NQC) has become not much more than a rock & roll concert with a veneer of Christianity. They claim that “it’s all about Jesus,” but it appears to be more about sensual music and fleshly entertainment and money. Take away the rock & roll and the Hollywood-style glitz, and the crowds would doubtless disappear like a vapor. Consider Ernie Haase & Signature Sound, one of the big names in Southern Gospel today and one of the groups scheduled for the “evening concerts” at the 2018 NQC. His “signature” has the world written all over it, and it’s not only Haase. The NQC as an entity apes the world, with its rock & roll sound, colored lights, darkened hall, immodest dress, awards, red carpet interviews, and hero worship. The National Quartet Convention yokes together with Trinity Broadcasting Network (TBN) to broadcast its “Main Stage” program from the NQC. The scandal-ridden TBN, with its promotion of the likes of (the late) Paul Crouch, Benny Hinn and Joel Osteen, is at the forefront of spreading heresy worldwide in the name of Jesus Christ (e.g., kingdom now, seed faith, word faith, prophetic words, gibberish “tongues,” healing in the atonement, Jesus was rich, Jesus suffered in hell). It is impossible to obey Romans 16:17 and 2 Timothy 3:5 while holding hands with TBN: and TBN and NQC are two peas in one pod. “Can two walk together, except they be agreed?” (Amos 3:3).

For more on this see A Plea to Southern Gospel Music Fans, available for free viewing and downloading from www.wayoflife.org. This is a multimedia report with 67 links to audio and video clips that illustrate musical and vocal styles. For evidence of the extreme and unquestionable worldliness of the National Quartet Convention see the follow example: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dl9Mcm6gXQ

70% OF BRITISH YOUTH PROFESS “NO RELIGION” (Friday Church News Notes, March 30, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- According to a new report titled Europe’s Young Adults and Religion, 70% of youth in the United Kingdom self-identify as having “no religion” and 63% “never pray.” This is not surprising, and, fundamentally, it is not the result of Darwin or the Beatles. The fundamental issue is the apostasy and spiritual deadness of the churches. The Church of England was never a biblical “church.” It always held to the heresy of infant baptism. The majority of Anglicans, from Henry VIII to this present day, have trusted baptism for salvation. And
over the past 100 years, the Church of England and most other denominations in the United Kingdom (including the Baptist Union) have become permeated with death-dealing theological modernism. The little leaven of C.H. Spurgeon’s day has leavened the whole lump.

STUDENT BOOTED FROM CHRISTIANITY CLASS FOR TELLING PROFESSOR THERE ARE ONLY TWO GENDERS

(Friday Church News Notes, March 30, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The Following is excerpted from “Student Booted,” DailyWire.com, Mar. 12, 2018: “In the current year, it’s apparently permissible to ban a student from a class on Christianity for expressing inconvenient truths to a feminist professor. Lake Ingle, a religious studies major at Indiana University of Pennsylvania, was kicked out of Professor Alison Downie’s Christianity class on February 28 for telling her that ‘biologists don't agree that there's more than two genders’ and that the supposedly sexism-caused 23-cent ‘gender wage gap’ is a myth. This did not sit well with the feminist professor. She booted Ingle from her class for his WrongThink and ‘referred him to the public university’s Academic Integrity Board (AIB),’ reports Fox. The class Ingle has been barred from is one he needs to pass by the end of the semester if he wishes to graduate in May. ‘You are barred from attending this class in accordance with the Classroom Disruption policy,’ said a letter dated March 2 from IUP Provost Timothy Moerland to Ingle.” [Note: Ingle was reinstated to the class after 18 days on order of IUP’s president Michael Driscoll.]

THE ROMAN EMPEROR’S NOAH’S ARK COIN

(Friday Church News Notes, March 30, 2018, w w w . w a y o f l i f e . o r g, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- During the reign of Roman Emperor Septimius Severus (AD 193-211), a coin was minted in Apamea, Phrygia, to commemorate the Bible’s story of Noah’s ark. One side of the coin features the image of the emperor. The other side has the images of Noah and his wife inside a box signifying the ark floating on waves. Noah and his wife are also depicted standing outside the ark with raised hands in salutation to God, depicting their thanksgiving after the flood. Above them is the image of a dove clutching an olive branch. The Greek word for Noah is inscribed on the ark. This was long before the Roman Empire was Christianized. In fact, Severus was a bitter persecutor of Christians. The coin reflected the influence of Jews in Asia Minor and their Hebrew Scriptures. The coins continued to be minted through the reigns of Severus Alexander (222-235), Gordian III (238-244), Philip I (244-249), and Trebonianus Gallus (251-253).

PASTOR AND WIFE BRUTALLY ASSAULTED BY HINDU EXTREMISTS IN INDIA

(Friday Church News Notes, March 30, 2018, w w w . w a y o f l i f e . o r g, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The following is excerpted from “Ferocity of Hindu Extremist Attacks Stuns Christians,” Morning Star News, Mar. 21, 2018: “Before Hindu extremists attacking a church in southern India this month repeatedly kicked a pastor’s wife in the face, rendering her unconscious, they tried to snatch her Bible from her. Persia Jacob, 38, clasped the Bible close to her heart as they tried to seize it. ‘I will die, but I can’t do without the Bible,’ she said. They wrestled the Bible from her hands and, pushing and slapping her, they stripped her of her sari. When she pleaded with them to loosen their grips and let go of her sari, a state-provided security officer who accompanied Hindu extremist ringleader Thangam Venkatesh in the March 11 attack on the church in Tamil Nadu state told her to prostrate at Venkatesh’s feet and beg him to forgive her, she said. ‘If you and your husband convert back to Hinduism
right here, we will spare you alive,’ one of the assailants told her. ‘If not, you will be brutally killed.’ When she struggled to keep them from applying vermillion to her forehead, a sign of conversion to Hinduism, Venkatesh and his accomplices struck her in the face with the church building key, leaving a scar, her husband, pastor Ravi Jacob, told Morning Star News.

... From Sikandar Chavadi, the mob led by Venkatesh reached Koodul Pudur’s Bethesda Worship Centre, one of five churches they attacked that day, sources said. ... Pastor Jacob told Morning Star News that he went to Alanganallur police station in the evening after attending to the medical emergencies, but police refused to register the case. ...

... the hostile tone of the National Democratic Alliance government, led by the Hindu nationalist BJP, against non-Hindus, has emboldened Hindu extremists in several parts of the country to attack Christians since Prime Minister Narendra Modi took power in May 2014, religious rights advocates say. India ranked 11th on Christian support organization Open Doors’ 2018 World Watch List of countries where Christians experience the most persecution, up from 15th the previous year, and ahead of Saudi Arabia, Nigeria and Egypt.”

MOVIE ABOUT MARY MAGDALENE DEPICTS HER AS AN APOSTLE (Friday Church News Notes, March 30, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- A new movie titled Mary Magdalene, directed by Garth Davis, depicts Mary as a strong, independent woman who was “an apostle in her own right” (“Think you know Mary Magdalene”? BBC, Mar. 13, 2018). The Mary of Scripture is a woman from the fishing village of Magdala on the northwest shore of the Sea of Galilee who became a follower of Jesus after demons were cast out of her. She was present at the crucifixion and was the first to see the resurrected Christ (Mark 16:9-10). In the sixth century, Pope Gregory I wrongly declared that Mary was the converted prostitute of Luke 7:36-50, and this has been a popular position ever since. Gnostic writings of the second and third centuries, such as the Gospel of Mary, depict her as a special disciple with deep spiritual understanding who was an instructor of the male disciples.

GOD’S SHAKAM (Friday Church News Notes, March 30, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- “And the LORD hath sent unto you all his servants the prophets, rising early and sending them; but ye have not hearkened, nor inclined your ear to hear” (Jeremiah 25:4). The term “rising early” is from the Hebrew “shakam.” It describes someone who rises early to get busy with urgent work or to get an early start on a long journey, as Abraham rising early to see what happened to Sodom or to travel to Moriah (Ge. 19:27; 22:3). It appears 11 times in Jeremiah as a metaphor for God’s zeal in teaching and warning Israel (Jer. 7:13, 25; 11:7; 25:3, 4, 5; 29:19; 32:33; 35:14, 15; 44:4). God is like a man who gets up early and occupies himself with calling men to repentance. In Israel He did this from the time of Moses (Jer. 11:7). He did this daily (Jer. 7:25). He rose early to teach (Jer. 32:33), to protest (Jer. 11:7), to call to repentance (Jer. 35:15). Shakam describes God’s compassion and persistence in seeking to save sinners. It is God as the Father longing for the return of the prodigal son. It is God as the Good Shepherd seeking the lost sheep. God’s shakam is a strong indictment against Israel and all men and justifies God in His judgment. For the 2,000 years of the church age, God has risen up early and sent His ambassadors to the ends of the earth to call poor lost sinners to salvation by the preaching of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

THE FOX NEWS JESUS IS AMERICA’S JESUS (Friday Church News Notes, April 6, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- Fox News talks about Jesus. Some Bible-believing Christians seem to think it is a great thing for America that a major secular news company
talks about Jesus. Some of the Fox News “talking heads” are professing Christians, including some of the biggest names. They mention Jesus at Easter, even His resurrection, and they complain about the secularization of Christmas. Fox News talks about Jesus, but it is the 21st Century America Jesus. It is the Jesus of The Shack. It is a no repentance Jesus, who would never say, “Except ye repent ye shall all likewise perish” (Luke 13:3, 5). It is a non-exclusive Jesus, who would never say (and certainly not ever really mean it literally), “I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me” (John 14:6). It is a no hell-fire Jesus, who would never say, “The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth” (Matthew 13:41-42). It is a non-rejecting Jesus, who would never say, “Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it” (John 8:44). It is a non-rebuking Jesus, who would never say, “Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell?” (Matthew 23:33). It is a non-distinguishing Jesus, who would never say, “He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him” (John 3:36). The 21st Century America Jesus, the Western pop culture Jesus, the Fox News Jesus, The Shack Jesus, is a myth. It is an idol of man’s creation, and those who believe in that myth are in love with something that is not real and cannot save. I’m so glad that I turned from false christs at age 23. I grew up with The Shack Jesus in the Southern Baptist Convention. He was the “pray this little sinner’s prayer and now you are saved even though nothing has changed and you can live the rest of your life as you pretty much please” Jesus. After I left church, I followed the false christ of Christian Science, the false christ of environmentalism (the tree hugging Jesus), then briefly the false christ of Hinduism. How I thank the Lord for His great, undeserved mercy upon me in giving me true repentance toward God and faith in the true and most blessed Christ of Scripture! If you want to know the true Jesus who lived on this earth 2,000 years ago and died and shed His blood to pay the full atonement for man’s wicked sins and rose from the dead the third day and ascended back to heaven and is coming again to put down the age-old rebellion against God and establish His righteous kingdom, read the Bible! He is revealed there. And don’t be so foolish as to pick and choose the “Jesus” you like. Don’t metaphorically cut the things you don’t like from the pages of the Bible, as Thomas Jefferson did literally. The Jesus Christ of Scripture cannot be received piecemeal like a buffet lunch. He’s all or nothing! And no truth lover would want anything but the whole and real Jesus!

POPE ALLEGEDLY SAYS THERE IS NO HELL (Friday Church News Notes, April 6, 2018, w w w . w a y o f l i f e . o r g , fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from “Pope Francis,” CNSNews.com, Mar. 29, 2018: “In another interview with his longtime atheist friend, Eugenio Scalfari, Pope Francis claims that Hell does not exist and that condemned souls just ‘disappear.’ This is a denial of the 2,000-year-old teaching of the Catholic Church about the reality of Hell and the eternal existence of the soul. The interview between Scalfari and the Pope was published March 28, 2018 in La
New York City’s murder rate for the first time in modern history as London experienced a surge in knife attacks. Both cities have roughly the same population; in the month of February, 15 people were murdered in London, whereas NYC recorded 14 homicide deaths, reports The London Times. London is set to outpace NYC’s murder rate for March as well. ‘By late last night there had been 22 killings in the capital, according to the Metropolitan police, against 21 in the US city,’ notes the Times. Eight of those murdered in March happened in a span of just seven days. Since 2014, excluding victims of terrorism, the number of London murders has risen by a stunning 38%. London has also seen an ‘epidemic’ of acid attacks in recent years.”

LONDON’S MURDER RATE EXCEEDS NEW YORK’S (Friday Church News Notes, April 6, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from “Knife Attacks Propel London to Outpace NYC’s Murder Rate,” DailyWire, Apr. 2, 2018: “London, lauded by the Left for its strict gun laws and embrace of multiculturalism, is not the haven it’s cracked up to be. In February, the U.K. capital outpaced New York City’s murder rate for the first time in modern history as London experienced a surge in knife attacks. Both cities have roughly the same population; in the month of February, 15 people were murdered in London, whereas NYC recorded 14 homicide deaths, reports The London Times. London is set to outpace NYC’s murder rate for March as well. ‘By late last night there had been 22 killings in the capital, according to the Metropolitan police, against 21 in the US city,’ notes the Times. Eight of those murdered in March happened in a span of just seven days. Since 2014, excluding victims of terrorism, the number of London murders has risen by a stunning 38%. London has also seen an ‘epidemic’ of acid attacks in recent years.”

THE AMAZING FIG TREE-WASP SYMBIOSIS (Friday Church News Notes, April 6, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The biblical fig is the Ficus carica, which is native to Western Asia but is grown commercially throughout the world. It is a deciduous tree that grows to a height of 23-33 feet (7-10 m). The fragrant leaves are 5-10 inches long and 4-7 inches wide and are deeply lobed with three or five lobes. It is a beautiful tree with smooth white bark and multiple trunks that form a great variety of habits or forms. As the tree ages, the thick trunks and the above-ground roots are intertwined to form beautiful shapes. It is pollinated by a fig wasp, which is the only creature capable of pollinating this tree. There are more than 700 species of figs and each has its own specialized wasp. The tree bears two types of fruit, one (the caprifig) is capable of being pollinated for reproduction of the tree; the other is female and is the edible fruit. The female wasp crawls inside the caprifig through a tiny hole (the ostiole), lays her eggs and dies. After the offspring hatch, the males mate with the females, then dig tunnels out of the fruit and die. The females, covered in fig pollen, crawl out of the tunnels and fly off to repeat the cycle. This is one of the myriad of symbiotic relationships in “nature.” The wasp provides the tree with pollination services, while the tree provides the wasp with a safe environment for reproduction. Evolutionists claim that the wasp-fig wasp symbiosis is an example of “co-evolution,” but if so it means that these two complex living things “evolved” at exactly the same time with full-blown capabilities. That sounds more like creation to me! The idea of “co-evolution” is an evolutionary “Just So” story that attempts to explain away the complexity of creation, but it is a fairy tale. Evolutionists have never proposed a creative mechanism that could produce complex living creatures. Natural selection is not creative but genetically selective, and mutations are overwhelmingly destructive and do not build up information to the creature’s genome in a creative way.
MEGACHURCH PASTOR SAYS HE SAW JESUS (Friday Church News Notes, April 13, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Stovall Weems, pastor of Celebration Church in Jacksonville, Florida, claims that he saw Jesus on “Good Friday,” March 30. He told his church, “I heard His voice ... the cadence of His voice. I can sense His mood. I can sense His presence like He has a personality. ... I felt like I've known Him forever. I can't describe the closeness that I felt with Jesus. He didn't look at me, I never saw the front of his face. He was wearing a white garment. He had brown hair” (Pastor of Jacksonville Florida MegaChurch Claims Face to Face Meeting with Jesus Christ,” YouTube, April 1, 2018). Weems says that after he saw Jesus, “emotionally I was a wreck ... I was just kinda sobbing. I couldn’t sleep.” Weems asked his wife, Kerri, the church’s co-pastor, to help him describe the “visitation” and called her “the other Holy Spirit in my life.” At that statement, the 12,000-member church cheered. When we search the Scripture on this matter, it is clear that what Weems saw was a demonic deception. The last recorded appearance of the resurrected, ascended Christ was to John on the Isle of Patmos, and his hair is not brown. “His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow” (Revelation 1:14). When John saw the ascended Jesus, he didn’t sob and lose sleep; he “fell at his feet as dead” (John 1:17). And this is the same John who had lain on Jesus’ breast at the Last Supper (John 21:20). This pastor has been deceived, and there is no telling what further deception will come because he has believed a lie. Beware! Those who are committed to following the Bible as the sole authority for faith and practice, not in lip service only, will not be deceived.

FORTNITE: THE LATEST VIDEO GAME FRENZY (Friday Church News Notes, April 13, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Fortnite, a co-operative video game (played by multiple partners), is the latest “phenomenon” that has captured the hearts and minds of children. Taylor Kaar, a teacher at an all girls school in Ohio, says Fortnite is “the topic of conversation ... about how the game has utterly taken over the lives of every single boy they know” (“Teachers and Parents Share Stories from Inside the ‘Fortnite’ Phenomenon,” Waypoint, Mar. 29, 2018). This report says further, “This isn’t a fad that they deal with tangentially, this has intruded into the very center of their lives. ... when kids aren’t playing Fortnite, they’re thinking about Fortnite.” Though “cartoonish and bloodless,” it’s about shooting people with a variety of guns. One father said his son “came running to me and declared that he had headshot someone who dropped a legendary assault rifle and then picked it up and killed everyone.” It couldn’t possibly lead to violent behavior, could it? These are elementary school kids! Most parents, even Christians, don’t have any idea about how to raise children.

A TESTIMONY ABOUT QUICK PRAYERISM (Friday Church News Notes, April 13, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - “Thank you for Way of Life. The article today (‘The History of How Evangelism was Corrupted Among Independent Baptists’) was excellent - so true and a great blessing. The article really hit home with me. For many years, I attended a church pastored by a Hyles-Anderson College grad, and it fits so perfectly what was described in the article. There WAS a ‘frenzy for bigness.’ ‘Soul winning’ was ALL and the pastor's opinions were placed on the same level as Scripture. We were taught to be good ‘heaven salesmen’ - selling heaven like some cheap reward for saying a prayer. It was always, ‘If you died today, are you 100% sure you'd go to heaven?’ And we didn’t take ‘yes’ for an answer. We were basically taught that anyone who didn’t attend our church probably really didn’t know, so we should go through ‘the plan’ with them. And then the manipulation: we were told not to let our converts drive themselves to church. We were to pick them up. And call them Sat. night to remind them, and also call the Sunday morning. We were to sit with them, and, at the invitation, tell them that WE wanted to go forward and ask them to go with us. Then we would tell men at the front that this person was saved last week, and they needed to get baptized. Thus, we had good
numbers, but very, very few had the results spoken of in Acts 2:42. So few had any real change in their lives, so the next time we went by, they still weren’t 100% sure, and they went through ‘the plan’ again. Questioning any of this [allegedly] revealed a rebel’s criticizing heart. The so-called spiritual members didn’t want to discuss the Bible or blessings from their Bible study ... they wanted to talk about how many hours they put in ‘soul-winning’ or how many they saw ‘saved.’ We also heavily went after children because they were so much easier to manipulate into saying prayers. We had scores of children ‘saved.’ Criticizing this brought sharp rebuke because ‘a child has as much of a soul and needs salvation as much as an adult.’ It is to the Lord’s glory and honor that he opened my eyes to the man worship and cult-like atmosphere there. Our family left some years back and are part of a far more Biblical church. It’s not perfect, but we don’t have the ‘Heil Pastor’ attitude that was so prevalent before. The articles in Way of Life were a big help.” (For more on this see Fundamental Baptists and Quick Prayerism, available as a free eBook at www.wayoflife.org.)

**DOGGY YOGA** (Friday Church News Notes, April 13, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)
- The following is excerpted from “Dog Yoga Classes,” Fox News, Apr. 4, 2018: “A Rochester-area [New York] veterinarian is teaching a dog-and-human class called doga (DOH-guh). Dr. Danni Shemanski of the Hilton Veterinary Hospital tells WHEC that doga can improve dogs’ posture. It also provides people-pet bonding time and a chance for dogs to socialize. Shemanski says a doga session leaves dogs feeling happy and ‘important.’ She says that can help resolve attention-seeking behavioral issues.” Concluding note: Without doubt, happy dogs are high on the list of the things America needs more of.

**TAMWORTH BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH ONLINE MUSIC RESOURCES** (Friday Church News Notes, April 13, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)
- Tamworth Bible Baptist Church of Tamworth New South Wales (Australia) has some excellent and unique resources on the music issue. This church was pastored by the late Graham West from 1995 and carries on under the leadership of his son, James. I thank the Lord for these men. Graham West, who died in 2014, helped me personally with the music issue, particularly on the matter of beat anticipation and the addictive nature of sensual rhythm (“the slippery slide”). He had an excellent Christian spirit and a sterling reputation. His son, who told me that his father was his best friend and greatest mentor, is following in those good footsteps. This is one of the rare Independent Baptist churches that is not content with the weak, traditional philosophy and model and is moving in a stronger, wiser, more biblical direction. http://tbbc.org.au/media/videos/

**ROSEANNE: TRUMP SUPPORTER PROMOTING CULTURAL LIBERALISM** (Friday Church News Notes, April 13, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)
- The following is excerpted from “‘Roseanne’ ... One Really Big Problem for Conservatives,” DailyWire, Mar. 28, 2018: “On Tuesday night, Roseanne’s reboot premiered—and it blew up in the ratings. Fully 18.2 million Americans between the ages of 18-49 watched the show. It received a 5.1 rating. It was the best Tuesday night premier for ABC since 2006. ... Many conservatives are overjoyed at this—they see it as a cultural moment of great import, because Roseanne’s character is a Trump supporter. ... But there’s something else going on in Roseanne that should disturb conservatives: the redefinition of Trump supporters as blue collar leftists rather than conservatives. Roseanne’s character is pro-gay-marriage, pro-abortion, feminist, and pro-transgenderism—and the implication is that she is a good person because of these views. ... The first two episodes make this absolutely clear. First, Roseanne’s grandson is a cross-dressing seven-
year-old--and every character accepts this as no problem in and of itself. ... Roseanne is still preaching Hillary’s message, even if it pretends to hat-tip Trump supporters.” Note from Bro. Cloud: Regardless of her political views, Roseanne Barr is a foul-mouthed woman, and Christians have no business listening to such filth. “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). “Whoso is away from you, with all malice” (Proverbs 29:24).

SAMSON’S STRENGTH (Friday Church News Notes, April 13, 2018, w w w . w a y o f l i f e . o r g, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Samson is a strange case. He was called of God from the womb; he was a Nazarite; he was a judge of Israel; he was a spiritual weak man who followed his flesh to terrible shipwreck. At the same time, Samson is mentioned in Hebrews 11 as a hero of the faith, and four chapters of the Bible are devoted to his life. Samson’s physical strength was amazing. He killed a lion with his bare hands as if it were a little lamb (Jud. 14:6). He killed 1,000 Philistines with the jawbone of an ass (Jud. 15:15). He removed an entire city gate (Jud. 16:1-3). Gaza was the Philistine’s chief city and was fortified with high walls and a large gate at least 10 feet high and 10 feet wide that was strong enough to withstand an attacking army. It would have consisted of two very thick wooden doors and was probably covered with metal or at least was reinforced with wide metal bands. The side posts probably turned in stone sockets. The gate at Ashdod, a smaller Philistine city, was 10 feet wide (M. Dothan, “The Foundation of Tel More and of Ashdod,” Israel Exploration Journal, 23, 1973, i, pp. 10-11). Samson pulled up the gate with the massive side posts attached and carried the whole thing off. It was as if he pulled a flower out of the ground, yet Dr. William Barrick has computed the weight of the gate and posts to have been between five and ten tons (“Samson’s Removal of Gaza’s Gates,” Baptist Bible College and Seminary, Denver, n.d.). Samson carried the gate to Hebron, which was 36 miles away and 3,200 feet higher in altitude! In other words, he carried the gate up a little mountain. In 2015, the top of the ruins of the actual city gate at the Philistine city of Gath was unearthed by archaeologists, and it was massive, the largest yet found in ancient Israel. The excavation of the gate is expected to continue for several seasons. (For more about Samson and Dagon and photos of the Dagon temples, including the pillar bases, see Bible Times & Ancient Kingdoms, PowerPoint #09 “Baal Worship.”)

TESTIMONIES OF FIRST BAPTIST HAMMOND SOUL WINNERS (Friday Church News Notes, April 20, 2018, w w w . w a y o f l i f e . o r g, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Hyles-Anderson Baptist College and First Baptist Church of Hammond, Indiana, have had the greatest responsibility for spreading the weird heresy of Quick Prayerism throughout the world. This occurred under the leadership of Jack Hyles. The Sword of the Lord published Hyles’ books on Quick Prayerism soul winning beginning in 1962 (Let’s Go Soul Winning and Let’s Build an Evangelistic Church). Quick Prayerism is an evangelistic methodology that is quick to get people to pray a sinner’s prayer after a shallow gospel presentation that, typically, is devoid of any hint of the necessity of repentance. It is quick to pronounce those people saved and give them “assurance” and to try to baptize them even if they demonstrate zero biblical evidence of having been born again. Quick Prayerism incorporates psychological salesmanship manipulation and is characterized by soul winning reports that are grossly exaggerated, since the number of actual spiritual conversions are exceedingly minute compared to the overall statistics. In an online video of Hyles-Anderson preacher boys giving soul winning testimonies under the direction of Jack Schaap (when Hyles was still pastor), one young man stood up and told an amazing story. He and a fellow student decided to approach a Catholic school and witness to “kids on the playground.” A Jesuit priest stopped them, but after some time he
and three other priests invited them to look over their facilities. As they did, one of the teachers, a nun, invited the Hyles-Anderson preacher boys into her class, and they “immediately started soul winning.” The young man said, “Before it was all said and done with, all of the kids in the class, 21 of them, were saved, and also the teacher.” Hearing this, the other students shouted and whistled, not asking how these Catholics understood the gospel in a matter of minutes and whether there was any biblical evidence that they had actually “gotten saved.”

Quick Prayerism has been promoted in countless churches through the Phoster Club, a women’s soul winning program that began at First Baptist of Hammond. An online testimony of Phoster Club soul winners features an 81-year-old lady named Betsy, who, after only a few weeks, had won 55 people. In another testimony, a Native American lady said that she had won 180 souls, including 70 Navajo Indians. Cindy Hyles Schaap was the queen of soul winning, though. She is Hyles’ daughter and the former wife of Jack Schaap, who took the pastorate of First Baptist after Hyles died. (They were divorced after he was imprisoned for a sexual relationship with a teenage girl.) In the online videos, Cindy says that her parents allowed her to start participating in teenage soul winning visitation when she was 11, and between then and high school graduation she won 2,500 souls. Two thousand five hundred! Years later, at the time she gave that testimony as a married woman, she had won 5,000. For these video clips see https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tdtWgE&feature=youtu.be

MARIJUANA SMOKING LINKED TO HIGHER STROKE, HEART RISKS (Friday Church News Notes, April 20, 2018, w w w . w a y o f l i f e . o r g , fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)
- The following is excerpted from “Pot Smoking,” Newsmax.com, Mar. 16, 2018: “A major new study claims that smoking marijuana dramatically increases a person’s risk of suffering a heart attack and other cardiovascular events. The study authors, along with top cardiologists across the country, are calling for more research into the use of medicinal and recreational cannabis in light of the startling new evidence. Researchers found that over a 5-year period, regular users as young as in their early 30s were 4.6 times more likely to have a cardiac-related illness than those who did not smoke the drug. Scientists from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio presented their findings at the recent American College of Cardiology (ACC) conference held in Washington, D.C. ... While most medical concerns over the use of cannabis have been linked to mental disorders and depression, researchers also discovered a link between marijuana use and increased risk of stroke and heart failure. “Even when we corrected for known risk factors, we still found a higher rate of both stroke and heart failure in those patients using the drug,” says Dr. Aditi Kalla, a cardiologist at Einstein Medical Center in Philadelphia. “That leads us to believe that there is something else going on besides just obesity and or diet-related cardiovascular side effects.’ Researchers found that marijuana use was independently associated with a 26 percent increased risk of stroke and a 10 percent increase in heart failure. Kalla noted that medical or recreational marijuana use is legal in more than half of U.S. States so a better understanding of its ill effects is needed. ‘While the studies did not show a direct cause and effect between pot use and cardiovascular events, the statistics do present an association which means we need more studies,’ Dr. Kevin Campbell, a Raleigh, North Carolina-based cardiologist tells Newsmax Health. ‘We already know that smoking marijuana damages the lining of the lungs and can adversely affect the liver. We need to investigate the correlation between pot and heart disease especially now with the push to legalize the drug across the country.’”

THE BROCCOLI TREE (Friday Church News Notes, April 20, 2018, w w w . w a y o f l i f e . o r g , fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)
- In May 2013, Patrik Svedberg posted the photo of a lone tree on a Swedish lakeshore, a tree that looks a bit like broccoli. As months passed, he uploaded more photos of the tree, in different weather conditions, at different times of year, with different
INSIGHTFUL 19TH-CENTURY WARNING OF APOSTASY

(Friday Church News Notes, April 20, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- At the 1886 International Prophetic Conference in Chicago, Baptist Pastor A.J. Frost delivered the following insightful warning about apostasy. He wasn’t a prophet; he was a man who believed the Word of God literally. The leavening of which he warned is almost complete. “The final and well-nigh universal apostasy of Christendom is repeatedly foretold in the Scriptures. This dispensation like all that have preceded it will end in the most fearful apostasy this world has ever known to be immediately followed by the overwhelming judgments of God. ... In the Laodicean age of the church we find indifference and lukewarmness; a most nauseating condition! ... At this stage nearly all Christendom will be leavened with false doctrine; it is already rapidly working. The nominal Christian world will be one vast mass of baptized profession; a corrupt, mysterious mixture, a spiritual malformation, a masterpiece of Satan the corruption of the truth of God, and the destroyer of the souls of men, a trap, a snare, a stumbling block, the darkest moral blot in the universe of God! It is the corruption of the very best thing and therefore the worst kind of corruption. It is that thing which Satan has made of professing Christianity. It is worse by far than Judaism, worse by far than all the darkest forms of paganism, because it has had higher light and richer privileges, made the very highest profession and occupied the loftiest platform. Finally it is that awful apostasy for which is reserved the very heaviest judgments of God, the most bitter dregs in the cup of His righteous wrath. Few persons realize what nominal Christendom is today and the inevitable doom which awaits it. But our Lord gave abundant warnings of the degeneracy of the professing church and the Spirit of God testified against early corruption and foretold the failure and abuses which shall ripen into complete apostasy and which shall call down the judgments of God on Christendom” (Prophetic Studies of the International Prophetic Conference, 1886, page 169).

MODERN STATE OF ISRAEL’S 70TH ANNIVERSARY

(Friday Church News Notes, April 27, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The modern state of Israel was established on May 14, 1948. It is a fulfillment of the ancient Ezekiel 37 prophecy of the Valley of Dry Bones, which teaches that Israel will return from her diaspora, which is described in terms of a valley of death, in two stages. In the first stage she will return in a spiritually dead condition (verses 7-10). Verse 8 says, “... lo, the sinews and the flesh came up upon them, and the skin covered them above: BUT THERE WAS NO BREATH IN THEM.” This is exactly what Israel is today and where Israel is today prophetically. Modern Israel is setting the stage for the fulfillment of the last stage of Daniel’s prophecy of the 70 Weeks (Da. 9:24-27), which...
DO BIRDS MAKE MUSIC?
(Friday Church News Notes, April 20, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is from CreationMoments.com, February 27, 2018: “The Bible speaks of bird calls as songs, as most of us do. However, evolutionary theory has led some scientists to say that we are merely assigning human meanings to the calls of birds. They say that the bird calls have nothing to do with real music. Ornithologists have known for some time that bird songs use the same musical scales as our music. Decades ago it was noted that some of Beethoven's work could be heard from the European blackbird. The music was the same as the opening rondo of Beethoven’s ‘Violin Concert in D, Opus 61.’ Since these birds pass their songs from generation to generation, Beethoven could have gotten the lilting music from the forefathers of today’s European blackbird! The songs of some species, like the song sparrow, follow the form of a sonata, beginning with a strong theme, then the theme is musically played with, and for a finish, the original theme is then repeated. Mozart had a starling as a pet. Once, having heard Mozart play his ‘Piano Concerto in C Major,’ the starling not only imitated it, but changed the sharps to flats! Mozart exclaimed, ‘That was beautiful!’ When the starling died, Mozart held an elaborate funeral for it. Eight days later he wrote ‘A Musical Joke,’ which contains the same elaborate structure found in starling song. Do birds make true music, as the Bible says? Contrary to what some evolutionists say, Beethoven and Mozart certainly thought they did.”

Liberty Counsel
WARNING: CALIFORNIA ABOUT TO BAN BIBLE SALES
(Friday Church News Notes, April 27, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from “Liberty Counsel,” WorldNetDaily, Apr. 27, 2018: “Liberty Counsel, which defends religious and civil rights, Friday warned that the state of California effectively is about to ban the sale of Bibles. A bill in the legislature, approved 50-18 in an Assembly vote this week, would forbid counselors from telling a gender-confused male client that he is actually a man. The law would allow, however, a counselor to advise a male he should identify as a woman. The legislation, AB 2943, ‘is so far reaching that it also prohibits printed materials and even books,’ Liberty Counsel warned. An affirmative vote describes the entirety of God’s dealings with Israel from the time of the Babylonian Captivity to the second coming of Christ. The prophecy is specifically said to pertain to Daniel’s people, Israel, and it is specifically said to describe the finishing of Israel’s transgression, the making of reconciliation for her iniquity, and the bringing in of everlasting righteousness, which will begin with Christ’s return (verse 24). By this prophecy we know that one prophetic week of seven years remains of God’s final dealings with Israel, and at the beginning of that week the Antichrist will arise and make a seven-year covenant with many in Israel; and half way through the seven years, he will break the covenant and desecrate the third temple and cause the renewed sacrifices to cease. This will initiate the last half of the seven years, which is called the Great Tribulation in the New Testament (Matthew 24:15-22). Modern Israel is setting the stage for these events. She is back in her own land, having partially returned from the nations. She is preparing for the building of the third temple. She is looking for a peace-making, temple-building Messiah, which is a perfect definition of the Antichrist at the beginning of his reign. Israel must return to the land in a spiritually unconverted condition for these things to happen, because a converted Israel would not receive a false christ. The stage is set!
in the Democratic-controlled state Senate appears to be likely. Liberty Counsel explained the bill ‘would prevent so-called conversion therapy, sometimes called Sexual Orientation Change Efforts, and add it to the list of fraudulent schemes under the states’ Consumer Legal Remedies Act.’ The bill declares ‘advertising, offering to engage in, or engaging in sexual orientation change efforts with an individual’ is fraudulent business practice. ... This bill would also make it unlawful for any person to sell books, including the Bible, counseling services, or anything else that directs people to trust in Jesus Christ to help them overcome unwanted same-sex attraction or gender confusion.’ Randy Thomasson, president of SaveCalifornia.com, a leading pro-family group, criticized the bill. ‘How can any legislator voting for this call themselves pro-choice when they’ve voted to wipe out a person’s own choice of a counselor?’ Thomasson asked. ‘How can any legislator voting for AB 2943 say they support religious freedom when they’ve just threatened church bookstores that sell self-help books about overcoming unwanted same-sex desires? AB 2943 is anti-free-speech, anti-religious-freedom, anti-free-choice, and has no place in a free society. This intolerant bill contains no exemption and no protection at all for religious entities.’ ... Mat Staver, Liberty Counsel’s chief counsel, added: “The implications of California AB 2943 reach far beyond regulating the type of counseling offered by licensed therapists. This bill is unconstitutional as it substitutes the government for personal choice and is a shocking assault on free speech. ‘Imagine a church not allowed to sell Christian books, or even Bibles, that help people overcome same-sex attractions. This bill will do the unimaginable if passed. If it does pass, we will immediately file suit.’

PASTOR INQUIRES ABOUT A BOOK TO GIVE TO VISITORS
(Friday Church News Notes, April 27, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Recently I received an email saying, “My pastor thought it would be nice to give every visitor who comes to our church a book to read, a book to get them thinking about God, life, etc., along those lines. What book would you recommend?” I replied, “I suggest that you take a look at the following books: Bible Critics Were Wrong, Bible Prophecies Fulfilled Today, The Bible’s Proof, Does Salvation Make a Difference?, Questions Answered on the Bible, Scientists Who Believe the Bible. These can be found in eBook format at the free book section at Way of Life:

https://www.wayoflife.org/free_ebooks/index.php

Any of these can be purchased in print format at not much more than our costs.

Aim of O Timothy Magazine

- Exalting the Lord Jesus Christ; His eternal perfect, and preserved Word; and the Gospel of his Grace. (2 Peter 3:1-2, 18)
- Standing for the whole counsel of God. (Acts 20:27; Jude 3)
- Challenging Christian workers to uphold the truth and resist the apostasy of our times. (1 Timothy 6:20-21)
- Exposing the spirit of error and compromise within Christendom (Hosea 4:6a; 2 Tim. 3)
- Upholding the New Testament Church (1 Tim. 6:13-14). O Timothy is a ministry of Bethel Baptist Church of London, Ontario.
- Challenging churches to fulfill the Great Commission of world evangelism (Matt. 28:18-20; Acts 13-14)
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