‘Keep that which is committed to thy trust...’

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THE BIBLE CRITICS WERE WRONG ~ By David Cloud

Bible critics have been proven wrong a thousand times, and in most cases this hasn’t humbled them or changed their opinion toward Scripture. This reminds us of what Abraham said in Luke 16:31.

“And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.”

Christian apologetics is a spiritual battle rather than an intellectual one.

Following are a few of the glaring errors that have been made by critics who have tried to disprove the Bible:

THE CRITICS WERE WRONG ABOUT ANCIENT WRITING.

In the 19th century it was believed by theological modernists that writing was not developed by Moses’ day, thus he could not have written the Pentateuch.

“The time, of which the pre-Mosaic narrations treat, is a sufficient proof of their legendary character. It was a time prior to all knowledge of writing” (H. Schultz, Old Testament Theology, 1869).
“These wanderers [Moses and Israel] had no written lan-
guage, they could neither read nor write” (Robert Ingersoll,
About the Holy Bible, 1894).

Secular archaeologists now date writing to the middle of
the 4th millennium BC, which is 1,500 years before
Moses!

“Inscribed artifacts from excavations show that man had a
knowledge of writing as early as the late 4th millennium BC”
(Joseph Naveh, Origins of the Alphabets).

Ancient libraries have been unearthed at Ugarit, Mari,
Ur, Ebla, Nippur, Nineveh, Persepolis, and many other
places. Tens of thousands of documents dating to
Abraham’s age and earlier prove that the ancient
civilizations described in Genesis were highly literate.

THE CRITICS WERE WRONG ABOUT GENESIS
10.

Genesis 10-11 describes the division of the nations by
Noah’s sons following the Flood, the establishment of
city states, the building of the idolatrous Tower of Babel,
and the confusion of the languages.

Skeptics have called this a “religious myth.”

“We only know that the books of the Pentateuch are filled
with mistakes and contradictions. We also know that the
account of the Tower of Babel is an ignorant and childish
fable” (Robert Ingersoll, About the Holy Bible, 1894).

But the skeptics have been proven wrong.

Henry Rawlinson, who helped unlock the ancient
cuneiform writing, said that Genesis 10 well deserves “to
be called the most authentic record that we possess for
the affiliation of nations” (The Seven Great Monarchies
of the Ancient World, vol. 1).

There is evidence for the cities named in Genesis 10.

“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. Out of that land
went forth Asshur, and builded Nineveh, and the city Reho-
both, and Calah” (Genesis 10:9-11).

Of the seven cities named here, five are known to
archaeologists and four have been excavated.

Accad (Akkad) was the headquarters for the Akkadian
Empire founded by Sargon the Great in the 3rd
millennium BC. This city gave its name to the Akkadian
language that was the international trade language of
ancient Mesopotamia for 2,000 years until the time of the
Persian Empire.

There is also evidence for the civilization described in
Genesis. Archaeology has demonstrated the following
facts:

1. At this time and place technologically-advanced
civilizations sprang up and spread across
Mesopotamia.
2. Powerful city-states formed alliances.
3. These kingdoms were literate.
4. They were led by proud, deified rulers like Nimrod
and Asshur.
5. They engaged in the art of war.
6. They engaged in idolatry and built idolatrous
towers.
7. They were morally corrupt.

Consider Ebla, which dates to the time of Abraham and
earlier.

20,000 clay tablets and fragments were found at Ebla.

It was a kingdom encompassing more than 250,000
people; the capital city had 30,000 people (Ebla A New
Look at History).
The luxurious two-story palace occupied 28,000 square feet. It was enclosed by walls 40-50 feet high.

The kingdom of Ebla encompassed 16 governorships and carried on business estimated in billions of dollars in today’s money.

Ebla traded in grain, cattle, timber, textiles, and exquisitely-made handicrafts. Her metal workers used fusion processes to create metal alloys.

Ebla grew enough barley in one year to feed millions of people, providing a large excess for export. She did business with 1,000 cities and towns in 80 kingdoms.

Ebla was a literate society. Her scribes were proficient in multiple languages and carried on international communication.

Ebla had as many as 12,000 men under arms at one time.

Ebla worshipped the goddess Ishtar and other gods and goddesses.

In 1955, influential archaeologist William Albright said, “The Table of Nations remains an astonishingly accurate document” (Recent Discoveries in Bible Lands, 1955, p. 72).

**THE CRITICS WERE WRONG ABOUT GENESIS 14.**

“And it came to pass in the days of Amraphel king of Shinar, Arioch king of Ellasar, Chedorlaomer king of Elam, and Tidal king of nations; That these made war with Bera king of Sodom, and with Birsha king of Goromrah, Shinab king of Admah, and Shemeber king of Zeboiim, and the king of Bela, which is Zoar” (Genesis 14:1-2).

Genesis 14 describes an alliance of four kings of Mesopotamia who attacked Sodom and Gomorrah and three other kings near the Dead Sea. The account indicates that the Mesopotamian kings traveled east of the Jordan River.

Skeptics said this didn’t happen because there was no highway from Mesopotamia to the Dead Sea east of the Jordan.

William Albright believed this when he started his research in the 1920s, but he discovered that there was a major highway called “The King’s Highway” that ran south to the Red Sea. He reported on this in The Archaeology of Palestine and the Bible, 1933.

**THE CRITICS WERE WRONG ABOUT ANCIENT LAW CODES.**

19th century skeptics said that Israel could not have possessed a complex legal code because no such codes were known in those days.

The discovery of the Code of Hammurabi in 1901 destroyed this thinking. It was a complex law code written by Hammurabi, the king of Babylon, and it dates to about 200 years before Moses.

**THE CRITICS WERE WRONG ABOUT UR.**

In the 19th century, skeptics claimed that Ur, the birthplace of Abraham, was a myth.

Yet in 1922, the city of Ur was located by Leonard Woolley and excavated over the next 12 years. A treasure trove of artifacts were unearthed, that date to before the time of Abraham. It proves that Ur was a sophisticated, literate, idolatrous city with far-flung commercial enterprises.

The “Ur Room” at the British Museum is filled with artifacts from ancient Ur. The city’s chief god was the moon god, and its temple was an idolatrous tower like the Tower of Babel. Joshua 24:2 says Abraham’s father worshipped idols.

**THE CRITICS WERE WRONG IN COMPARING NOAH’S FLOOD ACCOUNT WITH PAGAN ACCOUNTS.**

The Gilgamesh Epic was discovered in the ancient city of Nineveh by Henry Layard and translated in 1872 by the British Museum. It dates to about 1800 BC, which is near the time of Abraham. It purports to be the account that Utnapistim told Gilgamesh of how he survived the flood and gained immortality.

Skeptics used the Gilgamesh Epic as evidence that the biblical flood account is merely one among many ancient legends.

But there are three ways that the Gilgamesh Epic shows its ridiculous mythical character in contrast with the Bible.
1. Consider the Gilgamesh gods.

They are spiteful, immoral, selfish, petty, competitive, fickle, impatient, weak, cowardly, and deceitful. The chief god Ea instructs Utnapistim to lie to his fellow man by giving the impression that the gods are going to bless them instead of destroying them. When the storm comes, the gods are so frightened that they cower like dogs, and Ishtar shrieks like a woman in childbirth. After the flood, the god Enlil is furious because some of the men escaped.

In contrast, the God of Scripture is almighty, all-wise, holy, just, compassionate, merciful, longsuffering, and perfectly trustworthy. He speaks only truth, and His promises are irrevocable. He is man’s lawgiver and judge, but He is also man’s Saviour. God is longsuffering with mankind. Noah preached repentance for 120 years before the Flood (1 Pet. 3:19; 2 Pet. 2:5).

2. Consider the description of the flood hydraulics.

In the Gilgamesh Epic the “rains poured down; the storm raged” for a mere six days. But this has happened many times in history without flooding the earth with water.

In contrast, the Bible describes the actual conditions as follows:

“In the six hundredth year of Noah’s life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, the same day were all the fountains of the great deep broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened. And the rain was upon the earth forty days and forty nights” (Genesis 7:11-12).

The water came down from the sky in a deluge that lasted 40 days and nights, but the water also came up from beneath the ground through the opening of great fountains of the deep.

3. Consider the ark of the Gilgamesh Epic.

It is a 200-foot CUBE with seven stories, which would have been incredibly unstable even on a calm sea, let alone a raging sea like that which would have resulted from the previously described deluge!

In contrast, Noah’s ark was perfectly proportioned for sea travel. It was 450 feet (137 meters) long, 75 feet (23 meters) wide, and 45 feet (14 meters) high (Gen. 6:15).

This is similar in proportion to modern oil tankers and cargo containers.

THE CRITICS WERE WRONG ABOUT DAVID.

Modernists long called the Bible’s account of King David a myth because there was no extra-biblical record of him.

In 1993 and 1994, two discoveries provided evidence to disprove the skeptics.

The words “the house of David” were found on the Moabite Stone. This stone was found in 1868, but it had been broken into pieces and the inscription was not read until 1993.

It is called the Moabite Stone because it was erected by Mesha, a Moabite king mentioned in 2 Kings 3:4.

In 1993, part of a victory pillar was found at the ancient city of Dan. It is inscribed with the words “Beit David” (“house of David”). The Tel Dan Inscription, as it is called, is on a pillar that was erected by the king of Syria to celebrate the defeat of his enemies and dates to the 9th century BC, only 100 years after David.

In 1995, Time magazine reported, “The skeptics’ claim that King David never existed is now hard to defend” (“Is the Bible Fact or Fiction?" Time, Dec. 18, 1995).

THE CRITICS WERE WRONG ABOUT SHEBA.

The Bible says that the Queen of Sheba visited King Solomon and brought a great camel train of riches, including gold and spices.

“And when the queen of Sheba heard of the fame of Solomon concerning the name of the LORD, she came to prove him with hard questions. And she came to Jerusalem with a very great train, with camels that bare spices, and very much gold, and precious stones: and when she was come to Solomon, she communed with him of all that was in her heart” (1 Kings 10:1-2).

Sheba and the land of spices was long thought to be mythical by Bible critics.

Now the existence of the ancient kingdom is acknowledged, and its capital city of Marib has been excavated. Wendell Phillips led the first expedition in the
1950s. He said, “There is no reason to doubt that the Queen was real” (*Qataban and Sheba*).

Expeditions have continued. In September 2000 the University of Calgary announced at its web site: “Arabian Desert Surrenders Queen of Sheba Secrets.”

Sheba was located in the southern part of the Arabian Peninsula.

**THE CRITICS WERE WRONG ABOUT BERODACH-BALADAN.**

In the 19th century, skeptics doubted the existence of Berodach-Baladan (also Merodach), the king of Babylon mentioned in 2 Kings.

“At that time Berodachbaladan, the son of Baladan, king of Babylon, sent letters and a present unto Hezekiah: for he had heard that Hezekiah had been sick” (2 Kings 20:12).

Archaeology has confirmed Berodach-Baladan’s existence. Among other things, he is mentioned in the Sennacherib Prism, which is located in the British Museum. Here Sennacherib describes his defeat of Merodach:

“In my first campaign I accomplished the defeat of Berodach-Baladan, king of Babylonia, together with the army of Elam, his ally, in the plain of Kish.”

**THE CRITICS WERE WRONG ABOUT CYRUS.**

“Thus saith Cyrus king of Persia, The LORD God of heaven hath given me all the kingdoms of the earth; and he hath charged me to build him an house at Jerusalem, which is in Judah” (Ezra 1:2).

It was once thought by critics that the Bible’s record of Cyrus’ release of the Jews and his granting of religious liberty (Ezra 1:2) was mythical, since it was contrary to the known policy of kings in those times.

The Cyrus Cylinder, found in 1879, silenced this criticism. It proves that Cyrus had the policy of restoring captives to their lands and assisting them in rebuilding their temples.

**THE CRITICS WERE WRONG ABOUT BELSHAZZAR.**

“But when his heart was lifted up, and his mind hardened in pride, he was deposed from his kingly throne, and they took his glory from him” (Daniel 5:20).

In the 19th century, critics claimed that Belshazzar was a myth and that Nabonidus rather than Belshazzar was king of Babylon when it fell to the Medo-Persians.

In 1854, the Nabonidus Cylinder was discovered which is an account of King Nabonidus in which he plainly states that Belshazzar was his son. Belshazzar was co-ruler with Nabonidus, who had traveled to another land and left Belshazzar in charge of Babylon when it fell. This is why Belshazzar offered to make Daniel the THIRD ruler of the kingdom.

“Then commanded Belshazzar, and they clothed Daniel with scarlet, and put a chain of gold about his neck, and made a proclamation concerning him, that he should be the third ruler in the kingdom” (Daniel 5:29).

**THE CRITICS WERE WRONG ABOUT NEBUCHADNEZZAR’S INVASION OF EGYPT**

Jeremiah 43:10-13 said that Nebuchadnezzar would invade Egypt, destroy cities and temples, and take away many captives.

In former times, many liberal commentators doubted that Nebuchadnezzar invaded Egypt and charged the Bible with error, but archaeology confirmed it by the discovery of a clay tablet inscribed in cuneiform script. It came into the possession of the British Museum and was translated by Theophilus G. Pinches in the 1890s. It was published by James Pritchard in *Ancient Near Eastern Texts Relating to the Old Testament*, 1950.

It says, “In the 37th year of Nebuchadnezzar, king of the country of Babylon, he went to Egypt to make war. Amasis, king of Egypt, collected [his army] ... distant regions from the sea ... who are in Egypt ... carrying weapons, horses, and chariots ... he called upon them to assist him ... [they did battle] in front of him.”

The broken tablet is missing the rest of the account, but it confirms that Nebuchadnezzar invaded Egypt.
The table is in possession of the British Museum and bears the number 33041.

THE CRITICS WERE WRONG ABOUT THE BOOK OF ACTS.

In the 19th century, critics attacked Luke’s book of Acts as a historically unreliable document that wasn’t written until generations after Christ. German critic F.C. Baur claimed that the book was not written until the end of the 2nd century.

The liberal view was debunked by archaeologist William Ramsay, among others. As a student at the University of Aberdeen and Oxford, Ramsay was taught the liberal view and believed it. When he began to make expeditions to Asia Minor and Palestine, he intended to prove that the Bible is “not the book from heaven it claimed to be.” But instead, he proved that the book of Acts is historically accurate and was written during the first century.

“He regarded the weakest spot in the whole New Testament to be the story of Paul’s travels. These had never been thoroughly investigated by one on the spot. Equipped as no other man had been, he went to the home of the Bible. Here he spent fifteen years digging. Then in 1896 he published a large volume, *Saint Paul, the Traveler and the Roman Citizen*. ... The book caused a furor of dismay among the skeptics of the world. Its attitude was utterly unexpected because it was contrary to the announced intention of the author years before. For twenty years more, book after book from the same author came from the press, each filled with additional evidence of the exact, minute truthfulness of the whole New Testament as tested by the spade on the spot. And these books have stood the test of time, not one having been refuted, nor have I found even any attempt to refute them” (*Josh McDowell, The New Evidence That Demands a Verdict*, p. 62).

Ramsay testified:

“Luke is a historian of the first rank; not merely are his statements of fact trustworthy, he is possessed of the true historic sense … In short this author should be placed along with the very greatest of historians” (*The Bearing of Recent Discovery on the Trustworthiness of the New Testament*, 1915).

“The present writer takes the view that Luke’s history is unsurpassed in respect of its trustworthiness. At this point we are describing what reasons and arguments changed the mind of one who began under the impression that the history was written long after the events and that it was untrustworthy as a whole” (Ibid.).

“We can say emphatically that there is no longer any solid basis for dating any book of the New Testament after about AD 80” (*Recent discoveries in Bible Lands*, 1955).

Following are examples of how the New Testament has been authenticated and the skeptics proven wrong:

The critics said Luke was wrong in Acts 14:6 when he wrote that Lystra and Derbe were located in Lycaonia and that Iconium was not in Lycaonia. Paul and Barnabas were in Iconium when they fled to Lystra and Derbe, which was said to be in Lycaonia, thus implying that Iconium was _not_ in Lycaonia. In 1910, Ramsay unearthed a monument proving that Iconium was a Phrygian city rather than a Lycaonian city (*The New Evidence That Demands a Verdict*, p. 64).

The critics said that Luke was wrong about the census described Luke 2:1-3. They claimed that Quirinius (Cyrenius) was not governor of Syria at that time, because Josephus placed him as governor in 6 A.D., which was several years later. Archaeology disproved these charges. Ramsay unearthed an inscription in Antioch that stated that Quirinius was the governor of Syria in about 7 B.C. (*The New Evidence*, p. 63). Thus, Quirinius was governor of Syria for two terms, in 7 B.C. when Christ was born, and again in 6 A.D.

The critics further claimed that everyone did not have to return to his ancestral home for the census, contrary to what the Bible says. But a papyrus document found in Egypt says that all residents _were_ required to travel to their ancestral homes (*The New Evidence*, p. 63).

Critics said that Luke was wrong when he said in Luke 3:1 that Lysanias was the tetrarch of Abilene in the 15th year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, which was A.D. 27. Ancient historians had stated that Lysanias was killed in 36 B.C. But an inscription found at Abila near Damascus dating to between A.D. 14 and 29 says that Lysanias was the tetrarch” (*The New Evidence*, p. 64). Thus, Luke was right.

Critics said that Luke was wrong in using the Greek term _politarchs_ (translated “rulers of the city” in Acts 17:6) to denote the civil authorities of Thessalonica because the term is not found in classical literature. Archaeology has since uncovered 19 inscriptions that use the title after the same fashion as Luke (*The New Evidence*, p. 65). The British Museum displays one of these inscriptions from an arch in Thessalonica (Room 78, GR 1877.5-11.1).

In these and other cases the critics were wrong, and Luke was right. Skeptics have repeatedly and ridiculously acted
as if they have an omniscient knowledge of ancient history and thus are in a position to criticize the Bible, but they have been proven wrong countless times. The fact that this has not humbled most of them is further evidence of the Bible’s divine inspiration, because it prophesied their willful ignorance (2 Peter 3:3-5).

In 1963, classical historian A.N. Sherwin-White confirmed Ramsay’s view of Acts:

“Any attempt to reject its basic historicity even in matters of detail must now appear absurd. Roman historians have long taken it for granted” (Roman Society and Roman Law in the New Testament, p. 189).

THE CRITICS WERE WRONG ABOUT THE LATE DATING OF THE NEW TESTAMENT.

F.C. Baur, father of the Tubengin School of theological liberalism in Germany, taught that the New Testament was not written until a century or more after the apostles by unknown men who used the names of the apostles. He proposed that the Gospel of John was not written until 170 AD. Baur’s theory influenced many.

But this has been disproven by the discovery of New Testament manuscripts dating to the end of the first century and by the existence of hundreds of quotations from the New Testament books in the writings of Christian leaders dating to the late first and early second century. (See the report “The Bible Critics Were Wrong” at www.wayoflife.org.)

William Ramsay debunked the idea that the New Testament was written long after the events.

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

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

CONCLUSION

These are only a few examples of how that Bible critics have been proven wrong by their own archaeology. We could give hundreds of other examples.

Skeptics have acted as if they have an omniscient knowledge of ancient history and can thus criticize the Bible, but they have been proven wrong repeatedly. The fact that this has not humbled most of them is further evidence for the divine inspiration of the Bible, because it prophesied the willful ignorance of scoffers 2,000 years ago.

“Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation. For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water: Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished: But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men. But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, Looking for and hastening unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?” (2 Peter 3:3-12).

The first part of this prophecy is being fulfilled in our day. The world is filled with scoffers who reject the divine and the supernatural. They reject the Bible’s doctrine of Creation and the global Flood.

God warns us not to follow in their footsteps. It warns that Christ is coming, and He will judge the world’s sin and rebellion, and He will establish a new heaven and a new earth where sin will no longer be allowed to dwell.

As for me, I believe the Bible, but forty years ago, I did not believe it. As a 23-year-old young man, I had left church and rejected the Bible. After a year and a half in Vietnam in the U.S. Army, I became a “hippie” and a drifter, hitchhiking all the way across America twice. I didn’t believe the Bible’s warnings about eternal
judgment, nor did I believe its gospel that Jesus is the Son of God who died for man’s sin and rose from the dead. I joined a Hindu meditation organization called The Self-Realization Fellowship Society and traveled from the east coast to California to visit the headquarters near Los Angeles.

In the summer of 1973, God had mercy on me and I met a Christian man who knew his Bible well and who confronted me with the claims of Jesus Christ. We traveled together for about four days, and I challenged him with my skeptical, New Age doctrines. I was pretty arrogant and somewhat obnoxious at times, but he didn’t respond in kind. He patiently and kindly answered every question and every challenge. He simply showed me what the Bible said about life and death.

At the end of those four days, I opened my heart to Christ and surrendered to Him as Lord and Saviour. I did this in a motel room in Daytona Beach, Florida, and my life was radically and permanently changed. I have never regretted that decision.


Another reason why I am convinced that most Independent Baptist churches will be emerging within 10-20 years is the maligning of warning and reproof.

A friend in North Carolina wrote recently to give the following observation in regard to the many independent Baptist churches he has visited over the years. The all caps are in the original.

“I don’t think 98% of Independent Baptist churches have ANY type of warning ministry in their preaching and teaching. I wouldn’t be surprised if a large number of pastors have NEVER given a warning about anything or any person. I know that you know some preachers who giving warnings. But out in the rest of the Baptist world there is NO warning. Very sad. I’m talking about SIMPLE statements here, not a ministry of warning.”

Not only do most independent Baptist preachers not give warnings, they believe that warnings are largely unnecessary and probably wrong.

The prevailing attitude was exemplified by a blog published by Pastor R.B. Ouellette in June 2011 entitled “Chasing Buzzard.” Though he began by saying that it is important to chase off the buzzards of compromise and error, he spent the largest percentage of his blog characterizing a “warning ministry” as wrong-headed, dangerous, unfruitful, and “secondary.”

It is typical among fundamental Baptist churches today for godly reproof to be treated as cheap gossip, “throwing stones,” “hit pieces,” “shooting the wounded,” “touching the Lord’s anointed,” and other such things.

According to the prevailing thinking, it is OK to give private warnings, but it is wrong to “attack” a “man of God” publicly.

This is a tactic that makes it impossible to effectively correct public error.

If a preacher has a wide influence beyond the “walls” of his own church through his writings, conferences, college, music, etc., the only way to help those who are being influenced negatively is to deal with error and compromise in the public arena. This type of thing is not
The following is excerpted from the new book **HOLINESS: PITFALLS, STRUGGLES, AND VICTORY**. ISBN 978-1-58318-215-4. This book deals with every aspect of Christian holiness or sanctification, both doctrinal and practical. It begins with the author’s experiences as a young Christian looking into Pentecostal, “entire sanctification,” and “deeper life” teachings (e.g., *The Calvary Road* and *The Green Papers*). The other major sections are “Principles of Holiness” and “The Path of Holiness.” The author emphasizes that there is no one “key” to holiness. The biblical way of holiness involves a multiplicity of things. Other lessons that are emphasized in the book include the importance of understanding position and practice, standing and walk, relationship and fellowship; the progressive character of holiness; an intimate walk with Christ; dying to self and living to Christ; abiding in Christ; patient continuance; the power of God’s Word and how to protect the seed of the Word in one’s life; knowing God’s will; confession of sin; separation from sin; living by faith; the armor of God; God’s chastisement; humility and servitude; and separation from false teaching. There is also a chapter “On Doubting Salvation.” The book can be used as a course for Sunday Schools, Bible Institutes, Home Schooling, and private study. Most major New Testament passages dealing with holiness are exegeted, including Matthew 11:28-30; John 15:1-17; Romans 4:17-21; 6:1-13; 8:9-23; 12:1-21; Galatians 2:20; Ephesians 4:22-4; 5:18; 6:10-20; 2 Timothy 2:15-18; Hebrews 12:1-13; 2 Peter 1:3-11; 1 John 1:5 - 2:2. 175 pages

On the authority of God’s Word, there is a path to certain spiritual revival for every child of God, and it is by drawing nigh to God.
“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. humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up” (James 4:8-10).

The Word of God promises that if the believer draws nigh to God, God will draw nigh to him. A believer, a home, or a congregation can have revival. It is promised and guaranteed by God Himself. It is not accomplished by scheduling a revival meeting; it’s by doing what this passage commands.

This is the path of Christian holy living in a nutshell.

There is a sense in which everything in the Bible is necessary for a holy life that pleases God. All Scripture is able to make the man of God perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works (2 Timothy 3:16-17). And we deal with many things in Holiness: Pitfalls, Struggles, and Victory.

But this amazing passage in James provides a concise overview.

**Draw nigh to God**

The essence of holy Christian living is an intimate relationship with the triune God through the Son Jesus Christ by God’s Spirit.

Amazingly, God wants our devotion. He wants our attention, our passionate friendship. He wants our first love, and He is ever attentive to this. God was so pained at Israel’s apostasy that He called upon heaven and earth to consider the matter. “Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth: for the LORD hath spoken, I have nourished and brought up children, and they have rebelled against me” (Isaiah 1:2). Christ took note that the church at Ephesus had left its first love (Rev. 2:5).

To draw nigh to God is to focus my attention on my relationship with Him, to nurture it, as I would in nurturing a relationship with a friend or wife or husband.

To draw nigh to God is to sing with the hymnist,

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Chorus
Nothing between my soul and the Savior,
So that His blessed face may be seen;
Nothing preventing the least of His favor,
Keep the way clear! Let nothing between.
Nothing between, like worldly pleasure;
Habits of life, though harmless they seem,
Must not my heart from Him e’er sever;
He is my all, there’s nothing between.
Nothing between, like pride or station;
Self or friends shall not intervene;
Though it may cost me much tribulation,
I am resolved; there’s nothing between.
Nothing between, e’en many hard trials,
Though the whole world against me convene;
Watching with prayer and much self-denial,
I’ll triumph at last, with nothing between.
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**Cleanse the hands**

One draws nigh to God by cleansing the hands. This is essential, for God is holy. “This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth” (1 John 1:5-6).

Note in James 4 that God’s Word is not soft in regard to sin; it does not speak in gentle terms about turning from sin. James says, “Cleanse your hands, ye sinners.” This is the type of plain reproof that brings conviction and repentance and change. It is the type of preaching that God’s people need, yet so few preachers and teachers today are willing to give such reproof. Soft preaching produces soft Christian living. The softness of evangelical preaching has produced an evangelicalism that is meaningless in terms of sound belief and practice and true holiness. The same is happening among “fundamentalists.” An element of reproof and rebuke is absolutely essential to godliness (2 Timothy 4:2).

Cleansing the hands requires searching one’s life for those things that displease the Lord: anything that is worldly (1 John 2:16), anything that is an unfruitful work of darkness (Eph. 5:11). I must give God first place. I must ask Him to show me anything in my life that displeases or grieves Him or that has come between me and Him, whether it be a form of entertainment, education, job, an idolatrous love for someone or something, even something legitimate, an unwholesome friendship, neglect of God’s Word, neglect of church, or anything else.
There is no shortcut to revival that does not deal seriously with removing evil things from my life and heart. I must get serious about this matter. I must stop making excuses for my sin.

Purify the heart

One draws nigh to God by purifying the heart. The work of one’s hands is the product of one’s heart.

The heart is purified by removing evil imaginations. “Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ” (2 Corinthians 10:5).

Whatever is polluting the heart and mind must be rejected and put away, whether it is music, television, movies, video, social media, Internet browsing, video games, literature, unwholesome conversations with friends, or anything else.

The Psalmist showed the way in this:

“Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting” (Psalm 139:23-24).

The heart is purified by the Word of God. A spiritual revival is always driven by the power of the Word of God operated by the Spirit of God. If you want to have a revival, immerse yourself in the Word of God. Become a real Bible student.

Establish a serious daily Bible study/prayer time and jealously guard this from interference by other things.

Learn how to study the Bible by taking a course like The Effectual Bible Student, available from Way of Life Literature. It can be purchased on DVD or downloaded for free from www.wayoflife.org. You must learn the principles of Bible interpretation and get the tools that you need to study effectively.

Memorize Scripture and meditate on it throughout the day.

Read books that will help you better understand the Bible and Christian living. We have made many dozens of serious books available for free downloading and reading. We have published a 20-volume Bible School curriculum called the Advanced Bible Studies Series and made it readily available at a low price. There is no tuition! We have published dozens of other serious Bible study materials, including the Way of Life Encyclopedia of the Bible & Christianity, Things Hard to Be Understood: A Handbook of Biblical Difficulties, the One Year Discipleship Course, Bible Times & Ancient Kingdoms, An Unshakeable Faith: A Course on Christian Apologetics, and Keeping the Kids.

Relatively few people take advantage of such resources, but you don’t have to follow the crowd. You can follow the example of those who are serious students. Charles Spurgeon read many entire sets of commentaries, and some he read multiple times. There are people who have read the entire Way of Life Encyclopedia of the Bible & Christianity, and many who have gone through the Advanced Bible Studies Series on their own and thus obtained the equivalent of a Bible College education.

Carve out time for these things. Studying God’s Word effectively and applying it to one’s life takes time, and if you aren’t willing to put God first in your daily affairs, you will never make much progress spiritually. Examine your daily schedule and find more time for the Lord and His Word. Most people waste a lot of time on things that have no eternal value. Spend that time, rather, on the things of God.

During one of my Bible conferences, an elderly saint approached me and said, “I have not been much of a student of God’s Word and I have not read many good books; I’ve been lazy about these things, but starting now this is going to change by God’s grace.”

Put away double mindedness

One draws nigh to God by not being double minded.

James describes the double minded person in chapter 1. He is not steadfast in faith (Jam. 1:6-8). He believes God one day and doesn’t believe the next. When a trial or difficulty comes, he doubts God.

The double minded person will not receive anything from the Lord (Jam. 1:7). Observe that the Bible does not glorify doubt as some do. For example, emerging church pastor Rob Bell says that God gives men “the invitation
to follow Jesus with all our doubts and questions right there with us” (*Velvet Elvis*, p. 28). He says, “We sponsored a Doubt Night at our church awhile back. People were encouraged to write down whatever questions or doubts they had about God and Jesus and the Bible and faith and church” (*Velvet Elvis*, p. 29).

But the Bible says that faith is necessary to please God (Heb. 11:6). Jesus reproved those who doubted (Mat. 6:30; 8:26; 14:31; 16:8) and praised those who had faith (Mat. 8:10; 15:28). He taught that faith is one of the weightier matters of the law (Mat. 23:23) and exhorted the people to have faith in God (Mk. 11:22). Zacharias was judged for doubting (Luke 1:20). Christian men are instructed to praise God without doubting (1 Tim. 2:8). To doubt is sin (Rom. 14:23).

The Bible teaches us that we must come to terms with doubt; it must be dealt with; it must be resolved. The Psalmist doubted in Psalm 73 (verses 1-16), but his doubt was resolved in the same Psalm and he judged himself, comparing himself to a foolish beast for doubting God (verses 17-22).

Victory over double mindedness comes by the Word of God, because this is the source of faith. “So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God” (Romans 10:17).

**Be afflicted and mourn**

One draws nigh to God by being afflicted (Jam. 4:9). The context refers to repentance from sin and worldliness (Jam. 4:4, 8). James is not condemning holy laughter; he is condemning worldly laughter.

Revival comes when the child of God puts an end to his empty, worldly lifestyle and gets serious about walking with God in the paths of holiness and truth. Hard choices must be made. Worldly vanities and sinful things must be rejected.

I must beseech God to search me and try me and show me those things that displease Him so that I can repent of them.

This is contrary to the contemporary philosophy which says that the Christian life should be a continual rock & roll party. James sees no liberty for worldly mindedness. He calls it spiritual adultery (Jam. 4:4), which is a grave sin against God.

God’s purpose in our affliction is to bring us to true repentance of sin and then to lift us up in the joy of walking in holiness.

> “When a person, be he a sinner or a saint, comes under Holy Ghost conviction, jests die on his lips. Some people can sit through the most solemn and searching of messages and crack a joke on the way out. The Spirit of God has not touched their souls. ... The only reason we do not weep is that we are so insensitive to the horror of our sin, so ignorant of its consequences, and so careless about the holiness of God” (John Phillips).

**Humble yourselves before God**

One draws nigh to God by humbling oneself before God.

The way of the world is the way of pride (1 John 2:16-17). The way of Christ is the way of humility.

If I am humble, I am not self-righteous. With Paul, I know that in me, that is in my flesh, dwelleth no good thing (Rom. 7:18). I seek the true righteousness which is in Christ.

If I am humble, I do not trust in my own understanding, but rather I seek God’s mind in every way and decision (Prov. 3:5-6). I seek godly counsel (Prov. 20:18).

If I am humble, I cease to glory in my own accomplishments (Phil. 3:7-8).

I think of a lawyer who graduated with top honors from Harvard Law School and West Point, but since surrendering to Christ, his glory is in God’s grace and truth rather than in his own credentials. Instead of joining a prestigious church attended by the pillars of the community, he has sought out a church that is faithful to God’s Word, though despised by those who are worldly minded, serving the Lord there as a song leader and bringing children to services on a bus.

This is the path of continual spiritual revival and renewal. God guarantees it! He is ever waiting for His people to draw nigh to Him, so He can draw nigh to them.


**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 showed 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?

**SUPREME COURT JUSTICES TO DECIDE RELIGIOUS LIBERTY ISSUE IN REGARD TO HOMOSEXUAL RIGHTS**

(Friday Church News Notes, June 1, 2018, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- It would be good for God’s people to be praying for the nation’s leaders at this time, as the Bible enjoins. The following is excerpted from “More LGBT Issues Loom as Justices Near Wedding Cake Decision,” Newsmax, May 27, 2018: “A flood of lawsuits over LGBT rights is making its way through courts and will continue, no matter the outcome in the Supreme Court’s highly anticipated decision in the case of a Colorado baker who would not create a wedding cake for a same-sex couple. Courts are engaged in two broad types of cases on this issue, weighing whether sex discrimination laws apply to LGBT people and also whether businesses can assert religious objections to avoid complying with anti-discrimination measures in serving customers, hiring and firing employees, providing health care and placing children with foster or adoptive parents. The outcome of baker Jack Phillips’ fight at the Supreme Court could indicate how willing the justices are to carve out exceptions to anti-discrimination laws; that’s something the court has refused to do in the areas of race and sex. The result was hard to predict based on arguments in December.

But however the justices rule, it won’t be their last word on the topic. Religious conservatives have gotten a big boost from the Trump administration, which has taken a more restrictive view of LGBT rights and intervened on their side in several cases, including Phillips’ ... Several legal disputes are pending over wedding services, similar to the Phillips case. Video producers, graphic artists and florists are among business owners who say they oppose same-sex marriage on religious grounds and don’t want to participate in same-sex weddings. They live in the 21 states that have anti-discrimination laws that specifically include gay and lesbian people. ... Jim Campbell of the Christian public interest law firm Alliance Defending Freedom said the cases will determine whether ‘people like Jack Phillips who believe marriage is the union of a man and a woman, that they too have a legitimate place in public life. Or does he have to hide or ignore those beliefs when he’s participating in the public square?’ ADF represents Phillips at the Supreme Court.”

“I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour” (1 Timothy 2:1-3).

**IRELAND VOTES TO OVERTURN BAN ON ABORTIONS**

(Friday Church News Notes, June 1, 2018, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- In a referendum, voters in Ireland overwhelming supported repeal of a constitutional ban on abortions. Sixty-
six percent favored the repeal. Prime Minister Leo Varadkar said, “The people have spoken. The people have said that we want a modern constitution for a modern country, that we trust women and we respect them to make the right decision and the right choices about their health care” (“Big Win for Abortion Rights in Ireland,” Newsmax, May 26, 2018). In fact, abortion is not strictly a “health care” issue. In most cases, it is about the life of a baby rather than the health of a mother. This age of “people’s power” is prophesied in Scripture, when the nations will shake their fists at God and His Christ and call for the “cords” of His holy laws to be removed from their lives. God will have the last word when He puts Christ on the throne of this world.

“Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying, Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us. He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision. Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath, and vex them in his sore displeasure. Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion ... Be wise now therefore, O ye kings: be instructed, ye judges of the earth. Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in him” (Psalm 2:1-6, 10-12).

China’s New Silk Road

China has experienced mind-boggling development in the past few decades and is spending more annually on infrastructure than the United States and Western Europe combined. For example, 10 years ago China had no high speed trains, but today it has the world’s largest and fastest high speed train system. In fact, it has more high speed trains (12,000 miles) than the rest of the world combined, and it is on target to have 24,000 miles by 2025. The electric trains, traveling up to 350 mph, feature stewardesses and many comfort services. These trains, and new multi-billion-dollar highway systems, are connecting China’s far-flung mega cities, many of which are springing up newly formed in a matter of a few brief years. China aims to connect its new national transportation systems to five international railway systems that will imitate the old Silk Road (called Belt and Road). Its new rail hub in Khorgos in western China near Kazakhstan, costing $2 billion, already connects with cities across western Europe as far as London. It is intended to become the world’s largest inland port. Another highway system is envisioned to connect with Europe by a southern route crossing India and the Middle East. And another is proposed to travel north through Russia and crossing the Bering Strait to Alaska by the world’s longest underwater tunnel and then connecting to Canada and the continental United States. China is also renovating its sea-faring trade routes, including massive investment in a 10.5 square mile deep-water port 19 miles off the Shanghai coast. Though only a few years old and largely reclaimed from the sea (with 460 billion cubit feet of mud dredged from the sea bed), Yangshan has become the world’s busiest container port and is being prepared to be operated autonomously by artificial intelligence. Biblically and prophetically, what does this mean? China’s government control combined with socially invasive technology and antagonism toward Christianity is a preparation for and a little foretaste of the Antichrist’s kingdom. Also, China’s new transportation system will doubtless facilitate the movement of armies in the Tribulation. China’s leaders have long-range plans to control world commerce, but time is short and, like Israel, they are unwittingly preparing for the fulfillment of Bible prophecy and the rise of the Man of Sin. “And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared” (Revelation 16:12). (The facts in this report are gleaned from the documentary Future China 2049 - China on the Move.)
SEEKING GREAT THINGS FOR ONESELF (Friday Church News Notes, June 1, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)
- “And seekest thou great things for thyself? seek them not...” (Jeremiah 45:5). Jeremiah’s scribe Baruch was of a prominent family. His grandfather Maaseiah was governor of Jerusalem in Josiah’s day (2 Ch. 34:8). Baruch grew up among self-seekers, but it is never wise to seek great things for oneself. The purpose of life is to love God and glorify Him and do His perfect will. To be rich is not wrong, if the riches are from God and are used wisely in God’s will, but to seek to be rich is wrong. Compare 1 Ti. 6:9 with 6:17. If God gives a man a great name, as he did to Abraham and David, that is wonderful, but those men did not seek a great name; they sought the glory of God, not their own glory. When God promised David an eternal house and throne, David responded by glorifying the greatness of God (2 Sa. 7:18-22). Jeremiah did not seek great things for himself, and in his day his name was mocked and hated by his own nation, but God has given him an everlasting name and inheritance. It is wise to leave “greatness” in God’s hands!

GREEN BLOOD, BLUE BLOOD, CLEAR BLOOD, YELLOW BLOOD, PURPLE BLOOD (Friday Church News Notes, June 1, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)
- The great Creator made a bewildering variety of creatures with all sorts of life systems to fit their divine purpose and environment. Most animals with bones have RED BLOOD cells composed of hemoglobin, a biomolecule containing iron that binds with oxygen and is responsible for the red color. The cells are like little sacks of hemoglobin. New ones are manufactured in the bone marrow at the rate of about 2.4 million per second! They circulate through the body about once per minute for 100-120 days, performing their amazing, life-giving work of transporting oxygen from the lungs, then their components are efficiently recycled. The red blood cell is perfectly designed by shape to squeeze through the body’s tiny capillaries. The horseshoe crab, some mollusks, octopuses and squid have BLUE BLOOD due to the fact that their blood uses a different protein, hemocyanin, to bind oxygen. It uses an atom of copper, rather than of iron, for the process, which turns blue when oxygenated. The Prasinohaema skink, a lizard in New Guinea, has GREEN BLOOD. The green color comes from a poison called biliverdin, which is a bi-product of the recycling of red blood cells. Biliverdin, therefore, exists in humans, but the liver filters it out. In case of liver failure, even trace amounts of biliverdin causes jaundice. The amount of biliverdin in the New Guinea lizards would be fatal to a human, but the little lizards thrive on their toxic green blood. The ocellated icefish has CLEAR BLOOD. This odd little fish, which has no scales, lives at a depth of one kilometer (.62 miles) in the cold sea off Antarctica. Scientists don’t know how the fish survives without hemoglobin, but they speculate that its “unusually large heart might help move oxygen through its body using blood plasma instead of hemoglobin” (“Why Does This Fish Have Gin-Clear Blood?” Live Science, Apr. 5, 2013). Many insects have YELLOW BLOOD. The blood carries nutrients and hormones to their cells, but it doesn’t transport oxygen and doesn’t need hemoglobin. The oxygen is transported by a system of tubes directly between the outside air and the cells. The yellow (or green) color of insect blood comes from the pigments of the plants it eats (“Why Is Insect Blood Green or Yellow?” May 30, 2013, IndianaPublicMedia.org). In the sea squirt and sea cucumber, the yellow blood is caused by the concentration of the chemical vanabin. Sea squirts and brachiopods and some types of marine worms have PURPLE BLOOD due to the protein hemerytherin, that transports oxygen instead of hemoglobin. Because of the translucent skin of the peanut worm, its purple blood can be seen without cutting them open. While the evolutionary scientist tries in vain to figure out how such things evolved, the Bible believer sees the handiwork of an Almighty God.

SUPREME COURT SIDES WITH CHRISTIAN BAKER (Friday Church News Notes, June 8, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)
The U.S. Supreme Court handed religious liberty advocates a major victory Monday when it sided with a Christian baker who refused to design a wedding cake celebrating a same-sex marriage. In a 7-2 ruling in the Masterpiece Cakeshop v. Colorado Civil Rights Commission case, Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy ruled that the Colorado Civil Rights Commission demonstrated hostility toward religion and violated the First Amendment’s guarantee of religious liberty when it ordered the baker, Jack Phillips, to design wedding cakes for same-sex couples. Phillips owns a Colorado bakery, Masterpiece Cakeshop. The Civil Rights Commission’s treatment of his case has some elements of a clear and impermissible hostility toward the sincere religious beliefs that motivated his objection, Kennedy wrote. ‘… The Commission’s hostility was inconsistent with the First Amendment’s guarantee that our laws be applied in a manner that is neutral toward religion.’ Religious liberty groups applauded the ruling. Jack serves all customers; he simply declines to express messages or celebrate events that violate his deeply held beliefs, said Alliance Defending Freedom senior counsel Kristen Waggoner, who defended Phillips before the Supreme Court. ‘Creative professionals who serve all people should be free to create art consistent with their convictions without the threat of government punishment.’ Waggoner added, ‘Tolerance and respect for good-faith differences of opinion are essential in a society like ours. This decision makes clear that the government must respect Jack’s beliefs about marriage.’ In a conference call with media members, Waggoner disagreed with other legal experts who were calling the ruling ‘narrow.’ ‘This case will affect a number of cases for years to come,’ she said.”

MEGACHURCH PASTOR SAYS JESUS NOT THE ONLY WAY TO GOD (Friday Church News Notes, June 8, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from Why Jesus Is No Longer the Only Way for Many American Christians, Christian Post, May 19, 2018: Just over two months ago, as winter landed its final blows of snow in New York City, Michael A. Walrond Jr., of Harlem’s 10,000-member First Corinthian Baptist Church landed an ideological blow of his own in traditional Christendom. Walrond, who was named ‘One of the Lord’s Foot Soldiers’ by Newsweek magazine, told his congregants that the belief that anyone who doesn’t believe in Jesus is going to hell is ‘insanity.’ … People take many paths to God, he argued, noting that he personally celebrates the paths others take in finding Him—even if that path does not involve faith in Jesus. ‘And so the key is you believe in God. And whatever your path is to God I celebrate that. Personally, I celebrate that,’ Walrond said. The New York City preacher’s message drew criticism in traditional Christian circles. Bishop Robert E. Smith, Sr., founder of Total Outreach for Christ Ministries, said, ‘The preacher on this video is both right and wrong: he’s right in that all roads do lead to God; but this God is both love and a consuming fire. If you meet Him on the Christ road of His love, you live, but any other road, be it religion, philosophy, or a miscalculation of the Person of Christ, the lake of fire is waiting!’ While Walrond’s openness as a Christian to the idea that there are many paths to God beyond Christianity may have been shocking to some, new research shows a widespread departure among Christians from traditional Bible teaching such as Jesus being the only way to God.” “Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved” (Acts 4:12).

ENGLAND’S TOP FAMILY JUDGE APPLAUDS END OF THE TRADITIONAL FAMILY (Friday Church News Notes, June 8, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Sir James Munby, President of the Family Division of England’s High Court of Justice, says society should “welcome and applaud” the collapse of the traditional family. At a lecture at the University of Liverpool, Munby said, “In contemporary Britain the
family takes an almost infinite variety of forms. Many marry according to the rites of non-Christian faiths. People live together as couples, married or not, and with partners who may not always be of the other sex. Children live in households where their parents may be married or unmarried. They may be brought up by a single parent, by two parents or even by three parents. Their parents may or may not be their natural parents. They may be children of parents with very different religious, ethnic or national backgrounds, [and they] may be the children of polygamous marriages. ... This, I stress, is not merely the reality; it is, I believe, a reality which we should welcome and applaud” (“England’s Top Family Judge,” Breitbart.com, Jun. 3, 2018). This reminds us of what the prophet Isaiah said 2,700 years ago: “Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! Woe unto them that are wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight!” (Isa 5:20-21).

CALIFORNIA BANS TRAVEL TO NINE U.S. STATES (Friday Church News Notes, June 8, 2018, w w w . w a y o f l i f e . o r g, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The government of California, which has lost its mind in the pursuit of homosexual rights, has banned state-funded and state-sponsored travel to nine other U.S. states. The latest target is Oklahoma, because of its new legislation allowing private adoption agencies to deny same-sex couples from their adoption services “on the basis of religious or moral convictions or policies” (“California Bans,” USA Today, Jun. 4, 2018). A 2017 California law requires a travel ban to states that have legislation that “discriminates on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression.” California Attorney General Xavier Becarra, who is strictly enforcing the ban, said, “California taxpayers are taking a stand against bigotry and in support of those who would be harmed by this prejudiced policy.” He cares nothing, of course, for those whose rights are destroyed by the homosexual agenda. Other states targeted by the California travel ban are Alabama, Kansas, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, and Texas.

U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT REPORT PAINTS GRIM PICTURE OF RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION IN NORTH KOREA (Friday Church News Notes, June 8, 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 “Report: ‘Praying, Singing Hymns, and Reading the Bible’ Can Lead to Prison Camp,” CNSNews.com, May 30, 2018: “Weeks before President Trump is expected to meet with Kim Jong Un, a State Department report issued Tuesday painted a grim picture of religious freedom abuses at the hands of the Stalinist regime—including ‘executions, torture, beatings, and arrests’ of people of faith. The report said that some of the up to 120,000 North Koreans being held in prison camps ‘under horrific conditions’ were incarcerated for religious reasons. It cited North Korean defectors and international non-governmental organizations as reporting that ‘any religious activities conducted outside of those that were state-sanctioned, including praying, singing hymns, and reading the Bible, could lead to severe punishment, including imprisonment in political prison camps.’ A South Korean NGO had recorded 1,304 cases of religious freedom violations carried out by North Korean authorities during the year in review, including 119 killings and 87 disappearances. Detentions accounted for another 770 of the incidents. ... ‘An estimated 80,000 to 120,000 political prisoners, some imprisoned for religious reasons, were believed to be held in the political prison camp system in remote areas under horrific conditions.’ It cited a religious freedom advocacy group, Christian Solidarity Worldwide, as saying the regime often applies a policy of ‘guilt by association,’ targeting not just...
Christians but detaining their relatives as well, irrespective of their own beliefs. The envisaged Trump-Kim summit in Singapore is focused on the crisis over North Korea’s nuclear weapons programs and related security concerns. But rights campaigners are urging the president to put human rights on the agenda too. ... State Department ambassador-at-large for international religious freedom Sam Brownback said, ‘The president is right on point on North Korea. He’s very engaged on this, as you know. The Secretary [of State Mike Pompeo] is very engaged on this. And I think they’re raising all of these issues,’ he said. ... Brownback recalled that during his days in the Senate—he was a Republican senator from Kansas from 1996-2011 before serving as governor of Kansas—he raised concerns about North Korea, ‘but you couldn’t get anybody to act.’ ‘Well, this president is acting and he’s taking this issue on, even though it’s threatened us for years, if not decades.’”

**DNA RESEARCH POKING HOLES IN DARWIN** (Friday Church News Notes, June 8, 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 “When your DNA research pokes holes in Darwin,” OneNewsNow.com, May 31, 2018: “Researchers are announcing they have made a game-changing discovery in evolutionary biology and it could bring science one step closer to biblical truth. According to the researchers, an American and a Swiss scientist, their study of DNA suggests that 100,000 animals first appeared at roughly the same time—not gradually over millions of years. Likely realizing how that damages the evolutionary model, one of the scientists publicly stated they were hesitant to release their findings. ‘There’s a great danger to the evolutionary model in this study in ways they don’t quite realize yet,’ comments Dr. Nathaniel Jeanson, a research biologist for Answers in Genesis. Jeanson, who holds a PhD in cell development from Harvard, tells OneNewsNow that it’s true the researchers concluded that animals and humans arrived on earth at roughly the same time. The same study, he says, also found there is no cross-over species. A robin may evolve into a better robin, for example, but it didn’t become a lizard. The researchers aren’t admitting that Genesis 1:1 is true, of course, and the May 28 story headline describes ‘new facets of evolution’ in a study published in a journal entitled Human Evolution. But the story describes the ‘startling result’ that nine out of 10 species on earth today, including humans, ‘came into being’ 100,000 to 200,000 years ago. ... ‘The conclusion is very surprising,’ one of the researchers said, ‘and I fought against it as hard as I could.’”

**TEL AVIV’S BIGGEST EVER GAY PRIDE FESTIVAL** (Friday Church News Notes, June 15, 2018, w w w . w a y o f l i f e . o r g, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Tel Aviv’s 20th annual Gay Pride Parade on June 8 was the biggest ever, with more than 250,000 in attendance. The Times of Israel reported, “Israelis and visitors celebrate freedom and tolerance at 20th annual event in self-styled ‘most gay-friendly city’ in world. Cafes, stores, and lamp posts were decked with rainbow flags across Tel Aviv, with tens of thousands of tourists visiting Israel specifically for the event. ... Perched on high heels and wearing a black skirt which is attached with a rainbow flag, a marcher calling himself Aldifrost, 30, sketched a few dance steps, shaking his long wavy and colored hair. ‘Tel Aviv is the big city of gays!’ he exclaimed, saying he was attending for the 10th year. ‘I come here to party and display my drag-queen show.’ ... Floats moved through the closed streets of downtown throughout the afternoon, including one sponsored by the British Embassy, and decorated under the theme of ‘Love is Great Britain.’ The UK ambassador to Israel is David Quarrey, an openly gay man” (“Over 250,000 revelers flood Tel Aviv,” The Times of Israel, Jun. 8, 2018). Since 2002, Jerusalem has hosted its own Gay Pride Parade. Last year, 22,000 people participated. The theme was “LGBTQ and Religion.” This is clear evidence that though Israel is back in her land, she is back in the spiritually dead condition prophesied in Ezekiel 37:8, which precedes her conversion -- “And when I beheld, lo, the sinews and the flesh came up upon them, and the skin
covered them above: but there was no breath in them.” Israel is back in the land to prepare the Third Temple which will be occupied by the Antichrist as prophesied in Daniel 9:27; Matthew 24:15; 2 Thessalonians 2:3-12.

WHAT KIM IS (Friday Church News Notes, June 15, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The following is excerpted from “What Kim Is” National Review, Jun. 9, 2018: “Let’s remind ourselves of whom, exactly, President Trump [met in Singapore]. For Kim Jong-un is no ordinary man. The Dear Leader occupies the summit of a hierarchical system of some 25 million people whose lives are controlled by his central government in Pyongyang. Some years ago, Christopher Hitchens described the ruling juche ideology this way: ‘It is based on totalitarian “military first” mobilization, is maintained by slave labor, and instills an ideology of the most unapologetic racism and xenophobia.’... Kim, his father and grandfather, and the regime they direct have given no indication, ever, that they recognize the dignity and worth of human life. Some 36,000 Americans died fighting off the North and its Chinese ally between 1950 and 1953. The North Korean government caused a famine in the 1990s that killed somewhere between hundreds of thousands and more than 1 million people. Another hundred thousand or so are imprisoned, right now, in the North Korean gulag where slaves are starved, beaten, tortured, and killed. Even high-ranking officials are subject to ‘liquidation’ by sickening methods, including execution by a firing squad of anti-aircraft batteries. ... What Kim Jong-un is, is a monster. And that monstrousness informs his statecraft. It influences the means he adopts to remain in power. It leads him to deceive, dissemble, brutalize and build a nuclear deterrent. ... Singapore is an opportunity for Trump to size up an adversary. At best it will inspire Kim to take verifiable steps toward disarmament. ... But as you watch the proceedings, do not allow the following to happen: Do not permit the smiles and handshakes to obscure the evil reality of Kim Jong-un--or the memory of his victims.”

THE PHILISTINES AND THE PALESTINIANS (Friday Church News Notes, June 15, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The Philistines originated from the cursed family of Ham’s son Canaan (Ge. 9:22-25; 1 Ch. 1:8-12). They occupied the land of Canaan and were Israel’s bitter enemies (Ge. 9:22-25; 1 Ch. 1:8-12). They occupied the land of Canaan and were Israel’s bitter enemies (Ge. 21:32; 26:1-18; Ex. 13:17; Jos. 13:2-3; Ju. 3:3, 31). In the King James Bible, the Hebrew word palesheth is translated “Palestina,” “Palestine,” “Philistia,” and “Philistines.” They violently stole a well from Abraham (Ge. 21:25). This context is the first time that “the land of the Philistines” is mentioned in Scripture (Ge. 21:32). The Philistines also stopped up Isaac’s wells (Ge. 26:14-18). The Philistines are mentioned 34 times in the book of Judges and 155 times from 1 Samuel through 2 Kings, as they opposed Israel from the time of Shamgar and Samson until that of Hezekiah (e.g., Jud. 3:1; 13:5; 1 Sa. 4:2; 13:5; 13:17; 31:1; 2 Sa. 5:18, 22; 21:15). The giant Goliath that David slew was the champion of the Philistines (1 Sa. 17:4). In the second century AD, the Roman Emperor Hadrian renamed the land of Judea “Syria Palestina” to celebrate his victory in the Second Jewish War (Bar Kokhba revolt). Jerusalem was converted into a Roman city and renamed Aelia Capitolina after Hadrian and his gods. (Aelia is derived from Hadrian’s family name Aelius, and Capitolina refers to the idolatrous cult of the Capitoline Triad in Rome, Jupiter, Juno, and Minerva.) It was a brazen attempt to erase the memory of Israel from her land and give it back to the Philistines. After conquering the land from the Ottomans in the 1920s, England perpetuated the myth that the land of Israel is “Palestine.” The Palestinians, though of Arab stock, still hate Israel and have vowed to drive her into the sea, but Bible prophecy addresses the Philistines in three major passages and their defeat is sure. See Isaiah 28:14-32; Jeremiah 47; Joel 3:4-21. Israel is God’s chosen nation, and He gave the land to Israel as an eternal possession. “For the LORD hath chosen Jacob unto himself, and Israel for his peculiar treasure” (Ps. 135:4). God calls Himself “the God of Israel” 203
times and “the God of Jacob” 25 times. To Israel were committed the Holy Scriptures (“unto them were committed the oracles of God,” Ro. 3:2). Through Israel, the Saviour came (“of whom as concerning the flesh Christ came, who is over all, God blessed for ever,” Ro. 9:5). Jesus told the woman at the well that “salvation is of the Jews” (Joh. 4:22). Sadly, Israel rejected her own God 2,000 years ago in the person of her Messiah, Immanuel (Isa. 7:14), but the same Bible that prophesied that rejection in Isaiah 53 prophesies Israel’s repentance and conversion in coming days (De. 30; Jer. 31; Eze. 37). “The LORD also shall roar out of Zion, and utter his voice from Jerusalem; and the heavens and the earth shall shake: but the LORD will be the hope of his people, and the strength of the children of Israel” (Joel 3:16).

DNA TOURISM (Friday Church News Notes, June 15, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)
- The cheap and easy availability of DNA genealogies is producing a new kind of tourism: DNA tourism, in which people travel to research their newly discovered family roots. 23andMe was the first company to offer direct to consumer genetic testing and interpretation, beginning in 2007 (23 stands for the 23 pairs of chromosomes in a normal human cell). By 2017, the company was valued at $1.5 billion and by 2018 they had tested five million individuals. Test results include a breakdown of the individual’s genetic ancestry (e.g., 57% Irish, 9% German, 3% Iberian, 1% Jewish). DNA tourism to some parts of the world is booming, and tour companies are designing tour packages specifically to cater to this market. It is estimated, for example, that 23% of visitors to Scotland travel there to track down their ancestry (“Is ‘DNA tourism’ the next travel trend for millennials?” The Telegraph, May 31, 2018). 23andMe genetics is based on evolutionary presuppositions. They even tell you how closely you relate to “Neanderthals,” which is nonsense. What you won’t learn from a genetics testing company is that you are a child of Adam and have inherited Adam’s fallen character and condemnation before God and that salvation is found only in Jesus Christ. “And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement. Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned” (Ro. 5:11-12).

EINSTEIN’S THEORY OF HAPPINESS SELLS FOR $1.6 MILLION (Friday Church News Notes, June 22, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)
- Albert Einstein’s theory of happiness sold recently at an auction for $1.6 million. He wrote the “theory” on a piece of paper in 1922 and gave it to a hotel bellboy. It read, “A calm and modest life brings more happiness than the pursuit of success combined with constant restlessness.” This, of course, is a simple platitude that most people would recognize as basically true, yet it is also vague and therefore nearly meaningless. Einstein was a brilliant man who depended upon his own mind rather than God’s Word and therefore was a foolish man. “He that trusteth in his own heart is a fool: but whoso walketh wisely, he shall be delivered” (Proverbs 28:26). The secret to happiness is to be in right relationship with the Creator through the salvation that He has provided through His Son Jesus the Messiah. “Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore” (Psalm 16:11).

FEWER AMERICANS ARE TITHING TO THEIR CHURCHES (Friday Church News Notes, June 22, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)
- According to Barna research, there has been a steady decrease in the percentage of Americans who give 10% of their income to churches. In 2002, the percentage was 3%, down from 8% in 2001 (“The Ancient Rise and Recent Fall of Tithing,” Christian History, Aug. 2008). This is a sad and telling statistic. God’s people should give more than 10% of their income to the Lord’s churches for God’s great business on this earth. “But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the
THE MIRACLE OF BUTTERFLY METAMORPHOSIS (Friday Church News Notes, June 15, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from Seeing the Non-existent: Evolution’s Myths and Hoaxes, David Cloud, copyright 2011: “The monarch butterfly’s Latin name, Danaus plexippus, means ‘sleepy transformation,’ referring to its amazing life cycle. The butterfly goes through a four-stage process called metamorphosis: from egg, to larva, to pupa, to adult. It begins life as a tiny, brilliantly-designed egg that the female butterfly brilliantly attaches to the exact type of vegetation needed by the caterpillar when it hatches. It is attached with a special glue that hardens rapidly and holds the egg securely in all types of weather. The egg stage usually lasts a few days, but eggs laid before winter can enter a resting stage and hatch the following spring. Within this tiny egg is an entire world of genetic information. It contains the instructions for the construction of the caterpillar with the intelligence it needs to operate all of its organs (eyes, antennae, legs, etc.), to maneuver within its environment, to digest leaves, to avoid predators, to know when and how to molt, to pupate, etc. It contains the instructions for the incredibly complex process of the final molting and formation of the pupa, including the amazing cremaster mechanism. It contains the instructions for the death and dissolution of the caterpillar into a biological soup and the reformation of that soup into a beautiful butterfly. It contains the instructions not only to construct the butterfly in all of its mind-boggling complexity (e.g., its proboscis, its compound eyes, its intricately shingled wings, its sensory organs, its reproductive organs) but also to create the butterfly’s brain and the intelligence needed to thrive within its environment, to fly, to land, to avoid predators, to find the right plants and flowers, to drink and digest nectar, to keep its cold-blooded metabolism in balance, to reproduce. It contains the instructions for a bewildering multi-thousand mile migration to a place it has never been and in the absence of any earthly guide. It would seem, in fact, that the genetic code within that tiny monarch butterfly egg contains a map of a large part of the earth! And it contains the information for constructing hundreds of copies of itself. The change has been likened to a Model-T Ford forming its own garage and then within that garage disassembling itself and then reassembling itself into a high-tech helicopter and flying off. Even this would not be nearly as dramatic, though, as the real change that occurs through butterfly metamorphosis. Metamorphosis is described even by secular biologists as a ‘miraculous change of form.’ They admit that ‘there is no evidence how such a remarkable plan of life ever came about’ (Peter Farb, The Insects, Life Nature Library, p. 56). Science journalist Richard Milton says, ‘To say that this process is not understood ... means that no stage or aspect of this physical process can be accounted for or even guessed at with our current knowledge of chemistry, physics, genetics, or molecular biology, extensive though they are’ (Shattering the Myths of Darwinism, p. 220).”

house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth” (1 Timothy 3:15). “Honour the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase: So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine” (Proverbs 3:9-10).

KING JAMES BIBLE STILL THE PREFERRED TRANSLATION IN AMERICA (Friday Church News Notes, June 22, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The 2015 Barna State of the Bible survey found that the King James Bible remains the preferred Bible version among Americans by far. It is the preferred Bible by 39% of those
surveyed. After that is the New International Version (NIV), at 13%, and the New King James (NKJV), at 10%. These numbers have remained consistent since 2012. There is a significant difference when it comes to age groups. Among Boomers (age 50-68), 43% prefer the KJV; among Gen-Xers (age 31-49), 41%; but among Millennials (age 16-30), it is 28%. Still, the King James Bible is the preferred translation among all age groups over the New International Version, which is the next favorite. This information is from “State of the Bible 2015,” www.americanbible.org/uploads/content/State_of_the_Bible_2015_report.pdf

DRAG QUEEN CHILDREN TV SHOWS (Friday Church News Notes, June 22, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from “Drag Queen Children TV Shows Coming to America,” Christian Post, Jun. 11, 2018: “At least two new animated television shows about drag queens, one featuring children characters, are set to debut in America, drawing high concern from conservative commentators. World of Wonder released a trailer in May about ‘Drag Tots!,’ a show about toddler drag queens coming June 28th, featuring transgender model RuPaul. ‘In a world on the brink of chaos, where fear is the rule of the land, the voices of a generation have banded together to give our planet what it needs...BABY DRAG QUEENS!’ proclaims a preview on YouTube. On May 31, Netflix announced the animated ‘Super Drags,’ with a teaser preview that is yet to be given a release date stating: ‘By night, they tighten up their corsets and transform into the baddest SUPER DRAGS in town, ready to combat shade and rescue the world’s glitter from the evil villains. Get ready, because the SUPER DRAGS are going deeper than you think.’ ... Rod Dreher observes, ‘Netflix is turning drag queens into animated superheroes, and RuPaul’s streaming service is turning drag queens into child superheroes. You might think--I certainly hope you think--that your child will not be exposed to this filth. The thing is, your child, and all of us, have to live in a world in which this is normal, and in which the popular culture thinks that dressing little boys up like sexually provocative women is not only permissible, but a sign of cultural progress.’ Dreher pointed to other such efforts, like the ‘Drag Queen Story Hours’ that have been held in libraries across America. They have been adapted by other countries as well, including the United Kingdom, with activists defending the idea of drag queens reading to children.”

A PASTOR’S TESTIMONY ABOUT THE DANGER OF MEDICAL QUACKERY (Friday Church News Notes, June 22, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - “Brother Cloud, I am thankful for the current series of warnings concerning Quack Diets. This also exposes the deceitfulness of those who make a living off of gullible and misinformed individuals. One particular chiropractor (a charlatan doctor) was so persuasive and crafty that he hooked an influential church family by giving them free care. But it did not stop there! The family loved their free care so much that they were glad to highly promote this man to the rest of the church, defrauding the brethren. Much of the church began to go to this man, who claimed that a special diet along with his supplements could cure everything. His evaluation began with a belt hooked to a computer that would tell all your problems in a few moments. He also determined one’s mineral and vitamin deficiencies by having the patient hold a bottle of a particular vitamin while he pushed down on the patients extended arm. If the arm was resistant then you were not deficient. If he easily pushed it down, then the conclusion was that the patient was deficient in that particular vitamin. You can imagine the amount of deceit this would take for a doctor to perform this kind of fake and false procedure, ripping off gullible and overly trusting people! The worst part of all this quackery was when I warned against the deceitful doctor and exposed him, the influential family became offended and took sides with the doctor to keep up their free chiropractic care. They did not just leave the church but eventually caused a church split. Quackery can be used of the devil. It is dangerous to follow these foolish men and women with their lies and false claims. Bro. Cloud, I appreciate your Biblical insight and the many warnings that you publish. Some folks may turn a blind eye, but others will be deterred from falling into foolishness!” (For the studies about quack diets, see the book The Bible and Diet, which is available for free reading at www.wayoflife.org/free_ebooks/.)
The Aim of O Timothy Magazine

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- Challenging Christian workers to uphold the truth and resist the apostasy of our times. (1 Timothy 6:20-21)
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