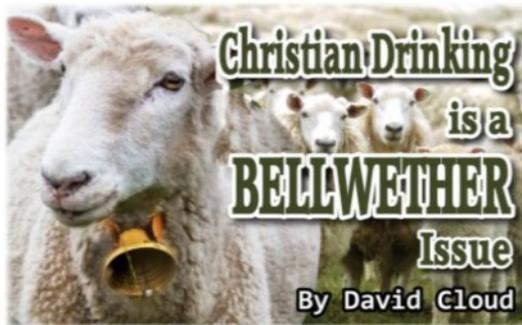


O Timothy

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

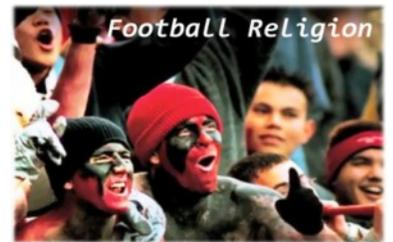
A Monthly Newsletter for Spiritual Protection and Edification

Volume 35 - Issue 8 - August 2018



“Some prominent emerging church leaders have fallen into drunkenness and disgrace, which would never have happened had they not supported drinking in “moderation.” An example is Perry Noble, who in 2016 was fired after 16 years at NewSpring Church in Anderson, South Carolina, because of “alcohol abuse.” Page 4.

Digging in the Walls: A month’s worth of news items, republished from Friday Church News Notes. **Page 12.**



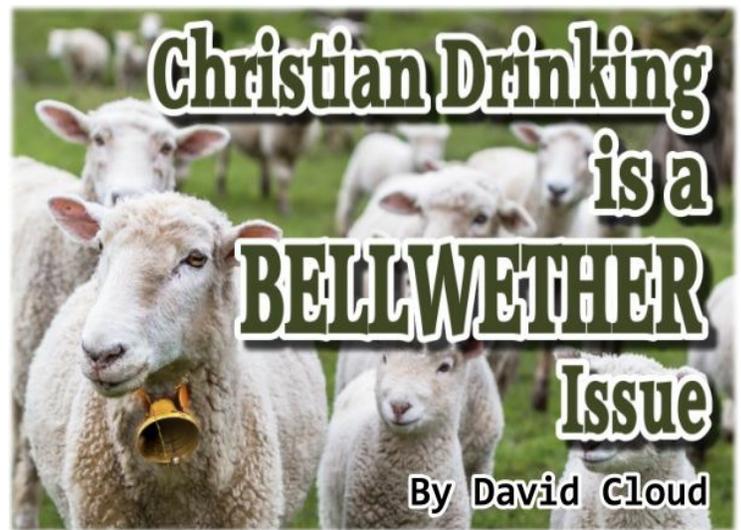
CHRISTIAN DRINKING IS A BELLWETHER ISSUE ~ By David Cloud

The rapid change in attitude toward drinking among “Bible believing” Christians is a major sign of the times.

When I was a kid growing up in a Southern Baptist church, evangelicals and Baptists in America did not drink and did not go to bars. Exceptions were rare. Schools such as Wheaton and Baylor had rules against drinking.

By the 1960s, due to the influence of the loose, anti-separatist New Evangelical philosophy, evangelicals were beginning to accept “social drinking.”

In 1978, Richard Quebedeux documented the dramatic changes that were occurring within evangelicalism a mere thirty years after the onslaught of the spirit of “Newism.” He observed that “the wider culture has had a profound impact on the evangelical movement as a whole” (*The Worldly Evangelicals*, 1978, p. 115). Though Quebedeux



didn’t make the connection, this is a direct result of the repudiation of separation. He said:

“In the course of establishing their respectability in the eyes of the wider society, the evangelicals have

become harder and harder to distinguish from other people. Upward social mobility has made the old revivalistic taboos dysfunctional. ... the COCKTAILS became increasingly difficult to refuse. Evangelical young people LEARNED HOW TO DANCE AND OPENLY 'GROOVED' ON ROCK MUSIC. ... And evangelical magazines and newspapers began REVIEWING PLAYS AND MOVIES. ... The Gallup Poll is correct in asserting that born-again Christians 'believe in a strict moral code.' BUT THAT STRICTNESS HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLY MODIFIED DURING THE LAST FEW YEARS ... Many younger evangelicals occasionally use PROFANITY in their speech and writing . . . Some of the recent evangelical sex-technique books assume that their readers peruse and view PORNOGRAPHY on occasion, and they do. ... It is profoundly significant that evangelicals, even the more conservative among them, have ACCEPTED THE ROCK MODE. This acceptance, obviously, indicates a further chapter in the death of self-denial and world rejection among them. ... When young people were converted in the Jesus movement, many of them simply did not give up their former habits, practices, and cultural attitudes--DRINKING, SMOKING, AND CHARACTERISTIC DRESS AND LANGUAGE. ... Young evangelicals DRINK, but so do conservative evangelicals like Hal Lindsey and John Warwick Montgomery (who is a member of the International Wine and Food Society). ... But EVEN MARIJUANA, now virtually legal in some areas of the United States, is not as forbidden among young evangelicals as it once was. A few of them, particularly the intellectuals, do smoke it on occasion..." (*The Worldly Evangelicals*, pp. 14, 16, 17, 118, 119).

O TIMOTHY Magazine
Volume 35 Issue 8

David W. Cloud, Editor
 Subscription information on
 back page of the magazine

Copyright 2011 by D.W.Cloud
 Way of Life Literature
 PO Box 610368, Port Huron, MI
 48061
 866-295-4143 (toll free)
fbns@wayoflife.org
<http://www.wayoflife.org>

Bethel Baptist Church
 4212 Campbell St. N.
 London, Ontario, N6P 1A6 Canada
 519-652-2619

In the 1980s and 1990s Contemporary Christian Music continued to push the boundaries of moral corruption and worldliness. In 1993, Michael W. Smith, one of the most prominent voices in CCM, complained in an interview, "... you're always going to have those very, very conservative people. They say you can't do this; you can't do that ... you can't DRINK, you can't smoke. ... It's a pretty bizarre way of thinking" (*The Birmingham News*, Feb. 1993, p. 1B)

By the turn of the 21st century, emergent evangelicals were embracing drinking with enthusiasm.

The book *Listening to the Beliefs of Emerging Churches: Five Perspectives* contains probably a dozen references to the joys of drinking. The contributors are Karen Ward, Mark Driscoll, John Burke, Dan Kimball, and Doug Pagitt. They meet in bars and taverns for theological discussions. They exchange beer-making techniques.

Driscoll's Mars Hill Church in Seattle, in its megachurch days, set up a "champagne bar" at their New Year's Eve parties and attendees were reminded to bring their IDs so they could enjoy the bubbly.

Riverview Community Church in Holt, Michigan, has a RiverBrew night featuring homebrewed beer and religious discussion ("Holt Ministry Celebrates Its Love of God and Beer," *Lansing State Journal*, Feb. 29, 2008).

The Journey in St. Louis, Missouri, hosts a "Theology at the Bottleworks" where participants "grab a beer and discuss political or spiritual topics" ("Brewing Battle Missouri Baptists frown on beer as evangelistic hook," *Christianity Today*, June 29, 2007).

Worship at the Water meets on Sundays at the Flora-Bama Lounge, Package and Oyster Bar in Perdido Key, Florida, a bar infamous for its bikini contests and bar brawls. The people come in their swimsuits and enjoy the Bible study with a Bloody Mary or whiskey. Jack de Jarnette, a pastor of Perdido Bay United Methodist Church, says that if Jesus returned to earth, he'd probably kick back at the Flora-Bama ("Florida Church Mixes Bibles and Booze," *The Blaze*, Aug. 15, 2012).

Christ Church in Oxford, Connecticut, hosts a weekly "Beer, Bible and Brotherhood" gathering in a local bar. The pastor, John Donnelly, drinks a Samuel Adams

Boston Lager while leading the study (“Pastor Drinks Beer in the Name of Jesus,” *Charisma News*, Oct. 11, 2013).

In 2003, Wheaton College announced that it had changed its rules to allow drinking, smoking, and dancing for graduate students and faculty members (*Chicago Sun-Times*, Feb. 20, 2003).

School spokeswoman Pat Swindle said that “drinking and tobacco use are none of the college’s business.” Lisa Nudd, editor-in-chief of the college newspaper, said, “We pretty much think it’s a good change, something that was long overdue.”

In 2013, Moody Bible Institute dropped its 127-year ban against alcohol and tobacco use by faculty and staff. The new emphasis is toward the creation of a “high trust environment that emphasizes values, not rules” (“Moody Bible Institute Drops,” *Christianity Today*, Sept. 20, 2013).

For the following reasons we believe that the Bible teaches that the New Testament Christian should abstain from alcoholic drinks:

1. The Bible warns that wine is a mocker and deceives men (Proverbs 20:1).

To say that alcoholic beverages can be consumed in moderation sounds reasonable, but very few drunks have ever set out to become drunks. It is an irrefutable fact that a man that does not drink at all will never get drunk and will certainly never become a drunk.

As Bruce Lackey said,

“How is alcoholic wine deceptive? In the very way that people are advocating today, by saying that drinking a little bit will not hurt. Everyone admits that drinking too much is bad. Even the liquor companies tell us not to drink and drive, but they insist that a small amount is all right. However, that is the very thing that is deceptive. Who knows how little to drink?”

“Experts tell us that each person is different. It takes an ounce to affect one, while more is necessary for another. The same person will react to alcohol differently in different situations, depending on the amount of food he has had, among other things. So the idea that ‘a little bit won’t hurt’ is deceptive, and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise!”

I doubt Noah planned to get drunk and to cause so much trouble for his grandson, trouble that has abiding consequences to this day--but wine is a mocker.

My maternal grandfather came from a long line of drunks, and before my grandmother married him she made him promise that he would never touch a drop of liquor, and that is a promise that he made. But one day he and another carpenter were working on a house and the other fellow talked my grandfather into having just a sip “to cool the tongue.” They both got roaring drunk and ended up in jail, and my granddad was a deacon in a Baptist church!

He was deeply repentant and was restored and never drank another drop as far as anyone knows, but it was a powerful reminder that wine is a mocker.

Alcohol has the ability to deceive and corrupt. One can never know if he will control it or it will control him. The instruction in Proverbs 20:1 tells me that the wise man leaves it entirely alone.

The following is a wise statement from John G. Paton: Missionary to the New Hebrides, 1891:

“From observation, at an early age I became convinced that mere Temperance Societies were a failure, and that Total Abstinence, by the grace of God, was the only sure preventive as well as remedy. What was temperance in one man was drunkenness in another; and all the drunkards came, not from those who practised total abstinence, but from those who practised or tried to practise temperance. I had seen temperance men drinking wine in the presence of others who drank to excess, and never could see how they felt themselves clear of blame; and I had known Ministers and others, once strong temperance advocates, fall through this so-called moderation, and become drunkards. Therefore it has all my life appeared to me beyond dispute, in reference to intoxicants of every kind, that the only rational temperance is Total Abstinence from them as beverages, and the use of them exclusively as drugs, and then only with extreme caution, as they are deceptive and deleterious poisons of the most debasing and demoralizing kind.”

Even emerging church people admit that the Bible forbids drunkenness, but can they guarantee that they and their drinking buddies will never get drunk? Can they guarantee that they will not become addicted to drink? Can they guarantee that they will not tempt someone to become an “alcoholic,” or tempt a former “alcoholic” to

get “off the wagon” and destroy himself? No, they cannot, because “wine is a mocker.”

Some prominent emerging church leaders have fallen into drunkenness and disgrace, which would never have happened had they not supported drinking in “moderation.” An example is Perry Noble, who in 2016 was fired after 16 years at NewSpring Church in Anderson, South Carolina, because of “alcohol abuse.”

2. Alcoholic drink should be avoided because it is associated with many evils and dangers (Proverbs 23:19-23, 29-35).

This passage begins with the father urging his son to hearken to his parents and to buy the truth and sell it not (Prov. 23:22-23). The father exhorts his son to “*buy the truth*” by bending his whole heart and strength and life to it and to “*sell it not*” for any of the Devil’s shallow, deceptive enticements. This is what will protect the person from the enticement of worldly activities and places that promote “social drinking,” such as dance parties, bars, nightclubs, and taverns.

The winebibber has poverty (Prov. 23:19-21). Proverbs counsels the young man to avoid the company of winebibbers and gluttons, because they are associated with poverty. It is certain that they produce spiritual poverty, and they often produce financial poverty as well.

The winebibber has woe, sorrow, contentions (Prov. 23:29). Many of the woes in society are caused by drinking. Examples are broken marriages, lost friendships, fall from social standing, loss of finances, car and air crashes, disease, crime, stabbings, shootings, child delinquency, teenage pregnancy, bankruptcy, and suicide. One of my great uncles was a wealthy man who owned two bars and was a heavy drinker, and one day he drove up to a funeral home in his Cadillac, put a gun to his head, and killed himself.

The winebibber has babbling (Prov. 23:29). The drunk speaks nonsense and foolishness.

The winebibber has wounds without cause (Prov. 23:29). The drunkard can’t remember where he was or what he did and he doesn’t know how he got his wounds. He doesn’t remember the fight or the crash or the fall. My wife’s father crashed his car one night in Alaska when

he missed a sharp turn after he had gone over a bridge. He was found staggering along the road and didn’t even know what had happened.

The winebibber has redness of eyes (Prov. 23:29). He is affected in his body. His eyes are affected; his kidneys are affected; his liver is affected; his brain is affected.

The winebibber’s eyes behold strange women (Prov. 23:33). This is a description of the immorality that is intimately associated with drinking. The winebibber’s moral inhibitions are weakened and he is attracted to loose women. It has been said that “wine is the oil of the fire of lust.”

The winebibber’s heart utters perverse things (Prov. 23:33), such as cursing and bitterness and blasphemy and filthy jokes.

The winebibber is careless and foolishly fearless (Prov. 23:34). He would lie down and sleep while floating in the midst of the sea or while lying on the top of the mast of a sailing ship far above the deck. The main mast of a large ship could be 200 feet high. The drunkard drives cars and flies airplanes when he is intoxicated; he staggers along on a busy highway; he enters rowdy bars he would otherwise avoid; he challenges fierce men to a fight. In July 2010 a drunk Australian broke into a wildlife park and tried to ride a 15-foot saltwater crocodile, miraculously surviving with only a leg bite. The winebibber is careless in spending money. He is careless in morals. He is careless in running with the wrong crowd. He is careless in throwing away priceless relationships and precious friendships.

The winebibber doesn’t feel pain (“*They have stricken me, shalt thou say, and I was not sick; they have beaten me, and I felt it not,*” Prov. 23:35). The drunkard is oblivious to the pain caused by his drunken folly until he wakes up from his stupor.

The winebibber is strangely enslaved (“*when shall I awake? I will seek it yet again,*” Prov. 23:35). Before one drunken episode is barely finished he wants to seek it yet again. Even when drink has ruined his health and destroyed his marriage and thrown away his career, he usually does not quit. “It is like a deep ditch and a narrow pit, which it is almost impossible to get out of; and therefore it is wisdom to keep far from the brink of it.

Take heed of making any approaches towards this sin, because it is so hard to make a retreat from it, conscience, which should head the retreat, being debauched by it, and divine grace forfeited” (Matthew Henry).

3. The Bible commands the believer not to give offense in anything (1 Corinthians 10:32-33).

I quit smoking a few months after I was saved and it was not because I thought it was inherently wrong or because I was concerned about my health; it was because I knew that it could offend others. I wanted my testimony to be pure of offence so that God would use me and I would have eternal fruit. I didn't want to be witnessing to someone and have them possibly ignore me or be distracted because they saw a pack of cigarettes in my pocket.

If that is true for smoking, and it is, then it is even truer for drinking alcoholic beverages. It is a fact that many unbelievers think that a believer should not drink. They have higher standards for Christians than some Christians have for themselves.

Consider Utah, where even Mormons believe it is wrong to drink alcoholic beverages! How would Mormons look upon non-Mormon Christians who drink?

Even the possibility that someone would be offended because of his drinking should be sufficient for the believer to put it out of his life, and that possibility is very great in modern society.

Paul was willing to stop eating meat entirely in this present world if he thought someone would be offended and his testimony hurt (1 Cor. 8:13), and eating meat is a perfectly legitimate activity. How much more should a believer be willing to give up alcoholic beverages, which are highly questionable at best and have the potential in themselves to cause harm (which meat does not)!

David Pratte issues the following important challenge in his report “The Bible and Use of Alcoholic Beverages.”

If you drink, consider your influence on the following kinds of people:

- Influence on young people; most start drinking because of peers and parents.

- Influence on former addicts; if they drink at all, they will be ‘addicted’ again.
- Influence on people to whom we seek to teach the gospel; how can we convert drunkards or people who know Christians should not drink?
- Influence on all people; 1 out of 10 of people who drink will become alcoholics and far more will get drunk.

4. The Bible commands the believer to abstain from all appearance of evil (1 Thessalonians 5:22).

That is a far-reaching exhortation. Alcoholic beverages are a great evil and curse in modern society. Consider the automobile wrecks, the ruined health and early graves, the adulteries, the lewdness, the divorces, the neglected children, the abused wives, the sexual abuse, the waste of money, the gambling, the blasphemy, the pure foolishness. Look at the beer and liquor ads, how they invariably flaunt sensuality and irresponsibility.

In January 2005 the Royal College of Physicians in England warned that Britain is suffering from an epidemic of alcohol-related problems that is fueling violence and illness throughout the country (*The Telegraph*, Jan. 3, 2005). The same epidemic is raging throughout the world. According to an April 2010 report, vodka consumption in Russia is an epidemic. The average Russian drinks from 15 to 18 liters of hard liquor annually, which reduces the average life expectancy by a decade. For Russian men, the life expectancy is just 61.8 years. In 2014, the World Health Organization reported that 3.3 million people die each year because of alcohol. That's more than die of AIDS, tuberculosis, and violence combined. “Including drunk driving, alcohol-induced violence and abuse, and a multitude of diseases and disorders, alcohol causes one in 20 deaths globally every year.” That's one death every 10 seconds. Another study found that alcohol use is responsible for 1 in 10 deaths among working-age adults. That adds up to 88,000 deaths between 2006 and 2010, and the lives of those who died were shortened by about 30 years (“Drinking behind 1 in 10 deaths of working-age adults,” *USA Today*, June 26, 2014).

If anything has the appearance of evil today, it is alcoholic beverages, and the Bible does not *suggest* that we abstain from all appearance of evil; it *commands* us to do so!

5. There is a difference between the alcoholic content of wine today and that of Bible times.

Alcoholic wine in Bible times was often weak. It was not uncommon to mix one part wine with two or three parts water. Unmixed wine was the strong wine with high alcoholic content (Rev. 14:10).

“Many wine-drinking Christians today mistakenly assume that what the New Testament meant by wine is identical to wine used today. This, however, is false. In fact, today’s wine is by biblical definition strong drink, and hence is forbidden in the Bible. ... Even ancient pagans did not drink what some Christians drink today” (Norman Geisler, *Focus in Missions*, Sept. 1986).

“To consume the amount of alcohol that is in two martinis today, by drinking wine containing three parts water to one part wine (the biblical ratio) a person would have to drink over twenty-two glasses” (Robert Stein, *Ibid.*).

“A one-ounce ‘shot’ of whiskey (50% alcohol) contains as much alcohol as one glass of modern wine (10-23% alcohol) or as one can or bottle of beer (4-6% alcohol). Should a Christian drink a shot of whiskey? If not, why would it be acceptable to drink a glass of wine or a can of beer?” (*The Bible and Use of Alcoholic Beverages*, GospelWay.com).

6. The New Testament believer is a king and priest (Re. 1:6; 5:10), and as such he is forbidden to drink. See Leviticus 10:8-11; Proverbs 31:4-5.

Kelly Whiting comments:

“Both Old Testament passages focus on the responsibility of priests and kings not to pervert the Law of God and the passages identify the use of alcohol as running that risk and THEREFORE, it is entirely banned by God from their use. As New Testament believers, we are made, by the decree of God, ‘kings and priests.’ Old time Baptists were strong on the priesthood of the Believer, though modern Baptists almost never mention it. But priests we are, both by the declaration of God in Revelation 1:6 and by our calling to bring sinners to God by leading them to Jesus Christ and praying for them. That requires the same care in the use of the Law (Scripture) that Old Testament kings and priests were required to show. No other argument is as convincing to me because this one relies on the plain language of Scripture when compared in context. It doesn’t ask me to be ‘prudent’ or ‘cautious,’ not that those aren’t good qualities. ... It simply says, God declares that I

am a king and priest and neither are allowed to drink alcohol. It’s a simple command of God.”

7. We believe that the wine Jesus made at the wedding in John 2 was non-alcoholic. It was the pure juice of the grape.

Following are the reasons why we believe that Jesus did not make alcoholic wine that day:

- a. It was unlawful for kings and priests to drink alcoholic wine, and Jesus was both (Pr. 31:4; Lev. 10:8-11).
- b. It is forbidden to give wine to others to make them drunk (Hab. 2:15).
- c. It is unwise for men to drink alcoholic wine (Pr. 20:1), and we know that Jesus, Wisdom incarnate, would not do anything unwise.
- d. Alcoholic wine is a deceiver (Pr. 20:1), and we know that Christ did not come to deceive people.
- e. Had Jesus given the people alcoholic wine at that juncture in the wedding, He and they would have been breaking God’s commandment not to tarry long at the wine (Pr. 23:29-30).
- f. Christ did not come to cause people to stumble (Rom. 14:21). The late Bruce Lackey observes, “Everyone who has studied the problem of alcoholism has learned that some people cannot handle any amount of alcohol, while others may drink one or two ‘social’ drinks and stop. Experts do not know why this is true; various theories have been propounded. Some say it is chemical; others insist that it must be psychological. The fact is, we do not know for certain. In any given group of people, there would be several potential alcoholics. What a shame it would be for a person, who is a potential slave to it, to get his first taste at the Lord’s table in church, then proceed down the road of misery to an alcoholic’s grave! I certainly would not want my children to get their first taste of alcohol at the family meal, nor would I want them to get it at church. One or more of them could well be potential alcoholics. As evidence that this is possible, we should consider that some denominations which

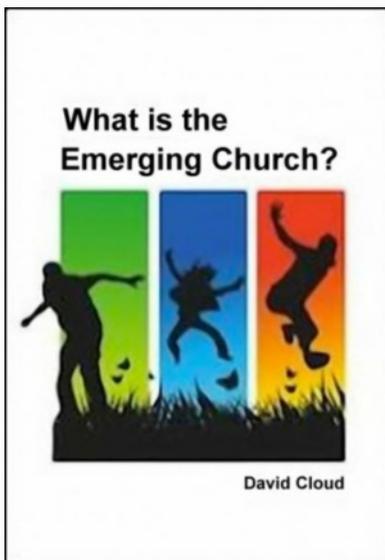
serve alcoholic wine in their religious services also operate homes for alcoholic priests! But we can be absolutely sure that Christ did not come to cause others to stumble!”

- g. The fact that the people at the wedding recognized Jesus’ wine as superior to the earlier wine shows that they were not drunken (Jn. 2:10). Had they been drunken, they would not have noticed that the wine that Jesus made was better.
- h. This miracle glorified Jesus as the Messiah (Joh. 2:11). Had He made and distributed alcoholic wine to make the people further drunk, this would not have glorified Him as the holy, righteous Messiah. “Had Christ made alcoholic wine and had the people been drinking alcoholic wine prior to that, He would have made drunk people drunker, or almost-drunken people completely drunk! Such a deed would certainly not have manifested any glory to Him” (Bruce Lackey).
- i. We know that the Spirit of God would not have put anything in the Bible to encourage drunks, to cause men to offend in sin (Ro. 14:21; 1 Co. 10:31-33), but the idea that Jesus made alcoholic wine for distribution at a wedding has done exactly that. Any lush who knows anything whatsoever about the Bible, believes that Jesus made alcoholic wine and uses that to justify his sin.

Conclusion

1. While it is true that the Israelites were allowed to drink alcoholic wine and strong drink on occasions (e.g., Deut. 14:26), this does not mean that it is God’s will for His people to do so today. The New Testament believer has a higher standard of living. The law of Moses made provision for polygamy, for example, but the New Testament nowhere makes such a provision.
2. There is no need for a Christian to drink alcoholic beverages. It adds nothing of value to his life.
3. We live in a world filled with spiritual and moral danger (1 Peter 5:8). We have great spiritual enemies: the world, the flesh, and the devil. It is wise to avoid anything that would produce spiritual weakness and put us in harm’s way.
4. We live an hour of great apostasy (2 Timothy 4:3-4). The reason the emerging church loves to drink is that they boast of liberty and live according to their own lusts in fulfillment of Paul’s prophecy. It is foolish to follow this example.

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



What is the Emerging Church?

In this book we explore the following:

- (1) What is the Emerging Church? (2) A Great Blending and Merging (3) The Liberal Emerging Church (4) The Conservative Emerging Church (5) Brian McLaren: The Emerging Church’s Biggest Mouth (6) Cain the First Emergent Worshipper (7) Charles Spurgeon Exposed the Emerging Church.

Free eBook - Read or Download it [HERE!](#)

Or go to: www.wayoflife.org/publications/books/what_is_emrming_church.php

Isaiah's Great Prophecy of **TYRE**

By David Cloud

The following is excerpted from a new commentary on [Isaiah](#), which was published in the [Way of Life Commentary Series](#):



1. Tyre was a great city in ancient times.

She was the chief city of the far-flung Phoenician Empire. Isaiah calls Tyre “the crowning city” (Isa. 23:8). Its antiquity was of ancient days (Isa. 23:7). It was built partly on the coast and partly on a rocky island standing some distance away in the Mediterranean sea.

(For more information about Tyre and the Phoenician Empire and for an illustrated PowerPoint presentation see *The Hand of God in World History*, which is available from Way of Life Literature.)

2. Isaiah’s prophecy looks beyond the historical city of Tyre to Satan’s world kingdom which is motivated by covetousness and greed.

Ezekiel 28:11-19 tells us that the “king of Tyre” is Satan. Babylon and Tyre represent different aspects of the satanic world system. Babylon represents the religious, idolatrous aspect, whereas Tyre represents the commercial aspect whereby men selfishly seek wealth, luxury, and comfort by any means.

3. Isaiah describes Tyre’s extensive commercial enterprises.

Her ships pass over the sea (Isa. 23:2).

She is replenished by the merchant ships of Zidon (Isa. 23:2). Zidon to the north was the other chief city of Phoenicia. Zidon’s merchants “pass over the sea,”

meaning they traveled to the ends of the Mediterranean and beyond on trading ventures.

Tyre is the mart of nations (Isa. 23:3). The Phoenicians of Tyre and Sidon traded with Egypt and Africa and Israel to the south, Tarshish in western Europe, Javan, Tubal and Meshech in Armenia, Dedan and Sheba in southern Arabia, Asshur and other cities in Mesopotamia, Persia in the east, and beyond to India (Ezekiel 27). The Phoenicians were renowned for their craftsmanship and commerce. “The Phoenician cities consisted of large centres specializing in the manufacture of luxury and prestige articles destined for international trade and to satisfy the needs of a very restricted social elite in the east for prestige, authority, and dominion” (Maria Aubet, *The Phoenicians and the West*, p. 59).

The prophet Ezekiel says that they traded in vessels of bright brass, gold, silver, iron, tin, lead, horses, mules, chariots and chariot ornaments, vessels of ivory and ebony, coral, emeralds, agates, and other precious stones, cloth of purple, blue, and fine linen with elaborate embroidery, wheat, honey, oil, balm, cassia, calamus, wine, white wool, lambs, goats, and cedar chests (Ezekiel 27)

Much of Tyre’s revenue came from trade in Egyptian grain (Isa. 23:3). “Sihor was in eastern Egypt (Jos. 13:3) and may be a branch of the Nile River. The grain of the Sihor referred to grain grown in the fertile land watered by that part of the Nile” (*Bible Knowledge Commentary*).

Tyre is supplied from Tarshish (Isa. 23:6). Tarshish, referring to Spain on the western end of the Mediterranean, was a great trading partner with Tyre, dealing in silver, iron, tin, and lead (Eze. 27:12). The tin was from England. The name “Brittania” means “the land of tin.”

Tyre's merchants were princes and the honourable of the earth (Isa. 23:8).

4. Isaiah describes the fall of Tyre.

In this section we will examine Isaiah 23:5-18 as well as Ezekiel 26 to get the full prophetic picture of Tyre.

Tyre's trading partners were frightened at Tyre's judgment (Isa. 23:1-3). Tarshish was probably in Spain and Chittim was the island of Cyprus. Sihor was in the Nile Valley at the entrance to Egypt and was a major exporter of grain (Jos. 13:3).

These places represented Phoenicia's far-flung commercial enterprise which extended in all directions and encompassed the entire Mediterranean region. These were "the honourable of the earth" (Isa. 23:8). They were the wealthy traders of the day, like the owners of international companies such as Apple, Microsoft, Nike, and Honda of our day. Tyre's colonies and trading partners were pained at the loss of wealth (Isa. 23:5).

The prophecy also looks ahead to the downfall of Satan's commercial kingdom at the end of the age when the merchants of the earth will weep (Re. 18:9-11).

God's judgment on ancient Tyre was because of her pride (Isa. 23:9). Pride was first found in Satan, and God hates it. Pride is self-centeredness rather than God-centeredness. It is giving the glory to the creature which belongs solely to the Creator. God has purposed to "stain the pride of all glory," which ultimately will be accomplished in the Great Tribulation (Isa. 2:11; 5:15; 13:11). It is called the "day of the Lord" because in that day God will be exalted and man humbled. We see that God is in ultimate control of all historical events, and His purposes cannot be thwarted.

God's judgment was also because of Tyre's idolatry and moral wickedness whereby she enticed mankind. She is likened to a harlot (Isa. 23:15-16). This points to the end-time Babylon harlot that will rule with the antichrist and will blaspheme God (Re. 17:1-3). It points to the end-time global pop culture with its arrogance and rebellion against God's holy laws. Observe that Tyre had "many songs" (Isa. 23:16). This reminds us of the role that sensual music plays in the immoral pop culture of these end times.

Tyre was taken captive for 70 years, then restored (Isa. 23:15-18). This refers either to Tyre's subjugation by Assyria from 700 BC to 630 BC or to Nebuchadnezzar's subjugation of Assyria. "Nebuchadnezzar besieged Tyre and partially destroyed it, carrying away many of its people into captivity. During the same seventy years in which Israel remained in captivity, the Phoenician city was in a state of degradation and collapse, but after the death of Nebuchadnezzar and, a few years later, the capture of Babylon by the Medes and Persians, Tyre was largely rebuilt, though it never again became the commercial city it had been. But it sought to establish intimate relations with various surrounding peoples in the effort to recoup its misfortunes" (Ironside).

An overview of Tyre's destruction (Eze. 26:3-6)

Tyre's downfall will be at the hand of many nations (Eze. 26:3). Tyre was attacked and overcome by the Assyrians, the Babylonians, the Greeks, the Syrians, the Romans, and finally the Muslims.

Tyre's walls and towers were destroyed. This was done first by Nebuchadnezzar and then by Alexander.

Tyre's dust was scraped and she became like the top of a rock. This was done when Alexander built a road out to the island.

Tyre became a place for the spreading of nets. The great mart of the nations eventually became a lowly fishing town. On a visit to Tyre in 1838, Andrew Bonar and R.M. M'Cheyne wrote, "Alexander the Great seems actually to have scraped away the very rubbish as well as the stones of Old Tyre to construct his causeway; and now the bare rocks along the shore, on some part of which the ancient city must have stood, are literally a place for the spreading of nets. The first man we met in the gate of Tyre was a fisherman carrying a load of fish" (*Narrative of a Visit to the Holy Land*, p. 262).

Tyre was a spoil to the nations. After her destruction by Alexander, Tyre was the vassal of whatever power happened to dominate the region.

Tyre's daughters were slain by the sword. This refers to her satellite towns on the coast. They were destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar and again by Alexander.

Nebuchadnezzar's assault on Tyre (Eze. 26:7-11)

Nebuchadnezzar brought a great army against Tyre (Eze. 26:7).

He destroyed Tyre's satellite towns and villages on the coast (Eze. 26:8).

He besieged Tyre with mounts and engines of war (Eze. 26:8-9). Depictions of this type of warfare can be seen in the Lachish Room at the British Museum which displays Assyria's siege of Lachish with mounts and battering rams. (For an illustrated study on this see the PowerPoint presentation on Assyria in [Bible Times and Ancient Kingdoms](#), available from Way of Life Literature.)

He broke down Tyre's towers (Eze. 26:9).

He entered the city with his war chariots and killed many of the people (Eze. 26:10-11).

But Nebuchadnezzar was not able to conquer the island fortress and gather Tyre's wealth which had been shifted there before his assault on the coastal city. This is prophesied in Ezekiel 29:18-20. God gave Egypt's treasures to Nebuchadnezzar as his wages, instead. "After the Babylonians had besieged Tyre for 13 years and were unable to take New Tyre, which was on the rock island, they went on to Egypt and in 568-567 B.C. conquered it" ("The Amazing Downfall of Tyre," MidnightCall.com).

Alexander the Great's assault on Tyre (Eze. 26:12-14)

In verse 12, the pronoun changes from "he" (Nebuchadnezzar) to "they" (Alexander's army).

Alexander asked the Tyrians for permission to worship at the temple of Melqart, which he identified with the Greek god Hercules. They refused, believing that it was a ploy to gain entrance into the city. They felt secure with their navy and their walls. When Alexander made one final demand that they surrender, they killed his ambassadors and threw their bodies into the sea. That was a big mistake.

In an amazing feat of engineering and persistence, Alexander constructed a causeway from the shore to the island one kilometer long and 200 feet wide. In

the process of building the causeway, Alexander used the material from the ruins of the city that Nebuchadnezzar had destroyed and literally swept the stones, timber, and dust into the sea, as Ezekiel had prophesied. Alexander led from the front as usual, spending much of his time on the causeway, encouraging and rewarding the workers.

As the causeway got nearer to the city, the Tyrians killed many soldiers and laborers with arrows and spears fired from the city walls and ships.

To counter this, Alexander built the highest siege towers ever used in the history of war. Each one was 20 stories tall. They had wheels on which to travel across the causeway where they were used as artillery platforms with catapults and ballista to hurl missiles and large stones at the Tyrians. The towers were covered with rawhide and kept soaked with water to protect them from flaming arrows. They were also connected with a large rawhide screen to protect the causeway workers.

As a counter measure, the Tyrians made a fire ship from a horse transport filled with dried branches, pitch, and sulfur. Cauldrons of oil were hung from the masts. They weighed down the back of the ship to raise up the front and ran it onto the end of the causeway, burning up the towers and the siege equipment. Alexander ordered the project to continue.

Alexander was able to gain command of the sea around Tyre with a fleet of 225 ships, including those that had defected from the Persians. He mounted siege equipment and battering rams on some of the ships. The Tyrians poured red-hot sand over the walls onto the besieging ships, setting some on fire and burning the soldiers.

Alexander finally gained access to the south part of the city walls and personally led his army into the city.

Alexander killed 8,000 Tyrians, crucifying 2,000 on the beach. He sold 30,000 into slavery, including women and children. Previously, Tyre had sold Jews as slaves to the Grecians; now the Grecians enslaved the people of Tyre (Joel 3:4-6).

5. The prophet describes the restoration of Tyre in the end times and her association with Christ's kingdom (Isa. 23:18).

Tyre will be one of nations that will supply merchandise to glorify Christ's headquarters in Jerusalem. Compare Isaiah 60:5-7; Psalm 45:12; 72:10.

Note that "her merchandise and her hire shall be holiness to the Lord." All commercial dealings from top to bottom will be just and righteous and compassionate in Christ's kingdom and will no longer be based on selfishness,

covetousness, greed, and dishonesty, as in this present world. "It is evident that the last verse of our chapter, like so many other prophetic scriptures, carries us beyond the present age to the establishment of the Messianic kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ. In that day a new city will be raised up on the ruins of Tyre and will be subject to Him whose right it is to reign, and will bring her glory and honor to His feet. This is predicted both here and in Psalm 45:12 where we see Israel, once more recognized as the wife of Jehovah, and the daughter of Tyre among those who rejoice in her blessing and bring their gifts to the king" (Ironsides).



THE HUMAN EYE

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

The bewildering complexity of the human eye speaks eloquently of an Almighty Creator. The eye's retina is less than one square inch in surface area but it contains 137 million light-sensitive receptor cells. 130 million of these are rod cells (which see in black and white) while 7 million are cone cells (which allow color vision).

Each photoreceptor cell is more complex than the most sophisticated man-made computer (Alan

Gillen, *Body by Design*, p. 98). And each complex photoreceptor cell replaces itself every seven days.

The eye has a dynamic range of 10 billion to one; that is, it will detect a single photon of light and will still work well in an intensity of 10 billion photons.

By contrast, modern photographic film has a dynamic range of about 1,000 to one (Jonathan Sarfati, Ph.D., *By Design*, p. 26), and a high quality single lens reflex (DSLR) camera has a dynamic range of about 2000 to 1.

A healthy eye can see the light from a single candle 25 miles away. At every level the human eye demonstrates mind-boggling complexity. For example, in response to bright light, a protein called arrestin rushes to "bind and calm the light-detecting proteins." Arrestin is shuttled at lightning speed by a motor protein called myosin along special tracks of the cell's internal skeleton (Sarfati, *By Design*, p. 27).

"For the cell to properly adapt to bright light, arrestin needs to move; if it doesn't, the cell remains as sensitive to light as it was when it was dark" (C. Montell).

DIGGING IN THE WALLS

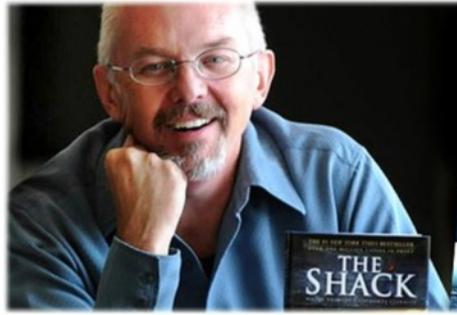
God commanded the prophet Ezekiel to dig in the walls of Israel's temple and observe the evils being done in secret by apostate religious leaders of that day. "Then said he unto me, Son of man, dig now in the wall ... And he said unto me, Go in, and behold the wicked abominations that they do here. So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



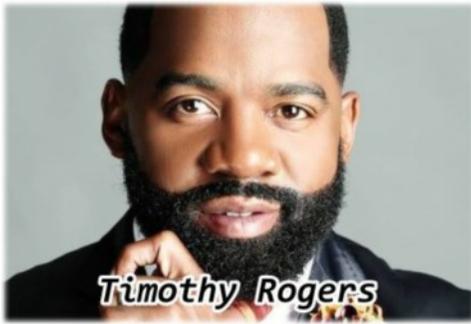
THE SHACK AUTHOR PREACHES UNIVERSALISM

(Friday Church News Notes, June 29, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- William Paul Young, author of the popular and influential novel *The Shack*, said in a recent interview that those who die without faith in Jesus Christ will have further opportunities for salvation. He says, "Romans itself says that death can't separate you from the love of God. ... I don't think death is our damnation. I think that Jesus is both our salvation and rightful judge but that judgment is intended for our good, not our harm" ("The Shack author on God the Father, sexual sin and the afterlife," *EternityNews.com*, Australia, Jun. 20, 2018). Young is a false teacher who is saying what many people want to hear. He is one of those "heaps of teachers" described in the prophecy of 2 Timothy 4:3-4 who scratch the ears of those who want a kind of Christianity that allows them to live according to their lusts. William Young abuses and twists Scripture terribly, ignoring context which is the most fundamental rule of interpretation, and taking promises that refer to a believer in Jesus Christ and wrongly applying them to the unbeliever. Jesus Christ Himself left no doubt about the destiny of the unbeliever. "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). Fundamentally, *The Shack* is about redefining God. Young has said that the book is for those with "a longing that God is as kind and loving as we wish he was" (interview with Sherman Hu, Dec. 4, 2007). He is referring to the desire on the part of the natural man for a God who loves "unconditionally," does not require repentance, does not judge sin, and does not make men feel guilty for what they do. *The Shack* depicts a false god, yet it has been endorsed by Pat Robertson's 700 Club, CCM artist Michael W. Smith, sports star Tim Tebow, Gayle Erwin of Calvary Chapel, James Ryle of the Vineyard churches, Gloria Gaither (who hosted a reading of *The Shack* as reported in the *New York Times*), Mark Lowry (former singer with the Gaithers), Eugene Peterson, author of *The Message*, Wade Burleson, pastor of Southern Baptist Emmanuel Baptist Church of Enid, Oklahoma, and many others. In October 2017, the Gospel Music Association's Dove awards selected *The Shack* movie as the "inspiration film of the year." William Young was one of the speakers at the February 2009 National Pastor's Convention in San Diego, sponsored by Zondervan and InterVarsity Fellowship. "Evangelical" Christianity is well on its way to total apostasy. (For more about William Paul Young and *The Shack*, see "*The Shack's* Cool God," www.wayoflife.org/database/shackscoolgod.html)

ARKANSAS PASTOR CALLS HELL A "FAIRYTALE" (Friday Church News Notes, June 22, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from "Popular Arkansas Pastor," *Christian Post*, Jun. 21, 2018: "Timothy



Rogers, a popular Arkansas evangelist and singer, is coming under fire after he recently declared at a funeral that hell is a 'fairytale' no different than Santa Claus. Rogers, 38, who leads the Prince of Peace church in Blytheville, made his comments during a more than hour-long presentation at the funeral of a young man he said he did not know but was of the same generation. 'Is he [the young man who passed] going to hell? Did he accept Jesus as his ...? See, y'all have been sold a lie. You've been bamboozled. All that stuff is a fairytale. To believe in Hell means you have to believe in Santa Claus. ... Hell is an imaginary place.' In his sermon, Rogers explained that life is a gift freely given to man by God to 'do whatever you want to do with your life.' He described the Bible as a manual on how to live life successfully. The choices made by individuals in their personal lives, he said, will determine whether they experienced heaven or hell. 'Hell is what you create,' he said, to shouts of 'c'mon pastor.'"

ANOTHER TESTIMONY ABOUT THE DANGER OF MEDICAL QUACKERY (Friday Church News Notes, June 22, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - "I am also thankful for warnings against quackery. We have a family in our church where the godly wife had a type of cancer that was easily

curable by medical science. However, she decided to go with an alternative/unconventional 'medical' cure, which worked no better than a placebo, and she died from the easily curable cancer. Now her husband is raising their family and many of the children are not doing very well. It is tragic. We also have others in the church who have unnecessary ailments, e. g, children who have mouths full of cavities because their parents are against fluoride toothpaste, children that have gotten sick from diseases because parents refuse to vaccinate, etc., that are (usually) not life-threatening but do not bring honor to the name of Christ. When Christians fall for quackery, the world can easily conclude that the (massive) evidence for the Bible must be like the (non-extant) evidence for quack medicine, since Christians are practicing both." (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/.)

STEPS TO A STRONGER CHURCH FOR THE 21ST CENTURY (Friday Church News Notes, June 29, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - We are pleased to announce the new free video series "Steps to a Stronger Church for the 21st Century." It deals with the following subjects: a church that is stronger in leadership, prayer, salvation, membership, God's standards for workers, evangelism, church planting, and world missions. The series was preached at our ninth annual Bible conference in the Philippines in January, hosted by Berean Bible Baptist Church of Cavite, near Manila, pastored by our dear friend Medel Barrera. The series

was video recorded and is now available online for free viewing and download. It is very encouraging to see some of the churches in the Philippines moving in a stronger biblical direction, which is exactly opposite of the direction most Independent Baptists are heading. Following are links to the online video series -

https://www.wayoflife.org/s3/steps_to_a_stronger_church.php

The audio files can be accessed at the following page -

<https://www.wayoflife.org/audiosermons/>

TWO GENERATIONS OF BAPTIST PASTORS: THE CONSERVATIVE AND THE EMERGING (Friday Church News Notes, June 29, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Charles Stanley and his son Andy represent two generations of Southern Baptist pastors, one "conservative" and one emerging. Charles, 85, is the long-time senior pastor of First Baptist Church of Atlanta, while Andy, 60, is the very cool pastor of North Point Community Church in Alpharetta, an Atlanta suburb. One of their fundamental differences is the view of homosexuality. Charles believes that homosexuality is a sin and that homosexual marriage is absolutely wrong, based on the Bible, while Andy holds a broader, more "tolerant" view based on a



“consensus.” In the book *The New Rules for Love, Sex and Dating*, Andy says, “My purpose in writing this book was not to push a religious or even my Christian agenda.” So much for God’s command to “preach the Word” (2 Timothy 4:2)! At an event in April 2015 promoting his “change maker’s” organization called Catalyst, Andy said, “We need to decide, regardless of what you think about this topic [homosexuality], no more students are going to feel like they have to leave the local church because they’re same-sex attracted or because they’re gay. That ends with us” (“Dr. Charles Stanley and Son Andy,” *The Gospel Herald*, Apr. 23, 2015). “Conservative” Charles Stanley built the bridges to the emerging church on which the second generation is treading, particularly by his broad-tent SBC philosophy and acceptance of contemporary worship music. I visited First Baptist of Atlanta in the 1990s and they were rocking out even then. Many older independent Baptist preachers are building the same bridges and the result will be the same. Already many of the younger independent Baptist preachers have crossed the bridges of compromise and are walking in dangerous territory. It is the Charles Stanleys and their “soft,” non-confrontational approach that laid the foundation for the Andy Stanleys of this generation. The Charles Stanleys preached the Word, but without the rebuke demanded by God (2 Timothy 4:2). It was not what they said that was wrong, so much as what they neglected to say. This is exactly what characterizes a large percentage of Independent Baptist pulpits today, and the fruit will be the same.

THE BIBLE IS THE SUFFICIENT AND SOLE AUTHORITY FOR

FAITH AND PRACTICE (Friday Church News Notes, June 29, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)



- “All scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works” (2 Timothy 3:16-17). Since the Bible is able to make the man of God perfect in all good works, nothing else is needed, not extra-biblical visions or prophecies, not extra-biblical traditions or councils, not extra-biblical science, not human philosophies, not miracles and mystical experiences, not Hollywood movies. “Let us, then, study and prize the Bible. It is a holy and a safe guide. It has conducted millions along the dark and dangerous way of life, and has never led one astray. The human mind, in its investigations of truth, has never gone beyond its teachings; nor has man ever advanced into a region so bright that its light has become dim, or where it has not thrown its beams of glory on still far distant objects” (Barnes). 2 Timothy 3:16-17 changed the entire course of my life in 1973 when I understood that the Bible alone as the infallible revelation God has given to mankind and I submitted to it as the complete Word of God. Prior to that point in my life, I was guided by a hodgepodge of philosophy and religion, a little Mao Tse Tung, a little

Paramahansa Yogananda, a little Ayn Rand, a little Hermann Hesse, a little of the Southern Baptist Sunday School lessons from my childhood, and a lot of the Beatles and Bob Dylan and the Who and the Rolling Stones, combined with a heaping dose of my own opinions. On one glorious evening in the summer of 1973, I turned my back on all of that to receive the Bible alone as my guide in life and Jesus Christ alone as my Lord and Saviour, and I have never regretted it, for I found satisfaction and rest for my soul.

REJECTION OF BIBLE SEPARATION A SLIPPERY SLOPE (Friday Church News Notes, July 6, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The rejection of Bible separation is a slippery slope. It begins in “small” ways with “a little leaven” and takes incremental steps, always moving farther away from the Bible’s teaching on separation. The rejection of separation begins softly and quietly. It is something that can be difficult to put one’s finger on, something not easy to identify. It is a change of mood as much as anything. The rejection of separation begins with a mere change in mood toward a more positive emphasis. It is characterized by a greater tolerance of error. It is a gradual loss of militant zeal in the defense of the faith. The first step in the rejection of separation can be identified not so much by what a preacher or a church or a Bible college does or says as by what it fails to do and what it neglects to say. Typically, those who are at the outset of rejecting separatism are offended when someone challenges them that this might be happening. They still want to be known as separatists because they are still associated with

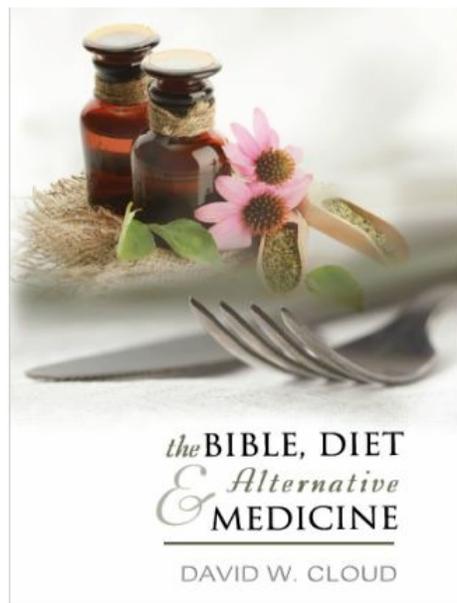


separatists or with those who want to be known as separatists. The following questions can help identify whether or not a church is going soft on separation: Do clear warnings go out from the pulpit? Are the people who sit under the church's ministry well educated about influential compromisers and heretics? Does the church invite strong separatist preachers to blow the trumpet against compromise in a plain way? Does the church warn more about disunity and "fragmentation" than it does about compromise? Does the church dislike men who give plain public warnings about compromise? Does the church ever host a conference on separation and give clear warning on issues? Does the church publicly and unhesitatingly identify itself with forthright separatists? Does the church recommend literature on separation to its members? What is in the bookstore? Is separation something that was once preached, talked about, and practiced but now left out of the agenda? Is the church affiliating with those who are careless in their affiliations? Is the church warming up to "conservative evangelicals"? Does the church routinely recommend books by New Evangelicals? Is the church affiliating with those who use CCM and contemporary Southern Gospel and perhaps moving toward adopting this music itself? CCM is not just music; it is a philosophy of Christianity that

is diametrically opposed to separatism and CCM and a separatist stance cannot and will not live in harmony for long.

ANOTHER TESTIMONY ABOUT THE DANGERS OF QUACKERY (Friday Church News Notes, July 6, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

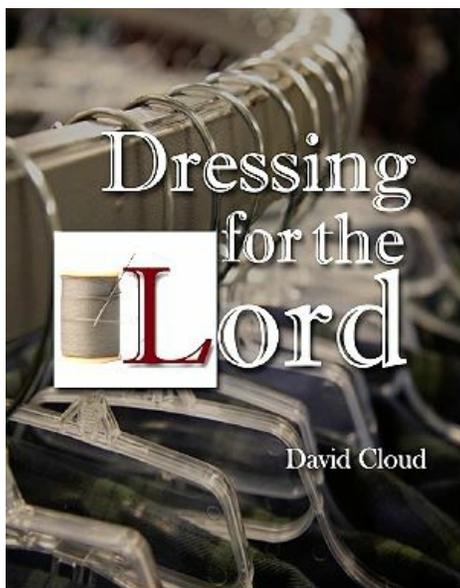
- "Thank you for your research on diet plans. You are showing logic and wisdom in something that my wife and I have been fighting for years. We have had to separate from many, many of our friends in the ministry because of their outrageous stances on diet. We cannot be around them without being persecuted for our 'lack of concern' for our wellbeing. In _____ church in _____, there are dozens of these families who literally worship their bodies through these diet plans. ... One couple in that church, whom I am very good friends with, had children who had serious allergies. They are now 'experts' in dietary lifestyle. She is a mid-wife. And they cut out everything processed (to the extreme), will only



eat 'organic' vegetables and meats (to the extreme), and even have filtered all drinking fluids (to the extreme). They were the leaders in all of this. Then, they decided to have another child. That child is 10 times more allergic to everything, and has other serious health problems, which they used to claim were linked to diet. Interesting..... I wonder how much money this market is stealing away from missions giving? ... Thank you and Amen to your research on this topic." (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/.)

A CHRISTIAN WOMAN'S TESTIMONY ABOUT DRESS (Friday Church News Notes, July 6, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- "I really want to thank you for writing your book, [Dressing for the Lord](#). It was a great help in my Bible study and coming to the conclusion that I did about dress and God has really changed my heart and humbled me through this. ... What really pierced me with truth was when I saw two men during the time I was studying and they were in the same store but on different days when I was shopping and they were dressed and acting like women. ... to be perfectly honest, my first reaction inside was the disgust and offense I felt as a woman. These men were making a complete mockery of what it means to be a woman. They were also throwing out the wonderful manhood God designed them for. It both disgusted and saddened me. As I was retelling this to some friends and explaining my feelings on this, I slipped out that I wondered if this is how men felt back when women first



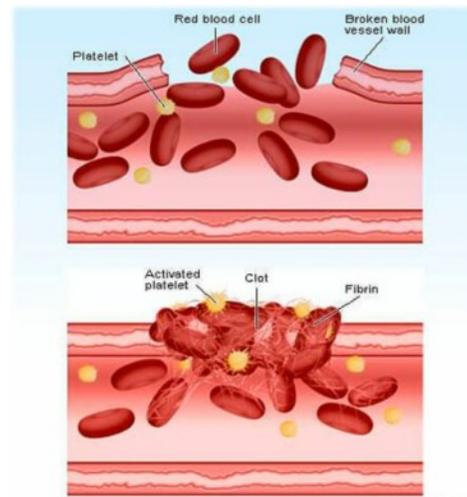
started putting on pants. I stopped there and realized that God had just convicted me out of my own mouth. That was the day I decided I was going to get rid of my pants and make some major changes and grow my hair out and keep it grown out. Also here in Ireland we recently watched the feminists win once again in a major landslide vote to bring abortion into this country. The feminist movement is the same group that started putting pants on women, pushing for androgyny and homosexuality in a very major and vocal manner, marched around in Washington DC with vulgar and disgusting costumes when trying to push abortion there, and are pushing for abortion around the whole world. If the same people who are for mass murder of innocent children as well as gender confusion and turning around what God designed are the same ones who started cutting women's hair short and putting pants on us, then I want to make it clear to anyone who looks at me that I have no part whatsoever in this wickedness. After making the decision to stop wearing pants, God has shown me that modesty and

dressing as a woman is about something even more in the heart. It is symbol of humility. It is about learning to have a meek and quiet spirit. It is about recognizing and honoring God-given authority in our lives and being content to be who God made us to be which is the best thing we can be. When I put on a long, loose skirt, and I am covered where I need to be covered, I am humbly submitting to God and to my God-given authority. I have learned that in that submission I am protected, spiritually and physically.”

THE SPIRIT OF FEAR (Friday Church News Notes, July 6, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - 2 Timothy 1:7 - “For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.” Consider some lessons from this wonderful verse of Scripture: **First**, we see that there are fears. Timothy had them and needed to be exhorted about them. Paul had them (2 Co. 7:5). I have them (e.g., thinking about the future of the work, thinking about my inability and weakness, fear of man, fear of dangers). The bravest soldiers have fears. A battle-experienced Army Ranger said, “Courage is not being fearless, but courage is moving forward in spite of the fear” (*The Warfighters*). **Second**, we see that fears do not come from God. You can be sure that your fear is not of God. The only fear that comes from God is the fear of God and the fear of sinning against God. **Third**, we see that in God there is victory over fear. We can overcome fear by faith in God. He gives power, love, and a sound mind, but we must seek these things from Him day by day. Seek power every time you are weak; seek

love every time you are selfish; seek a sound mind every time your heart is disturbed. **Fourth**, the promises of God are mighty weapons for conquering fear and every other issue that pertains to the mind (2 Co. 10:4-5). Unbelievers don't have these powerful resources. They aren't found in psychology, religion, alcohol, drugs, not even in the closest friends and relatives. There are two great promises that have often helped me to overcome fear: Psalm 138:3; 1 Peter 5:8. Both of these address the way of victory over problems in the present time.

BLOOD CLOTTING (Friday Church News Notes, July 6, 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: “Blood clotting is an example of a wonderful biological system that could not have evolved in stages. The clotting mechanism is necessary for survival in animals and humans, because the blood circulation system is pressurized, and a simple cut or wound would prove fatal if the bleeding were not stopped. Hemophilia is a life-threatening disease in which part of the clotting



apparatus is crippled. When a cut occurs, molecular signals cause various proteins to activate to create a complex meshwork that entraps the blood cells, forming the initial clot. Clotting involves over 30 distinct individual reactions, each of which is vital to heal a wound and each of which is exceedingly complex. The coordination, order, timing, and rate of action must be exact. Omitting even one of the reactions, inserting an unwanted step, or altering the timing of a step would result in death. This is why the blood clotting system is called ‘a cascade, a system where one component activates another component’ (Alan Gillen, *Body by Design*, p. 74). Consider some aspects of this intricate “cascade”: First, the clot must form quickly. Second, it must form the full length of the wound with sufficient coverage to stop the bleeding. Third, it must form only in the precise location of a wound and only enough to close the wound but not close down the blood vessels (otherwise it could block circulation, which is what causes heart attacks and strokes). Fourth, the wound must be cleansed of germs and damaged cellular tissues. This is accomplished by an increase in the flow of blood enriched with white blood cells. Fifth, the clotting process must not only stop the flow of blood but also develop a new skin cover for permanent healing. The surrounding skin cells increase the rate of reproduction to create a bridge of new skin. Sixth, at the precise time when healing is completed, other protein machinery must remove the clot. The blood clotting process begins with the creation of a protein mesh to close the wound and trap the blood. It is composed of a protein called fibrinogen that is carried in the blood plasma. Another protein,

thrombin, slices pieces of fibrinogen to create fibrin and connect them together to form a network. Long threads criss-cross the fibrin to entrap the blood cells. Think of the amazing intelligence and communication that is involved throughout this process at the cellular level! How ridiculous to think that such a thing could ‘evolve’ gradually and blindly!”

IBM ROBOT DEBATES HUMANS (Friday Church News Notes, July 13, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- An IBM AI-powered robot is debating professional debaters with impressive results. The robot, dubbed Project Debater, was developed at IBM’s research center in Haifa, Israel. The first debate was held in June in San Francisco against two Israeli debate champions. The topics were “whether space exploration should be subsidized by the government” and “the value of telemedicine and whether it should be used more widely” (“Man vs. Machine,” NoCamels.com, Jul. 5, 2018). “The humans were said to have won, but by a close call.” Promoters of this type of AI (artificial intelligence) argue that “it is about recognizing important issues for society” and allowing “decision makers to make more informed decisions.” Creators of Project Debate say, “This is territory that is uncharted to some extent and this is where we are now.” Indeed. The line between human intelligence and artificial intelligence continues to blur, and man’s dependence on robots in every part of life increases dramatically each decade. The Bible believer knows how it all will end and has nothing to fear. Robots will not take over the world. The day of the



Lord is coming when God will overthrow the age-old rebellion to His authority on this earth and set His Son Jesus Christ on its throne. Modern Israel looks to science as saviour, but it is a very poor saviour, indeed.

ANTHONY KENNEDY: AMERICA’S FIRST “GAY JUSTICE” (Friday Church News Notes, July 13, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The following is excerpted from “The First Gay Justice,” CBNNews, Jun. 28, 2018: “Washington is abuzz over the retirement of Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy. While some have called him a moderate voice on the bench, his record shows he’s actually been a primary force for progressives, giving liberals numerous wins on the social issues that have discouraged many American Christians for decades. Kennedy was actually not Ronald Reagan’s first choice for the Supreme Court—he was his third. But Kennedy became a justice on the highest court in the land after the Senate rejected Judge Robert Bork—Reagan’s first choice—and after his second choice, Judge Douglas Ginsburg, withdrew his name in the wake of criticism over his personal and ethical conduct. But Reagan likely never anticipated the crucial tie-breaker role that Kennedy would come to fill on the court, or the way

he would propel gay rights and abortion rights forward. Kennedy, 81, spent his last decade on the court as the key swing vote on an ideologically split court after Sandra Day O'Connor retired in 2006. He also went on to author the Supreme Court's most significant gay rights cases including the biggest—2015's *Obergefell v. Hodges*—which decreed that same-sex couples can marry anywhere in the United States. Kennedy wrote three other majority opinions favoring LGBT rights. ... In 2003, he led the court in striking down state bans on gay sex; and in 2013, he wrote that legally married gay couples must receive the same federal benefits as other married couples. Michael Dorf, a Cornell University law professor, declared in 2013, 'Kennedy has now firmly secured his place in history as the first gay justice.' Kennedy also made a significant decision to uphold the country's landmark abortion ruling, *Roe v. Wade*. In 1992, he was part of a majority that upheld *Roe* which declares a constitutional right to abortion. He initially was part of a group of justices that wanted to effectively overrule *Roe*. He also switched sides in 1992 to end up supporting a ban on prayer in public schools. ... Kennedy's retirement paves the way for the president to choose his second Supreme Court justice and shape the court for years to come. It's a moment that both conservatives and liberals can agree upon with respect to its significance."

SUPREME COURT RULES IN FAVOR OF PRO-LIFE CENTERS (Friday Church News Notes, July 13, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from



"Supreme Court," Ken Ham's Blog, Jul. 2, 2018: "It was recently announced that the Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS) ruled in favor of pro-life clinics in California, which means they will no longer be forced to promote abortion as an alternative—the murder of unborn children—to their clients. The California Reproductive Freedom, Accountability, Comprehensive Care, and Transparency Act required pro-life centers to inform their clients that the state of California offers free or low-cost abortions. Essentially, the state was forcing pro-life centers to promote the very thing they oppose—the murder of children in the womb! You see, these clinics exist because they oppose abortion and want to provide real hope and help to women and men—help that doesn't involve encouraging them to murder their child. This California law was clearly a violation of free speech and other First Amendment rights, and we're thankful, in their 5–4 decision, that SCOTUS recognized this obvious fact. California Attorney General Xavier Becerra did not agree. He tweeted, 'California women deserve access to unbiased & truthful information about their healthcare, we will continue working to make full healthcare access and awareness a reality.' Becerra says women deserve 'access and awareness,' but he really wants to help silence those who would encourage women to keep their

baby. He doesn't want mothers and fathers to be aware of all their options—only one: abortion. Would Becerra be open to requiring Planned Parenthood and other abortion clinics to offer real counseling to women who come into their offices, including sharing options such as adoption or choosing to keep their baby? Should they be required to do what many pro-life centers do—provide parenting classes, baby and maternity items, and continued support for moms and dads? Of course he wouldn't agree with such a measure because he doesn't really want women to know all their options, just abortion (which he calls 'healthcare,' but murder is not healthcare)."

40 STRAIGHT GALLUP POLLS SHOW MOST AMERICANS OPPOSE ABORTION (Friday Church News Notes, July 13, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from "40 Straight," CNSNews.com, Jul. 3, 2018: "In 40 straight Gallup polls over a span of 24 years, a majority of Americans have said that they believe abortion should be illegal in all or most circumstances. In the latest Gallup survey examining the issue, which was conducted May 1-10, 53 percent said they believe abortion should be illegal in all or most circumstances. The Gallup survey asks this question: 'Do you think abortion should be legal under any



circumstances, legal only under certain circumstances, or illegal in all circumstances?’ If the respondent says they believe abortion should be ‘legal only under certain circumstances,’ Gallup asks this follow-up question: ‘Do you think abortion should be legal in most circumstances or only in a few circumstances?’ Since September 1994, Gallup has asked these questions in 40 polls. In every one of those 40 polls, the combined percentage of people who said they believe abortion should be ‘illegal in all circumstances’ or ‘legal only in a few circumstances’ has exceeded 50 percent.”

FIRST COMMERCIAL DNA DATA STORAGE DEVICE SET TO LAUNCH (Friday Church News Notes, July 13, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- A start-up company called Catalog has announced that it will produce a DNA data storage device in 2019. The company, based at the Harvard Life Lab, says the method will store a terabyte of data in a tiny DNA pellet. “If kept cool and dry, DNA can reliably last for hundreds of years, so a vast data centre could be replaced by an ordinary refrigerator” (“First commercial DNA data storage device,” *New Scientist*, Jul. 4, 2018). Many researchers are working in this field, which is at its very dawn. IARPA, the research arm of the US intelligence community, has issued a challenge to develop new forms of molecular storage. Everything about this endeavor is evidence for an almighty, all-wise God. The mind-bogglingly complex living DNA itself is such evidence, and man’s great intelligence which allows him to study himself is another evidence. As Dr. David Berlinski says, “Simian



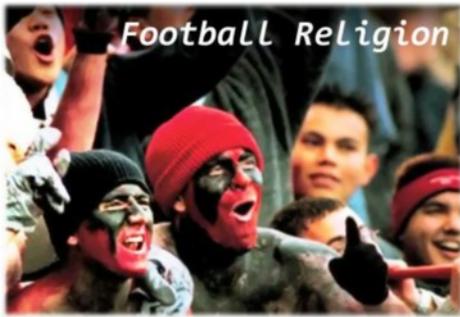
social structures are often intricate. Chimpanzees, bonobos, and gorillas reason; they form plans; they have preferences; they are cunning; they have passions and desires; and they suffer. The same is true of cats, I might add. In much of this, we see ourselves. **But beyond what we have in common with the apes, we have nothing in common, and while the similarities are interesting, the differences are profound**” (*The Devil’s Delusion*, p. 156).

HOW THE AYE-AYE TAPS INTO LUNCH

(Friday Church News Notes, July 13, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is from CreationMoments.com, May 24, 2018: “The Aye-Aye is one of the strangest little monkeys on earth. Its peculiar features bear witness that it was specially designed and created to fill a unique niche in nature, not a chance development of evolution. The Aye-Aye lives in Madagascar. This small creature has huge ears and an extra long middle finger. It crawls on trees, tapping on them to find grubs. The Aye-Aye’s ears are so sensitive that it can tell if there is a grub hole hidden beneath the surface of the wood. Not only can the Aye-Aye sense a grub hole an inch within the wood, it can even tell if there is a grub on the hole. When the Aye-Aye senses a grub, it chews into the wood with forward curving, incisor teeth. However, the Aye-Aye doesn’t have to worry about wearing its teeth down chewing on the tough wood. Its special incisor teeth are unique among primates. They continue to grow throughout the Aye-Aye’s life, just like a rodent’s teeth. Once down



to the grub, it uses its elongated middle finger to fish the grub out for lunch. Researchers have noted that the Aye-Aye fills the same niche as the woodpecker in an environment where there are no woodpeckers. The Aye-Aye has clearly been specially designed with unique features so that it can make its living in a niche that is unfilled in its own environment. Our Creator God not only made the earth to be inhabited, He designed His creatures to make a living within it. [Notes: *Science Frontiers*, pp. 136-137, ‘The Aye-Aye, A Percussive Forager.’]”



STAR FOOTBALLERS SAY IT IS A RELIGION (Friday Church News Notes, July 20, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Brazilian star Pelé, who was voted the greatest footballer of all time, says, “Football is like a religion to me. I worship the ball and treat it like a god” (“Football the universal Religion?” BBC, Jul. 13, 2018). Diego Maradona, voted fifth greatest, agrees. “[F]ootball isn’t a game, nor a sport; it’s a religion.” Scottish footballer and manager Bill Shankly says, “Some people think football’s a matter of life and death. I can assure them it is much more serious than that.” *Psychology Today* observes that “as religious attendance rates have dropped off in recent decades, interest in sport spectatorship has soared” (“Is Sport a Religion,” *Psychology Today*, Nov. 11, 2009). BBC recently said, “Football ought to be rechristened ‘the holy game.’” God’s Word says, “Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen” (1 John 5:21).

IRANIAN GENERAL AWAITING ORDERS TO DESTROY ISRAEL (Friday Church News Notes, July 20, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The deputy commander of Iran’s Revolutionary Guards recently boasted that the “Islamic army in Syria” in the Golan Heights was

awaiting orders to eradicate the “evil regime” of Israel (“Top Iranian general,” *The Times of Israel*, Jul. 9, 2018). Hossein Salami said, “Today an international Islamic army has been formed in Syria, and the voices of the Muslims are heard near the Golan. Orders are awaited, so that ... the eradication of the evil regime [Israel] will land and the life of this regime will be ended for good. The life of the Zionist regime was never in danger as it is now.” He said that “the Zionist regime constitutes a threat ... to the entire Islamic world.” Bible believers know how this is going to turn out. Israel is not going to be destroyed by Muslim nations. Israel is going to be deceived by the Antichrist’s “peace” program. He will enable Israel to build the Third Temple and then occupy it and claim to be God. During the Tribulation that will ensue, Israel will be converted. “And I will cause you to pass under the rod, and I will bring you into the bond of the covenant: And I will purge out from among you the rebels, and them that transgress against me: I will bring them forth out of the country where they sojourn, and they shall not enter into the land of Israel: and ye shall know that I am the LORD” (Ezekiel 20:37-38).

MARY WEeping IN HOBBS, NEW MEXICO (Friday Church News Notes, July 20, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - A statue of Mary at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church in Hobbs, New Mexico, began “weeping” during mass on May 20. The church secretary and her husband first noticed an “oil-like” substance on its face and on the floor below. When priest Jose “Pepe” wiped away

the substance from the statue twice “the tears still appeared.” After the phenomenon was published in newspapers, visitors began making pilgrimages to the site. Bishop Oscar Cantú said officials are investigating the phenomenon. They will start with possible natural explanations. He added, “If it is supernatural, then is it God? Or is it of an evil spirit?” (“Bishop Cantú explains investigation,” *Las Cruces Sun News*, Jun. 2, 2018). I visited the church on June 14, since I was in Hobbs to preach a Bible conference on church history, and talked with the church secretary. She showed me photos on her phone that she took of the weeping statue. When I asked her what she thought the “weeping” meant, she replied, “That Mary is sad and the world needs to change.” I asked if perhaps they could be tears of joy, but she replied that “Mary looked sad.” On July 14, the Diocese of Las Cruces announced that a chemical analysis of the “tears” found that it is olive oil (“Investigation into Weeping Virgin Mary Statue,” *Newsmax*, July 17, 2018). The Catholic Mary is a heretical figment of man’s imagination, and any actual “visitations” at Mary shrines are demonic. When “Mary” does “appear,” she invariably preaches a work’s gospel, which is cursed of God (Galatians 1:6-8). God’s Word warns of the danger of spiritual deception, and the wise will test everything by the infallible Scripture. “But I fear,



lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. ... For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works” (2 Corinthians 11:3, 13-15). “Prove all things; hold fast that which is good” (1 Thessalonians 5:21).

VIDEO GAMES AND OCCULTISM (Friday Church News Notes, July 20, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - A great many of the video games are occultic and therefore totally forbidden by God’s Word. Many are deeply influenced by the old *Dungeons and Dragons* role-playing game. Occultic video games include Diablo, Dragon Quest, World of Warcraft, EverQuest, Ultima, Wizardry, Tabook, Xenogears, Baldur’s Gate, Icewind Dale 2, Lineage 2, H1Z1, Final Fantasy, Star Fox, Silent Hill, DmC Devil May Cry, Dante’s Inferno, Legend of Zelda, Deus Ex, E.V.O.: Search for Eden, Spore, Assassin’s Creed, BioShock Infinite, Shin Megami Tensei (featuring a high school boy who is a human/demon hybrid). Some of the occultic concepts in these games are wizards (“good” or “bad”), sorcerers, Tarot, druids, spells (conjuring, alteration), reincarnation, demons, goddesses (e.g., Lillith, Gaia), Canaanite gods (e.g., Baal), Norse gods (e.g., Odin), Hindu gods (e.g., Shiva), Greek gods (e.g., Zeus), elves, super powers,



unicorns, centaurs, monsters, summons, aeons, time travel, evolution, under worlds, parallel worlds (dimensions, planes, spheres). The book *Game Magic: A Designer’s Guide to Magic Systems in Theory and Practice* by Jeff Howard instructs video game programmers in “how to construct magic systems.” It is “a magical recipe book.” It “gives you an in-depth understanding of the history and structure of magic to make your games richer and deeper.” It “shows how to set up ... spell components.” The author has studied the works of satanist Aleister Crowley as part of his research. “There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch, Or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer. For all that do these things are an abomination unto the LORD: and because of these abominations the LORD thy God doth drive them out from before thee” (Deuteronomy 18:10-12).

FAKE QUACK CANCER CURE SITE GETS 10 MILLION HITS (Friday Church News Notes, July 20, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from “How a Canadian viral science video is teaching a lesson about online health hoaxes,” *CBC News* (Canada),

Jul. 15, 2018: “Jonathan Jarry’s job is to separate sense from nonsense in science, but he never imagined that creating a fake news video would end up being his most effective tool. Facebook users may be familiar with his latest video for McGill University’s Office for Science and Society (OSS)—it has 10 million views and counting. The video title screams for a click: ‘This NATURAL TRICK can CURE YOUR CANCER.’ The opening graphic offers another too-good-to-be-true promise: ‘This amazing cure for cancer has been known since the 1800s.’ The video tells the very fake story of Dr. Johan R. Tarjany, who in 1816 discovered a kind of moss that cures cancer, knowledge the video claims has been suppressed by pharmaceutical companies. The story gets better. Tarjany added the moss to his diet and never got cancer—and great news—even though the Food and Drug Administration has banned the moss, it’s available online. Just as you’re reaching for your credit card, celebrating your discovery while simultaneously cursing big pharma, the tale unravels. Thirty-nine seconds into the video, the truth is revealed: The video that you thought promised an easy answer instead is a hard lesson in media literacy and critical thinking. ... Jarry said the idea came from a similar video a former coworker had shown him. It had six million views and purported to show a researcher who had discovered radio signals that could kill cancer cells. ... He said it was frustrating because bunk science videos often reach far wider audiences than those his team puts together. On the McGill OSS YouTube page there are a number of videos explaining topics like sloppy food science and personalized genetic

testing, but the views rank in the hundreds of thousands, not millions. ‘We don’t sell these easy solutions to complicated problems,’ Jarry said. ‘We sell nuance and criticism and uncertainty, and that doesn’t sell as well.’ ... The video ends with a message to viewers: Be skeptical, ask questions, consult doctors and scientists, and don’t fall for conspiracy theories dressed up in pretty packaging. Be skeptical because there’s so much misinformation out there and be aware of your own biases. Be aware of the fact that you will be easily emotionally manipulated.”

NEW SOUTHERN BAPTIST PRESIDENT SHOWS THE DANGER OF EVANGELICALISM TODAY (Friday Church News Notes, July 27, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - In the book *What Is the Emerging Church?* (2008) we warned that the emerging church is weak on the issue of homosexuality. Brian McLaren, for example, says, “Frankly, many of us don’t know what we should think about homosexuality” (“Brian McLaren on the Homosexual Question,” Jan. 23, 2006, blog.christianitytoday.com). Chris Seay says, “Approach homosexuals without condemnation but with God’s love and the gospel” (ChurchRelevance.com, June 19, 2007). This confused thinking is now front and center in the Southern Baptist Convention by the election on June 12 of J.D. Greear as President. In 2014, in a message before the ERLC [Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission] National Conference on “The Gospel, Homosexuality, and the Future of Marriage,” Greear said, “We have to love our gay neighbor more than we love our position on sexual morality ... I am not saying that we would ever compromise our position or fail to state it, just that even when they disagree with it, we do not cut them off, we draw them close. We say yes, this issue is important. I cannot compromise, but I love you more than I love being right. In the cross of Jesus Christ, he shows us the right way to relate to the gay and the lesbian

community—clarity about God’s righteousness, compassion that would give up its own life to draw them close.” Greear’s position is incredibly misguided and unbiblical, though it is presented in a semblance of truth. It is certain that Jesus Christ loved sinners and died for sinners with a desire that sinners draw close to Him; **but Jesus calls sinners to repentance and there is no “drawing close” to God without repentance.** Twice in the same sermon Christ said, “except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish” (Luke 13:3). Christ directly and plainly exposed the sin of the woman at the well, and she repented and drew close to God in salvation (John 4). On the other hand, Jesus exposed the sin of the rich young ruler, and he did *not* repent and as a result did not draw close to God (Mark 10:17-23). Greear says, “We have to love our gay neighbor more than we love our position on sexual morality,” and, “I love you more than I love being right.” But the Bible says we should love God’s Word and hate every false way (Psalm 119:128). The Bible says we should have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them” (Ephesians 5:11). Jesus was a friend of sinners, but He preached repentance to sinners and warned them of eternal hellfire (e.g., Mark 9:43, 45, 47; Luke 12:5). Christ never modified or softened or shortened His message in any way whatsoever in order to “draw them close.” The fundamental problem in the Southern Baptist Convention is that it is composed of churches that do not have a zeal to obey God’s Word and are thus spiritually powerless. Having grown up in Southern Baptist Churches and having wide experience of them over the past 68



years, I can say that *the average SBC congregation is a mixed multitude of saved and lost and is spiritually lukewarm at the very best.* The pastor is a hireling, not a prophet, and his greatest fear is offending some lukewarm member of his congregation. Serious intercessory prayer and fasting are nearly unknown. Separation from the world is considered legalism. Life-changing conversions are as rare as hen’s teeth. Consider the statistics for 2013: A full 60% of SBC churches baptized *zero* youth between ages of 12-17 and 80% baptized *zero or just one* young adult ages 18-29. But there was an explosion in the baptisms of “five and under” (*Annual Church Profile*, 2013). That is Baptist infant baptism, and it is the sign of a dead denomination! And most Independent Baptists today are no different in spiritual character than Southern Baptists. I am so thankful that I personally know of many churches that *are different* in spiritual character than what I have described and that do know and experience the resurrection power of God in regenerating power and life-changing holiness and biblical separation.

HOW LGBT THEOLOGY IS INVADING THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION (Friday Church News Notes, July 27, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from “Trusted SBC and PCA Seminaries Producing Sexual Minority Activists,” by Thomas Littleton, thirtypiecesofsilver.org, May 12, 2018: “As early as 2010 the ‘conversation’ and the language on sexuality of the remaining biblically conservative churches began to show signs of impending derailment. The introduction of new phrases like ‘Same Sex Attracted (SSA)’ and ‘Gay Celibate Christian’ in reality betrayed a larger undercurrent intent on migrating the Christian churches toward affirmation of gay marriage and creation of a homosexual Christianity. ... **We must now ... face**



some hard facts, namely, that major institutions in the Southern Baptist Convention and Presbyterian Church of America are actually training LGBTQ activists and advocates for inclusion of sexual minorities in the churches—in ministry positions and even as ‘theologians’ of LGBTQ and Queer Theory. ... In 2013, certain Southern Baptist and PCA organizations began to promote the acceptance of ‘Same-Sex Attracted’ but ‘Celibate Christians.’ This category is based on the assertion that same sex desire is not sinful in itself, but that only acting upon the desire is sin. This mindset reveals a glaring ignorance of the nature of sin and defilement as explained by Jesus, in Matthew 15:1-20, when asked why his disciples did not observe ritual washing before eating. Jesus clarified that it is ‘what is in and comes out of the heart of man that defiles us.’ Paul called homosexual lusts ‘vile affections’ in Romans 1:26. James further warns us

that ‘when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death’ (Jas. 1:15). So, desire is the seed in the heart that if harbored gives birth to sin. We are told, however, in this ‘new conversation’ that SSA or homosexual desire is not temptation to lust as other heterosexual desires are but that the issue is one of ‘Orientation,’ which implies that God made a gay person to be gay and for the church to expect them to be changed by the Gospel is to reject God’s creation. Albert Mohler, whose Southern Seminary plays a major role in the ‘new conversation’ of all things LGBT+ [the plus sign is inclusive of other groups, such as “asexual, intersex, queer”], has openly apologized to homosexuals, asserting that Baptists have had it wrong on orientation and that neither ‘Conversion Therapy’ nor saving faith in Jesus changes a homosexual into a heterosexual. Imagine, this is coming from one of the leading voices in Biblical Conservative Evangelical circles today. ... Nate Collins is a graduate of Albert Mohler’s Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, with a Master of Divinity degree and completing his Ph.D. in 2017. His father is Chip Collins former assistant Dean at Boyce College which is now operated by Southern Seminary under Al Mohler’s directive. Nate and his dad Chip had an organization featuring their

testimonies as father and son during Nate’s coming ‘out’ as a homosexual at 19. .. Nate self identifies as a homosexual Christian and is in a ‘mixed-orientation marriage’ with two children. ... This young man and young ‘minister’—who was theologically prepared by Dr. Mohler’s Southern Seminary—sees life, the church, the faith, his calling, and the Word of God all through the lens of his own sexuality, which he identifies as homosexuality. This is the single biggest flaw in the approach to having those with unresolved sexual conflicts to be the spokespersons and counselors to and for the church in the political and activist driven culture existing today. The Church needs clarity on God’s design and personal testimonies of deliverance from the bondage of perversion. We need to see human proof like the demoniac of Gadara who was clothed and in his right mind after encountering Jesus, and then sent forth to evangelize the cities of the Decapolis. There are many wonderful testimonies of both lay Christians and ministers who have been transformed and converted by the power of the Gospel and Repentance and Faith in Christ. Instead, Dr. Albert Mohler and Tim Keller are giving us Sexual Minorities who want to help us appease and accommodate them, so they as ‘LGBT+ Christians can Flourish within historic Christian traditions.’”

Aim of O Timothy Magazine

- Exalting the Lord Jesus Christ; His eternal perfect, and preserved Word; and the Gospel of his Grace. (2 Peter 3:1-2, 18)
- Standing for the whole counsel of God. (Acts 20:27; Jude 3)
- Challenging Christian workers to uphold the truth and resist the apostasy of our times. (1 Timothy 6:20-21)
- Exposing the spirit of error and compromise within Christendom (Hosea 4:6a; 2 Tim. 3)
- Upholding the New Testament Church (1 Tim. 6:13-14). O Timothy is a ministry of Bethel Baptist Church of London, Ontario.
- Challenging churches to fulfill the Great Commission of world evangelism (Matt. 28:18-20; Acts 13-14)
- Standing for the Received Text of the Holy Scriptures, the Authorized Version in the English Language, and sound translations of the TR in the languages of the world. (Ps. 12:6-7)



O TIMOTHY MAGAZINE

Way of Life Literature
 P.O. Box 610368, Port Huron, MI 48061-0368
 866-295-4143 (toll free),
fbns@wayoflife.org (e-mail)
<http://www.wayoflife.org> (web site)
 ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NONPROFIT ORG
 U.S. Postage
 PAID
 PORT HURON, MI
 Permit No. 1061

SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

- **ONLINE EDITION: FREE!** - To access the online edition, go to www.wayoflife.org, click the **O Timothy** tab, then click the words "online edition" to select the issue you wish to view or download.
- **UNITED STATES:** The annual subscription is US \$10 for the US. Make checks payable to Way of Life Literature and designate the amount for O Timothy. Please use the form below for ordering.
- **CANADA:** The annual subscription for Canada is \$26.25 Canadian (GST included). Checks or money orders should be made payable to Bethel Baptist Church and designated for O Timothy. Payments should be mailed to Bethel Baptist Church, 4212 Campbell St N, London, ON N6P 1A6.
- **PHILIPPINES:** O Timothy magazine began publication in the Philippines in January 2005. It is distributed on a free will offering basis in the Philippines at this time, as long as the Lord provides the needs. We take up an annual offering to pay the expenses. If you are interested in receiving the magazine in the Philippines, contact us c/o: Pastor Medel Barrera, Berean Bible Baptist Church Gardenia Valley, Molino III, Bacoor City, Philippines. The phone # is 0917-856-4439. Email: info@bbbcmolino.org.
- **INTERNATIONAL:** The annual subscription for other countries is US \$45. Contributions must be sent in US Funds by International Money Order drawn on a major New York bank. Make the drafts payable to Way of Life Literature and designate the amount for O Timothy subscription.

SUBSCRIPTIONS (O Timothy is a monthly publication)

USA - One Year Subscription.....\$10 US
 CANADA\$26.25 Canadian (GST Included)
 FOREIGN.....\$45 US
 PHILIPPINES.....(see contact information above)

DATE _____
 NAME _____
 ADDRESS _____
 CITY, STATE, ZIP _____
 COUNTRY _____
 PHONE, EMAIL _____

PRINTED IN CANADA