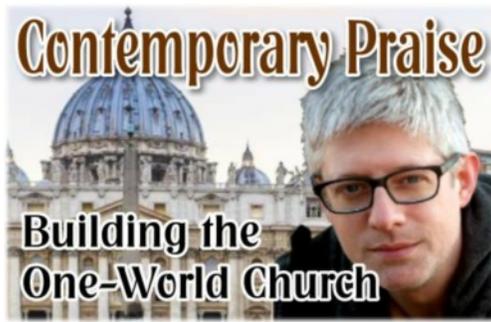


O Timothy

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

A Monthly Newsletter for Spiritual Protection and Edification

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“The greatest danger in dabbling with contemporary praise music is the fact that it is a bridge to the end-time one-world “church” ... The Canadian born Matt Maher (b. 1974), who lives in Tempe, Arizona, is a popular contemporary worship musician. As of 2011, he is an eight-time GMA Dove Award Nominee ... Maher is a Roman Catholic ecumenical bridge builder.” Page 7.

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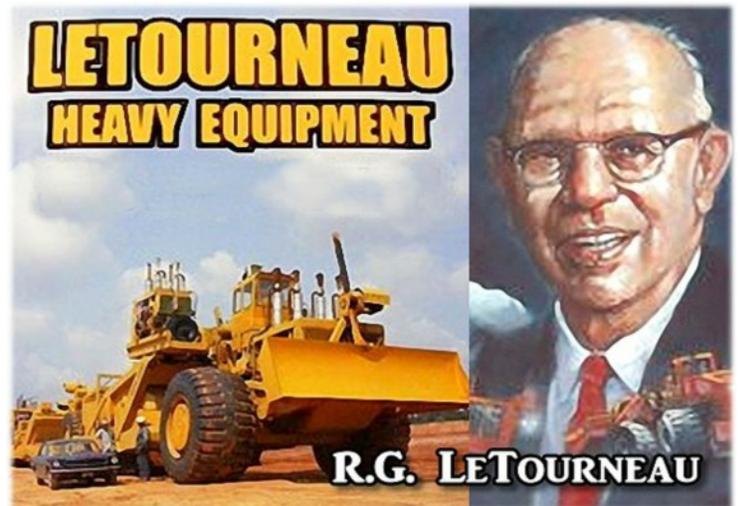


CHRISTIAN INVENTOR R.G. LETOURNEAU ~ By David Cloud

The following is based on the fascinating book *Mover of Men and Mountains*, the autobiography of R.G. LeTourneau (Moody Press, 1967).

Robert G. LeTourneau (1888-1969) was a business magnate, philanthropist, and inventor who held nearly 300 patents.

Known as “the dean of earthmoving,” LeTourneau is considered “to have been the world’s greatest inventor of earthmoving and materials handling equipment.” LeTourneau had a natural genius for engineering. Machines designed and built by LeTourneau represented nearly 70% of the earthmoving equipment and engineering vehicles used by the Allied forces during



World War II. His earthmoving equipment had a major role in the construction of America’s 48,000-mile controlled-access interstate road system, one of the wonders of the world.

LeTourneau invented the earth mover, electric wheel, tree crusher, log picker, bulldozer, airplane tow, the air crane, the two-wheeled tractor called “Tournapull,” and the first mobile offshore oil platform. He developed low-pressure, heavy-duty rubber tires for heavy equipment.

In 1953, LeTourneau sold his entire earthmoving equipment line to the Westinghouse Air Brake Company. Five years later, he developed new equipment based on his electric wheel drive invention called the “wheel hub motor.”

LeTourneau was a dedicated Christian and a Bible believer. He begins his autobiography as follows: “For 25 years or more, I’ve been traveling this land of ours and a few foreign countries trying to teach and preach by word of mouth and example, that a Christian businessman owes as much to God as a preacher does.”

He grew up in a Plymouth Brethren home and was saved as a teenager.

“No bolts of lightning hit me. No great flash of awareness. I just prayed to the Lord to save me, and then I was aware of another presence. No words were spoken. I received no messages. It was just that all of

my bitterness was drained away, and I was filled with such a vast relief that I could not contain it all. I ran to my mother. ‘I’m saved,’ I cried. ‘It happened. You don’t have to worry about me any more. I have felt the love of our Lord Jesus Christ.’ There was a long silence, followed by a deep sigh. A sigh of vast relief. Then, ‘Robert, we knew it had to happen. Two years ago, when we discovered we couldn’t guide you, we knew God would. We have left it in His hands ever since, praying every night that He would help you.’”

As a young man, he surrendered his life to the Lord, and after counsel with his pastor, he determined to pursue his inclinations to build earthmoving equipment. He made God his “Partner,” but he had a biblical understanding of what that means.

“By accepting God as your partner, no limit can be placed on what can be achieved. But God is no remote partner, satisfied if you go to church on Sunday and drop some religious money—the small change that goes to church—on the platter. He isn’t overwhelmed if you read the Bible once in a while and obey the Golden Rule. That isn’t active Christianity, but just a half-hearted way of getting along. When you go into partnership with God, you’ve got a Partner closer and more active than any human partner you can ever get. He participates fully in everything you let Him do, and when you start putting on airs, and thinking you’re doing it with your own head of steam, He can set you down quicker and harder than a thunderbolt.”

“There’s nothing dull about being in partnership with God. God has set me down with some terrific jolts from time to time, but when my attitude has improved, and He has seen genuine repentance, He is the only Partner Who can supply total forgiveness. Not that He is easily fooled. As one preacher put it, ‘God will forgive your sins, all right, but I wouldn’t make a policy of going to Heaven raising Hell on the way.’”

“I would not lightly refer to God as my partner. He is my Lord and Savior, and I am His servant. But by His grace He has made us members of His family, and we can refer to Him as our Father which art in Heaven. More than that, He has let us be ‘workers, together with Him.’ The Bible says, ‘We then, as workers, together with Him, beseech you also that ye receive not the

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grace of God in vain.’ II Corinthians, 6: 1. So it is in that sense that I mean we are partners, remembering always that real partners don’t try to see how much one can get from the other. They work for the good of the partnership. They try to help each other. I remember one of my customers who told me, ‘I try to shovel out more for God than He can for me, but He always wins. He’s got a bigger shovel.’”

LeTourneau learned early on to trust God’s leading, even when the situation appeared puzzling, as he describes in this testimony:

“On the other hand, my newly-declared partnership with God was bringing me a great peace of mind while doing little for Him. The crusher came that fall when I pinned everything on a winter-long contract in dry Southern California involving several hundred acres of land. I pared my bid down to where, as contractors say, ‘there were hardly beans left for the table,’ and I lost it. To quote another old saying, I was left so small I couldn’t power a treadmill in a flea circus.”

“I must have looked as small as I felt because just now, 38 years later, I happened to mention the incident to my wife. ‘Oh, that awful day,’ she said. ‘I’ve never forgotten how down in the dumps you were when you came home and told me you had lost the job. I’ve never seen you so low before or since.’”

“The next morning, for lack of anything else to do after pinning all my hopes on the contract, I went out to overhaul the tractor. I don’t know why. The rains around Stockton had brought earth-moving to a halt. A nearby rancher came up and said, ‘Say, Bob, if you aren’t doing anything, I’ve got some stumps to pull at my farm. I’ll bet with this tractor you could do it in half a day.’ After losing a winter’s contract, I wasn’t much interested in a half day’s work, but he was one of those fellows who wouldn’t take no for an answer. ‘You’re making a mistake,’ he said. ‘I think you could make a few dollars and help me improve my ranch at the same time. At least you could set a price.’ He had a point so I quoted the same hourly rate I would have gotten had I won my contract. ‘Okay, let’s do it,’ he said.”

“It wasn’t much of a job, but before I was through another rancher came along. Seeing how fast I was

pulling stumps, and hearing about my rate per hour, he decided he could afford to have some stumps pulled too.”

“To make a winter’s work short, the ranchers kept coming along one after another. It reminds me of the story in the Bible about the widow who had only a handful of meal in the barrel, but because she did what the prophet Elijah told her to do, there was always more meal in the barrel in spite of a famine in the land. There was a famine of another kind in the earth-moving business. The winter rains around Stockton that made stump-pulling easy in the softened soil spread to Southern California. The contractor who had beaten me out of that job fought heavy mud for four months and lost money. I came out well ahead, teaching me again to say, ‘Lord, Thy will be done.’”

At one point, he got off track and became more focused on building things than on his relationship with God, and he was brought to a place of repentance, as he describes as follows:

“‘My child,’ the Voice said, ‘you have been working hard, but for the wrong things. You have been working for material things when you should have been working for spiritual things.’”

“The words were few, but the meaning ran deep. All that long night I reviewed my past, and saw where I had been paying only token tribute to God, going through the motions of acting like a Christian, but really serving myself and my conscience instead of serving Him. Instead of being a humble servant, I was taking pride in the way I was working to pay my material debts at the garage, while doing scarcely a thing to pay my spiritual debt to God.”

“From my lesson that night I can now say that when a man realizes that spiritual things are worth more—and certainly they will last when material things are gone—he will work harder for spiritual things. I discovered then that God loves us so much that He wants us to love Him in return. He wants us to cooperate with His program.”

“Matthew 6: 33 says, ‘But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall

be added unto you.’ That I had not been doing. I had been seeking first my own way of life, and I firmly believe God had to send those difficulties into our lives to get us to look up into His face and call upon Him for His help and guidance.”

LaTourneau believed in and loved tithing, and eventually he gave 90% of his personal income to the Lord.

LaTourneau was a man of great practical intelligence, but his success didn’t come easily. Though he only had a seventh grade formal education, he was a diligent and lifelong student. When he would venture into a new field, he would prepare intensely, by correspondence courses, by apprenticeships, and by every other means possible. He worked hard; he learned from his mistakes; he persisted through great difficulties and trials.

LaTourneau often operated on debt to finance his commercial enterprises, but he maintained a sterling reputation with his creditors. He believed in paying his debts. When he incurred a large debt during the Great Depression, he remained true to his Christian principles.

“The surety company that had backed RG LeTourneau on the construction job that posted the \$100,000 loss was going to see to it that RG paid them back every penny owed. So on LeTourneau’s next job, the surety company demanded RG work on Sundays or else they would foreclose on his business, his house, everything. Since RG’s business partner was God, he gave the problem to God to solve.”

“The owner of the surety company, Mr. Hall, boarded a train to officially shut LeTourneau down, but upon arrival to the job site the next day, something miraculous occurred. The surety man had a change of heart and allowed RG to continue.

“Although the job was completed without working on Sundays, RG was still deep in debt. He was able to buy some time with his creditors by committing to improve his financial reporting. The surety company installed an accountant named Mr. Frost to reign in the books. What Mr. Frost found was worse than he had originally expected.

“Meanwhile, RG had skipped his yearly missions pledge the year before so he was committed to

making good with the Lord. He told Mr. Frost that he had pledged \$5,000 to his church for missions.”

“Mr. Frost couldn’t believe it. RG was so far behind, even thinking of donating to the Lord was out of the question. Mr. Frost didn’t realize who RG was partners in business with. Unbelievably, the business managed to stay afloat and the missions commitment was paid in full that year. Then, his business hit a breakthrough” (“RG LeTourneau: Earthmoving Innovator,” GiantsforGod.com).

After LeTourneau turned his attention to manufacturing earthmoving equipment and was becoming financially successful, he and his wife Evelyn determined to give 90% of their income to the Lord. LeTourneau was fond of remarking, “It’s not how much of my money I give to God, but how much of God’s money I keep for myself.”

The LeTourneaus had a heart to reach the world with the gospel of Jesus Christ, and they had a special interest in young people. Evelyn started Sunday Schools and youth camps.

Overcoming his fear of public speaking, LeTourneau traveled widely giving his testimony and challenging his fellow Christians to do more for the Lord.

He founded LeTourneau University, a private Christian institution in Texas, which offers degrees in engineering, aeronautical sciences, and liberal arts.

His book has a lot of colorful statements, such as the following:

“Which reminds me of the comment of another graduate of the School of Hard Knocks. ‘Our school colors are black and blue,’ he said grimly, ‘and our school yell is Ouch!’”

“[My uncle] Joshua Jehosophat LeTourneau—there was a name, and there was the man to go with it. He was J.J. for ‘Jumpin’ Jehosophat’ in the fullest meaning of the term.”

“I ran into a sign on a safety bulletin board one time that went like this: ‘Where did you get your good judgment?’ ‘From my experience.’ ‘And where did you get your experience?’ ‘From my bad judgment.’”

“We were not much better off than the little boy who told his father, ‘I guess I won’t go to school today.’ ‘Guess again, son,’ replied the father. ‘You’re way off on that first one.’”

Hannah's Prayers

By David Cloud



*The following is excerpted from **Woman and Her Service for God**, a training course available from **Way of Life Literature** -*

Hannah's prayer for a son (1 Sa. 1:7-13)

She prayed to the LORD (1 Sa. 1:10). She didn't pray to God as *Elohim* or *Adonai*; she prayed to God as *Jehovah*, as the merciful, covenant-keeping Creator who made man and has continued to demonstrate His love to man even in the fall. Jehovah is the Redeemer, the Father, the Shepherd.

She prayed to the LORD of hosts (1 Sa. 1:11). This name emphasizes God's omnipotent power. He can do anything. Hannah knew God and knew His character and prayed to Him on the basis of His love and faithfulness and power.

She prayed with fasting (1 Sa. 1:7). This is one of the many examples of fasting in the Bible. God's people fasted for many different purposes. (See the study on "Fasting" in the [Way of Life Encyclopedia of the Bible & Christianity](#) or the [Believer's Bible Dictionary](#), available from Way of Life Literature.)

She prayed with fervency and tears (1 Sa. 1:10).

She prayed by reasoning with God (1 Sa. 1:11).

She prayed by honoring God (1 Sa. 1:11). She wanted something for herself, but she was not praying selfishly. She wanted a child very badly, but she was devoted to God's will and glory. She was not consumed with herself. She didn't want a child who would be her "life," as in idolatrous affection.

Hannah's prayer of thanksgiving (1 Sa. 2:1-10)

Hannah's intimate personal relationship with God and knowledge of God is evident in her prayer (1 Sa. 2:1-10).

This is one of the great prayers of Scripture, and it is the prayer of a woman. Few men have had the wisdom to pray such a prayer. We can compare it to Mary's prayer after the conception of Jesus (Lu. 1:46-55).

Hannah did not have much Scripture. By then Israel would have had the Pentateuch, plus Joshua.

We can see that Hannah meditated on God and the great things of God and the deep things of life. She was not a shallow woman whose heart was filled with the empty things of this present world.

Again, she calls God "Jehovah." Nine times she speaks of "the LORD." It is God's personal name, His name as the faithful covenant-keeping God, His name as Saviour and Father and Shepherd. It was the highest revelatory name for God until Jesus came.

SHE REJOICES IN GOD AND IN HIS SALVATION (1 Sa. 2:1).

Her prayer is filled with joy. "Rejoice" is mentioned twice. It is translated from two different Hebrew words. The first *rejoice* is translated from *Alats*, which means "to jump for joy, to exult." It is translated "triumph" in Psalm 25:2. The second *rejoice* is translated from *Samach*, which means "to brighten up." It is elsewhere translated "glad" (Ex. 4:14), "cheer" (Jg. 9:13), "joyful" (Ezr. 6:22).

Hannah had double joy: joy in God Himself and joy in God's salvation.

True “religion” is not the path of sadness and drudgery. It is joyful. “weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning” (Ps. 30:5). God is a joyful God, and He gives joy to His people (“in thy presence is fulness of joy,” Ps. 16:11).

The very thought of the wonderful God and His great and eternal salvation brings joy to the believer’s heart.

She speaks of her “horn” (1 Sa. 2:1). A horn signifies power and authority. The woman is physically weaker than the man and the woman’s authority in this world is limited, but the woman of God is not lacking in power and authority if she walks with and trusts in God. Hannah’s horn was the infinite, almighty God! Women who have power with God have power in this world and the next.

SHE HAS GREAT KNOWLEDGE OF THE LORD.

She speaks of Jehovah as only Saviour (1 Sa. 2:1), as all holy (1 Sa. 2:2), as the only God (1 Sa. 2:2), as a rock of defense and security (1 Sa. 2:2), as a God of knowledge who knows every word man speaks (1 Sa. 2:3), as every man’s Judge (1 Sa. 2:3), as the God of life and death (1 Sa. 2:6), and as the God of resurrection (1 Sa. 2:6). The Old Testament saints knew of the bodily resurrection. Compare Job 19:25-27.

She warns her adversary not to speak proudly (1 Sa. 2:3). Peninnah had mercilessly provoked Hannah and persecuted her, and all such will answer to God.

SHE SPEAKS OF CHRIST’S COMING KINGDOM (1 Sa. 2:4-5, 8-9).

Then the bows of the mighty men of this present world will be broken, and the weak and persecuted and needy in Christ will be blessed.

This is the same teaching as Christ gave in Matthew 5:3-12. When Christ comes, the present world system will be overthrown and the righteous will reign.

The saved are called the “poor in spirit” and “they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness” and “the pure in heart” (Mt. 5:3, 6, 8). In this present world, they are usually powerless and often poor; they are persecuted; but in Christ’s kingdom they will own everything.

Then the saved will inherit the throne of glory (1 Sa. 2:8). They will rule and reign with Christ (Da. 7:18; Re. 5:10; 20:6; 22:5).

The wicked will sit in darkness (1 Sa. 2:9). The wicked who do not repent and submit to Christ will be cast into hell, which is described as a place of darkness (Mt. 22:13; Jude 13).

It will be impossible to escape God’s judgment by any human effort or mechanism (“by strength shall no man prevail,” 1 Sa. 2:9). The only way of salvation is by faith in Christ.

SHE SPEAKS OF GODS SOVEREIGNTY OVER MEN’S LIVES (“the pillars of the earth are the LORD’S,” 1 Sa. 2:6-7).

Man makes choices, but God has the final Word. He determines the bounds of every nation and every individual (Ac. 17:26).

God has the power of life and death (“The LORD killeth, and maketh alive”).

God has the power of resurrection (“he bringeth up”), and every man will be resurrected, some to eternal life and some to eternal judgment (Da. 12:2).

God has power over poverty and wealth, high and low. He determines the conditions of every individual’s birth. He gives intelligence and strength to get riches. He gives opportunities or withholds them.

SHE SPEAKS OF GOD’S PRESERVATION OF HIS SAINTS (1 Sa. 2:9).

She is referring to God as a Shepherd who watches over His people.

The Hebrew word for *saint* is *chaciyd* (khaw-seed) and it is also translated “holy” (De. 33:8). It means to be set apart for God, and that happens when the individual puts his faith in God’s Word.

Abraham was justified when he believed God’s Word (Ge. 15:6; Ro. 4:3).

The saints belong to God (“his saints”). They are His purchased possession. They are His jewels (Mal. 3:16-17).

God keeps the feet of his saints. Every footstep is under His watchcare.

SHE SPEAKS OF THE DAY OF THE LORD WHEN GOD WILL THUNDER FROM HEAVEN AND DESTROY HIS ADVERSARIES THROUGHOUT THE EARTH (1 Sa. 2:10).

Compare Isa. 26:21; Mic. 1:2-4.

The adversaries of the LORD are all sinners who do not submit to Him. The simple act of “living my own life” is idolatry and is a great sin against the Creator.

They will be broken into pieces. Presently God is giving all men an opportunity to be saved, but those who refuse His salvation will be destroyed. The only place of refuge from God’s righteous judgment against sin is Christ the Saviour, and those who reject Christ can find no other refuge.

The LORD will come out of heaven. Compare Mt. 24:29-30.

The LORD will judge the ends of the earth. His kingdom will be over every nation. His law will be the

law of the entire earth. His governors will rule the nations.

SHE SPEAKS OF THE MESSIAH, WHO IS JEHOVAH’S ANOINTED AND JEHOVAH’S CHOSEN KING (1 Sa. 2:10).

The Hebrew word for “anointed” is *mashiyach*, elsewhere translated *Messiah*. The Greek equivalent is “Christ.” This is the first reference to the “anointed” in Scripture.

God will give strength unto his king and exalt his horn. Christ has been given all power in heaven and in earth (Mt. 28:19).

He has been exalted above “all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come” (Eph. 1:21).

Note that Christ is referred to as king before Israel had a king and before God made a promise to David that a son of his seed would sit on his eternal throne. Hannah is speaking by the spirit of prophecy.



The greatest danger in dabbling with contemporary praise music is the fact that it is a bridge to the end-time one-world “church.” We have documented this extensively in [The Directory of Contemporary Worship Musicians](#), which is available as a free eBook from www.wayoflife.org. The following is excerpted from this directory:

The Canadian born Matt Maher (b. 1974), who lives in Tempe, Arizona, is a popular contemporary worship musician. As of 2011, he is an eight-time GMA Dove Award Nominee. He has a degree in Jazz Piano from Arizona State University.

Like John Michael Talbot, Maher is a Roman Catholic ecumenical bridge builder.

He grow up Catholic but didn’t take it seriously until he had a “profound awakening” through a charismatic Catholic group. This consisted of an emotional experience that he had while watching a skit “The Broken Heart,” about a girl who gets a new heart from God after giving hers away to a young boy.

“I was standing in the back of the room and I burst into tears,” Maher remembered. Not long after, he started writing worship songs for the group’s prayer sessions and devoted himself to performing Christian music” (“Catholic Rocker Matt Maher,” Religion News Service, May 17, 2013).

The skit did not present the biblical gospel and Maher’s conversion was not a biblical conversion. It was a religious conversion that did not include repentance from error and rejection of Rome’s false christ and false gospel.

Maher's wife is Methodist, but they are raising their son "in the Catholic Church," while also taking him to Methodist services "so he can experience both traditions" (Religion News Service, May 17, 2013).

This is the perfect recipe for the building of the end-time, one-world "church."

Maher ministers at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish in Tempe, which is devoted to Mary as the Queen of Heaven. The sign at the front of the church says, "Mary, Mother of Life, pray for us." Maher is on the board of directors for the Catholic youth organization Life Teen.

He calls himself a "musical missionary," a missionary for Rome, that is. *Christianity Today* says "Maher is bringing his music--and a dream of unity into the Protestant church" ("Common Bonds," CT, Oct. 27, 2009).

He says, "I've had co-writing sessions with Protestants where we had that common denominator, and I've seen in a very radical way the real possibility of unity." He says, "I look at it like the Catholic church is my immediate family, and all my friends from different denominations are extended family."

David Wang says Maher is "one of the most successful Catholic artists to cross over into mainstream Christian rock and find an audience among evangelicals" ("Catholic Rocker Matt Maher," Religion News Service, May 17, 2013).

Maher says, "The arms of St. Peter's are really big" (Religion News Service, May 17, 2013).

Maher, who tours with non-Catholics, comments:

"What's fantastic about it is we're all Christians from different denominations and we're learning to understand each other. It just means that we're writing about mysteries that we don't fully understand."

Maher is happy that other Catholic musicians are coming into the forefront of the contemporary praise movement, such as Audrey Assad who signed with Sparrow Records, and producer Robbie Seay.

Leaving the Catholic Church is not an option for Maher, because he says, "I love my faith and the expression of it." He intends, rather, for his music to be "a bridge." He says that contemporary worship music is a way to "build relationships with people and link arms with them for the Kingdom."

He says that touring with people like Michael W. Smith is producing ecumenical unity, because people come to the concerts and find themselves standing beside a priest or nun and they learn that "we're all in this family together."

What kingdom, though? There is the kingdom of truth and light and the kingdom of heresy and darkness. The New Testament frequently warns of a great apostasy before the return of Christ. These warnings began to be delivered through with the ministry of Christ Himself (Mat. 7:15-23; 24:4-5, 11, 24) and were completed through the ministries of the apostles and prophets (e.g., 1 Timothy 4:1-6; 2 Timothy 3:13; 4:3-4; 2 Peter 2; Jude).

The apostles warned that there will be false christs, false gospels, and false spirits, and taught the churches to be perpetually on guard, testing everything by the absolute standard of God's Word (Acts 17:11; 20:28-31; 2 Corinthians 11:4; 1 Thess. 5:21; Heb. 5:12-14). They warned that false teachers would be deceptive, appearing as wolves in sheep's clothing and as ministers of righteousness (Mat. 7:15; 2 Cor. 11:13-15). They warned about the cunning craftiness of false teachers (Eph. 4:14) and their ability to deceive through "good words and fair speeches" (Rom. 16:17-18).

These warnings are typically ignored throughout the world of Contemporary Christian Music, and those who take the warnings seriously are dismissed as unloving judgmental Pharisees or worse.

Maher hosts the ecumenical WorshipTogether's New Song Cafe.

He performs with a wide variety of "evangelical" Contemporary Christian musicians. He is in the Provident Label Group with Michael W. Smith, Third Day, Jars of Clay, and others. He has written hit songs for "evangelical artists" such as Chris Tomlin ("Your Grace Is Enough"), Bethany Dillon, and Phillips, Craig and Dean.

Maher sings of Christ and the resurrection and grace, but these terms must be interpreted in light of Rome's heresies.

Salvation by grace, according to Rome, is salvation through the sacraments. Christ is idolatrously worshipped in the consecrated wafer of the mass. Christ's resurrection did not complete the believer's salvation; it provided the storehouse of grace to the Catholic Church to distribute through its sacraments, particularly baptism and the mass and confession to a priest.

Maher told *Christianity Today* that those who criticize his relationship with the Catholic Church are misinformed and "mis-taught" and they "have a bad understanding of Catholic teaching," but that is not true for me. I have studied the writings and history of the Catholic Church extensively. If Maher thinks that the Roman Church teaches salvation by grace alone through the blood of Christ alone without works, he is deceived by the ecumenical program which was launched

at Vatican II and which has been effective in creating the end-time one-world church.

At the Council of Trent (1545-1563), the declarations of which are still in force, the Roman Catholic Church formally condemned the biblical gospel of salvation through by grace alone through faith alone. Consider the following declarations of Trent:

"If anyone says that justifying faith is nothing else than confidence in divine mercy, which remits sins for Christ's sake, or that it is this confidence alone that justifies us, LET HIM BE ANATHEMA" (Sixth Session, Canons Concerning Justification, Canon 12).

"If anyone says that the justice received is not preserved and also not increased before God through good works, but that those works are merely the fruits and signs of justification obtained, but not the cause of its increase, LET HIM BE ANATHEMA" (Sixth Session, Canons Concerning Justification, Canon 24).

In its most formal and authoritative statements since Trent, Rome has continued to deny that salvation is by grace alone through Christ's atonement alone through faith alone without works or sacraments. Consider the following statements of the authoritative Vatican II Council of the mid-1960s, called by Pope John Paul XXIII and attended by more than 2,400 Catholic bishops--

"For it is the liturgy through which, especially in the divine sacrifice of the Eucharist, 'the work of our redemption is accomplished,' and it is through the liturgy, especially, that the faithful are enabled to express in their lives and manifest to others the mystery of Christ and the real nature of the true Church" (Vatican II, Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, Introduction, para. 2).

"As often as the sacrifice of the cross by which 'Christ our Pasch is sacrificed' (1 Cor. 5:7) is celebrated on the altar, the work of our redemption is carried out" (Vatican II, Dogmatic Constitution on the Church, Chapter 1, 3, p. 324).

"... [Christ] also willed that the work of salvation which they preached should be set in train through the sacrifice and sacraments, around which the entire liturgical [ritualistic] life revolves. Thus by Baptism men are grafted into the paschal mystery of Christ. ... They receive the spirit of adoption as sons" (Vatican II, Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, Chap. 1, I, 5,6, pp. 23-24).

"From the most ancient times in the Church good works were also offered to God for the salvation of sinners, particularly the works which human weakness finds hard. Because the sufferings of the martyrs for the faith and for God's law were thought to be very valuable, penitents used to turn to the martyrs to be helped by their merits to obtain a more speedy reconciliation from the bishops. Indeed, the prayers and good works of holy people were regarded as of such great value that it could be asserted that the penitent was washed, cleansed and redeemed with the help of the entire Christian people" (Vatican II, Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, Apostolic Constitution on the Revision of Indulgences, chap. 3, 6, pp. 78,79).

Rome's gospel is a heretical combination of faith plus works, grace plus sacraments, Christ plus the church. It redefines grace to include works. It confuses justification with sanctification. It confuses imputation with impartation. It

views justification not as a once-for-all legal declaration whereby the sinner is declared righteous before God and is granted eternal life as the unmerited gift of God, but rather as a PROCESS whereby the sinner is gradually saved through participation in the sacraments.

There is no eternal security in the Roman gospel because salvation allegedly depends partially upon man's works. According to Roman Catholic theology, Christ purchased salvation and gave it to the Catholic Church to be distributed to men through its sacraments. This is not only a false gospel, it is a blasphemous usurpation of Christ's position as only Lord and Saviour and Mediator.

Our Sunday Visitor's Catholic Encyclopedia, published in 1991, defines justification as "THE PROCESS by which a sinner is made righteous, pure and holy before God."

"Justification in the Catholic Tradition comes about by means of faith in Christ, AND in a life of good works lived in response to God's invitation to believe. ... That works are clearly required in the New Testament for union with Christ is seen in the many parables such as the Good Samaritan, Lazarus and Dives, and others" (emphasis added).

Therefore, when committed Roman Catholics like Matt Maher and John Michael Talbot sing of Christ's grace, they don't mean what the Bible means. They are using a Roman Catholic theological dictionary, but because of the widespread ignorance that exists in "evangelical" and even "fundamentalist" churches people are deceived by the language.

If a Roman Catholic does not accept what the Catholic Church teaches, he or she should leave and stop pretending to be both a Catholic and a believer that salvation is by Christ's grace alone without works.

(See "How Rome Denies Salvation by Grace Alone" at the Way of Life Literature web site -- www.wayoflife.org.)

Maher led worship for Pope Benedict XVI's visit to the Rally for Youth in April 2008.

In the Fall of 2009 Maher traveled with Michael W. Smith on the New Hallelujah Tour.

In the Fall of 2010, he was a guest singer at the David Crowder Band's Fantastical Church Music Conference at Baylor University.

In early 2011 Maher toured on the Rock and Worship Roadshow headlined by MercyMe.

In July 2012, Maher sang "Hold Us Together," the ecumenical theme song for Mormon Glenn Beck's Restoring Love conference in Dallas, Texas.



Of the conservative Independent Baptist churches that remain today (a great many have either gone defunct or contemporary in the past 20 years), a large number appear to be dying.

As in the case of the individual, a church that is not making spiritual progress is going backwards. If there is not revival, there is backsliding. If there is not bold forward movement, there is regression.

The churches in question are presently holding to sound doctrine, the right Biblical text, sacred music, modest dress, fairly good standards for workers, and other wholesome things, but they are dying. They are barely holding on. They aren't growing.

A large percentage of the congregation is elderly. In many cases, the pastor is elderly and there are no younger preachers in sight who are likeminded and can take over the pastorate.

More people are going than coming. More are dying than are getting saved.

A great many of the youth are spiritually half-hearted. They aren't sold out to God's will. They aren't serious, self-denying, pilgrim disciples of Jesus Christ. Many of them don't stay around when they reach adolescence.

Most of the families aren't aggressively godly and separated and wise in rearing children to Christ's glory.

In such a church, the next generation is on very shaky ground, to say the least.

The Bible says the church is a body (1 Corinthians 12:13), and a body is composed of many members. If a body has some healthy members but overall it is weak and sickly, the future of that body is not encouraging.

But there is no reason why a church must die. What a poor testimony for God before a needy world! The church is God's program. It is Christ's plan. He said, "I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it (Mt. 16:18). The church is the house of God, the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth (1 Ti. 3:15). It is the headquarters for world evangelism (Acts 13-14).

Christ has everything that a church needs to live and prosper in this wicked world. In Revelation 2-3, Christ is in the midst of the churches. He holds the angels of the churches in His right hand. He knows the church's works and trials. A church might be "of little strength," like that of Philadelphia, but it doesn't have to be dead or dying.

It is God's will that His people bear fruit (John 15:1-8), and those who do not bear fruit do not please Him. "Herein is my Father glorified, that he bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples" (Joh. 15:8).

Christ taught that when there is no fruit, something is wrong spiritually. "I am the true vine, and my

Father is the husbandman. Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit” (Joh. 15:1-2).

We would give the following practical recommendations to dying churches:

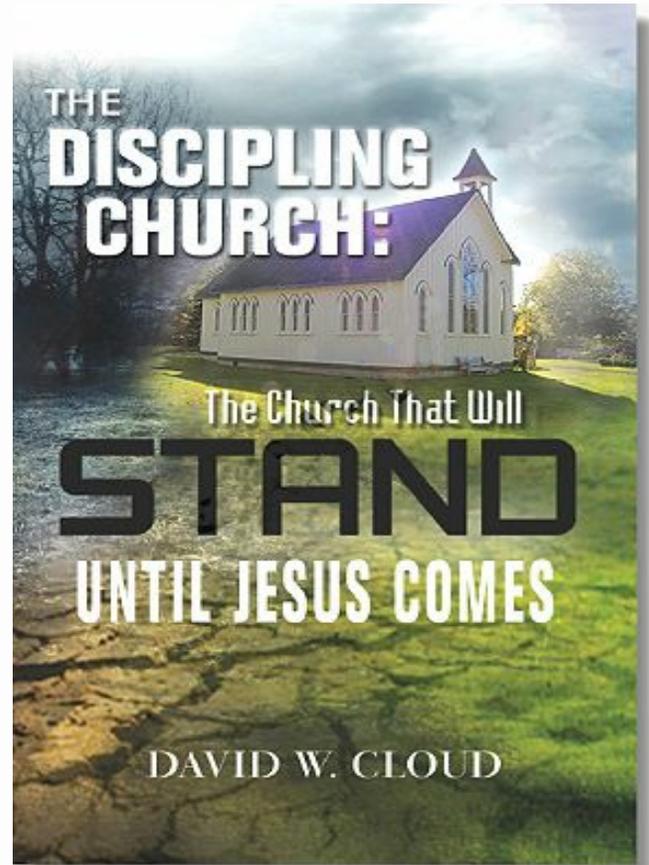
1. A dying church can be saved by strengthening membership standards, which include being as careful as possible about salvation.
2. A dying church can be saved by strengthening its prayer life.
3. A dying church can be saved by strengthening the biblical depth of the people.
4. A dying church can be saved by strengthening standards for workers.
5. A dying church can be saved by strengthening the evangelistic “program.”
6. A dying church can be saved by serious education of the families.
7. A dying church can be saved by serious discipleship, of the youth, the adults and parents, and the senior citizens.
8. A dying church can be saved by re-envisioning its zeal for evangelism and world missions.

A dying church can be saved, but it won’t be saved easily. It will be saved when the pastor stops pretending that things are OK and acknowledges that the situation is desperate, and he rises to the occasion to do everything that is necessary to turn the ship around.

We have dealt with these and other things in the book [*The Discipling Church: The Church That Will Stand until Christ Returns*](#), which is available in print and eBook editions from Way of Life Literature, www.wayoflife.org.

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

by David W. Cloud



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

The keys are a regenerate church membership, one mind in doctrine and practice, serious discipleship, thorough-going discipline, and a large vision for world evangelism.

We examine the New Testament pattern of a discipling church, and we trace the history of Baptist churches over the past 200 years to document the apostasy away from the biblical pattern to a mixed multitude philosophy. We also document the history of “sinner’s prayer” evangelism which has affected the reality of a regenerate church membership.

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

PHILIPPINES TRAINING COURSE – JANUARY 2019

“A STRONGER CHURCH THROUGH EXPOSITORY PREACHING”

We are pleased to announce our eighth training session in the Philippines.

January 14-17, 2019

This year we are following the same format as 2018, with a preaching meeting in the evenings and a training course for preachers and Christian workers during the days. We are adding an extra day to be able to teach a mini-course on preaching.

The training course is open to individuals who register and commit to attending all of the sessions. You will not be allowed to attend only some of the sessions. That is distracting to me, the teacher, and to the other students, and you wouldn't get much from it. This is what we learned from previous years. I am only interested in teaching men who have a passion to learn and grow. I have asked Pastor Barrera that there be no exceptions to this rule.

Anyone is welcome to attend the evening preaching meetings, but the training course during the days is only for those who register and commit to all 10 sessions.

The title of the course is *A STRONGER CHURCH THROUGH EXPOSITORY PREACHING*

Subjects will include the following:

Preach the Word
The Preacher as a Student
Expository Preaching
Planning the Message
Preparing the Message
Preaching the Message
Interpretation, Illustration, Application

Brother Cloud will give practical tips from his 45 years of preaching, church leadership, and church planting.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Monday, January 14

1:00 p.m. - Registration
3:00 p.m. - First Session
4:30 p.m. - Second Session
7:00 p.m. - Preaching

Tuesday, January 15

8:30 a.m. - Third Session
10:30 a.m. - Fourth Session
1:30 p.m. - Fifth Session
4:00 p.m. - Sixth Session
7:00 p.m. - Preaching

Wednesday, January 16

8:30 a.m. - Seventh Session
10:30 a.m. - Eighth Session
1:30 p.m. - Ninth Session
4:00 p.m. - Tenth Session
7:00 p.m. - Preaching

Our gracious host is Pastor Medel Barrera and the Berean Bible Baptist Church outside of Manila.
Blk. 11 Lot 42, Gardenia Valley Molino Bacoor 3, Cavite.

For more information contact Pastor Barrera at:

Email: pastor.medel@bbbcmolino.org or medbar777@gmail.com - **Phone:** 0916-555-4723 or 0917-856-4439.

We will also make available at a very inexpensive price the ***WAY OF LIFE PREACHER'S LIBRARY*** (available only in the Philippines), a digital library containing 8,000 pages of material plus 127 PowerPoint presentations with about 14,000 slides. This library is designed to help preachers educate, train, and disciple their people. The courses are Acts, Baptist Music Wars, Bible Times & Ancient Kingdoms, The Bible Version Issue, Defense of the Faith, First Corinthians, The Four Gospels, Genesis,

Give Attendance to Doctrine, Hebrews, A History of the Churches from a Baptist Perspective, How to Study the Bible, James, Job, Keeping the Kids, Mobile Phone and the Christian Home and Church, The New Testament Church, Old Testament History and Geography, One Year Discipleship Course, Pastoral Epistles, Proverbs, Psalms, Revelation, Romans, Sowing and Reaping: A Course in Evangelism, Understanding Bible Prophecy, and What Every Christian Should Know about Rock Music.

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?



PREPARATIONS FOR THIRD TEMPLE "IN FULL SWING"

(Friday Church News Notes, November 2, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- A report on this month's *Israel Today* magazine says, "Preparations for the Third Temple are in full swing." During the Feast of Tabernacles (Sukkot), Levites in white robes drew water from the ancient Pool of Siloam to perform the Talmudic tradition of "Pouring of the Water." The ceremony is called "Simchat Beit HaShoeva" ("Rejoicing at the place of the drawing of the water") and is based on the prophecy of Isaiah 12:3, "Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation." The context, which is ignored by Talmudic interpretation, is the conversion of Israel and the establishment of Christ's kingdom. It will be fulfilled when Israel can say in truth, "God is my salvation" (Isaiah 12:2). In that day, the LORD's name will be "known in all the earth" (Isaiah 12:5). None of this is true today. The Bible mentions the Third Temple four times, beginning with Daniel's prophecies but in every case it is associated with the Antichrist. See Daniel 9:27; Matthew 24:15-21; 2 Thessalonians 2:4; Revelation 11:1-3. "When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)

Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains ... For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall. ... Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with great power and great glory" (Matthew 24:15 16, 21, 29-20).

IN EUROPE, FREE SPEECH BOWS TO SHARIA

(Friday Church News Notes, November 2, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The following is from Andrew McCarthy, "In Europe," *The National Review*, Oct. 27, 2018: "When, the prophet of Islam took as his wife Aisha, who was then six or seven. The marriage was consummated when Aisha was nine. This is not a smear. It is an accurate account of authoritative Islamic scripture. (See, e.g., *Sahih-Bukhari*, Vol. 5, Book 58, Nos. 234-236.) Yet it can no longer safely be discussed in Europe, thanks to the extortionate threat of violence and intimidation—specifically, of jihadist terrorism and the Islamist grievance industry that slipstreams behind it. Under a ruling by the so-called European Court of Human



Rights (ECHR), free speech has been supplanted by sharia blasphemy standards. The case involves an Austrian woman (identified as ‘Mrs. S.’ in court filings and believed to be Elisabeth Sabaditsch Wolff) who, in 2009, conducted two seminars entitled ‘Basic Information on Islam.’ She included the account of Mohammed’s marriage to Aisha. Though this account is scripturally accurate, Mrs. S. was prosecuted on the rationale that her statements implied pedophilic tendencies on the part of the prophet. A fine (about \$547) was imposed for disparaging religion. Mrs. S. appealed, relying on Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights. That provision purports to safeguard ‘freedom of expression,’ though it works about the same way the warranty on your used car does—it sounds like you’re covered, but the fine print eviscerates your protection. ... Europeans are free to say only what they are permitted to say by the unelected judges of the European courts. Truth is irrelevant. As the jurists reasoned in the case of Mrs. S., a person’s freedom to assert facts must be assessed in ‘the wider context’ that balances ‘free’ expression against—I kid you not—‘the right of others to have their religious feelings protected,’ as well as ‘the legitimate aim of preserving religious peace.’ It is thus verboten to say things that might upset Muslims. ... There is no free speech in Islam. Sharia states do not merely forbid speech that insults or denigrates Islam; they regard as blasphemy—and punish with cruelty—any form of expression that casts Islam in an unfavorable light.”

ISRAELI TECHNOLOGY FOR BLIND/VISUALLY IMPAIRED (Friday Church News Notes,



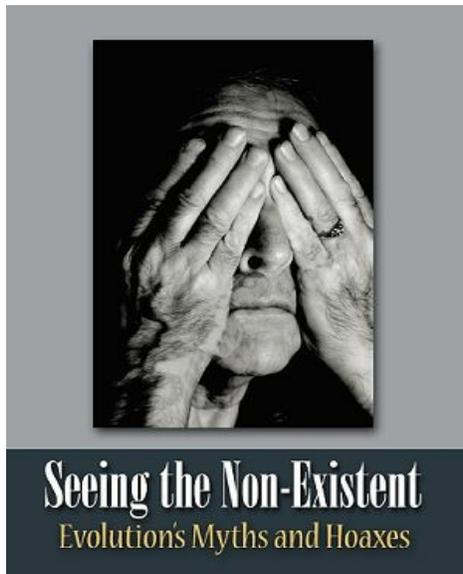
November 2, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from “Israeli Technology Helps,” BreakingIsraelNews.com, Oct. 15, 2018: “OrCam Israel (‘or’ means light in Hebrew, and ‘cam’ represents camera) was founded eight years ago by two Israelis, Prof. Annon Shashua and Ziv Aviram, who founded Mobileye--the autonomous vehicle technology company founded in 1999 and based in Jerusalem. Mobileye was bought by the Intel Corporation in March 2017 for \$15 billion. Their vision was to make possible artificial vision that would help the blind and visually impaired to carry out basic everyday activities. The invention is a finger-sized technology combining a microprocessor and camera that take text to which the user points and reads it to the user. In addition, the product recognizes faces, performs product identification and identifies colors and banknotes, thus providing a high level of user independence. ... Newspapers, books, signs, menus, product labels and even electronic screens can be read to the blind or visually impaired person. ... When Britain’s Prince William made a short but official trip to the country last summer, OrCam was one of the inventions that impressed him highly. ‘The prince read a couple lines from an article that Blind Veterans put out. He had a big smile on his face,’ recalled an OrCam executive.”

THE TYPE OF PREACHERS I AM PRAYING FOR (Friday Church News Notes, November 2, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - A couple of years ago, I began praying for God to raise up 1,000 special kind of preachers, men who can build and lead special kind of churches. Sound, strong, fruitful churches are what the world desperately needs, as the church is the pillar and ground of the truth (1 Timothy 3:15), but we won’t have such churches without the right men. It has been said, truly, that “everything rises and falls on leadership.” Let me describe them as I see them in Scripture: They are God-called men; biblically-qualified men; Christ-centered men of good Christian character and testimony; well-trained men (in the Bible and in other issues facing the churches); studious men; men who are committed to God’s Word rather than human tradition; wise, humble men who can work with a team of men as we see in Acts 13; men of faith; courageous men who fear God more than man and are not intimidated by any old boy’s network or preacher’s association; men who are willing to walk alone if necessary for the truth’s sake; men of serious spiritual wisdom and discernment; men of passion for the truth, who esteem God’s precepts concerning all things to be right and hate every false way (Ps. 119:128); men of large vision and zeal for gospel preaching and world missions



and church planting; men who reprove and rebuke sin and error in a plain way; men who are ready and willing to exercise biblical discipline when necessary and will not draw back because of its difficulties; men who are hard workers; men who hate religious pragmatism for the evil thing that it is in God's sight (e.g., making decisions about the ministry based on what "works" to produce a desired goal as opposed to making decisions based *strictly* on Bible truth). These are not mythical men. I know men like this. These are the type of preachers that are described in the Pastoral Epistles, and they are, therefore, the type of men that God wants for His churches today. Only God can make such men, but since He has instructed us to pray for laborers for the harvest, surely these are the type of laborers we are to pray for. "Therefore said he unto them, The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest" (Luke 10:2). And since Christ has commanded that we pray this, surely God is ready to answer if we will be passionate about it.

ENZYMES ARE NECESSARY FOR LIFE (Friday Church News Notes, November 2, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from [*Seeing the Non-existent: Evolution's Myths and Hoaxes*](#), David Cloud, copyright 2011: "The cell also requires the activity of proteins called enzymes, which are catalysts that facilitate and speed up chemical reactions. Michael Pitman, who taught biology at Cambridge, writes: 'Leading enzymologist M. Dixon comments, "Living matter is the most wonderful chemical system in the world." Part of its *magic* is that it



consists of a complex network of chemical reactions and processes, arranged so that the product of each reaction is the starting material of the next link in the chain. All such reactions are brought about by enzymes, of which there are many thousands. These are special proteins, each with the power of causing specific chemical reactions that would not occur in their absence. Dixon likens enzymes to automated machine tools, each of which performs one particular operation on a product and hands it on to the next. Some production lines join up, giving rise to a network of lines with many pathways--a network called metabolism. ... Dixon confesses that he cannot see how such a system could ever have originated spontaneously. The main difficulty is that an enzyme system does not work at all until it is complete, or nearly so. Another problem is the question of how enzymes appear without pre-existing enzymes to make them. "The association between enzymes and life", Dixon writes, "is so intimate that the problem of the origin of life itself is largely that of the origin of enzymes." ... Certain basic pathways are common to all living systems and must have been present since life

began. The glycolytic pathway in which sugar is broken down, releasing energy, is one example; respiration and many other functions basic to life also depend upon networks of metabolic pathways, usually involving dozens of complex stages, which are recognizable throughout the plant and animal kingdoms. ... Enzyme systems are doing every minute what battalions of full-time chemists cannot. The mechanisms of their actions are only just beginning to be understood and we cannot yet manipulate them with any confidence. The idea of designing enzymes for specific purposes, then synthesizing them, is futuristic. This may come: if it does it will be the product of very concentrated thought and manipulative skill by teams of dedicated scientists. Can anyone seriously imagine that naturally occurring enzymes realized themselves, along with hundreds of specific friends, by chance? Enzymes and enzyme systems, like the genetic mechanisms whence they originate, are masterpieces of sophistication' (Pitman, *Adam and Evolution*, pp. 144, 145). Enzymes speed up living processes that would otherwise be impossible. The phosphatase enzyme, for example, catalyzes the hydrolysis or splitting of phosphate bonds, which are necessary for cellular life. 'This enzyme allows reactions vital for cell signaling and regulation to take place in a hundredth of a second. Without the enzyme, this essential reaction would take a trillion years--almost a hundred times even the supposed evolutionary age of the universe (about 15 billion years)' (Jonathan Sarfati, *By Design*, p. 157)."

THE DEVIL LIVES IN OUR PHONES (Friday Church News Notes, November 9, 2018, www.wayoflife.org,



fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from “A Dark Consensus about Screens,” *New York Times*, Oct. 26, 2018: **“Technologists know how phones really work, and many have decided they don’t want their own children anywhere near them.** A wariness that has been slowly brewing is turning into a regionwide consensus: The benefits of screens as a learning tool are overblown, and the risks for addiction and stunting development seem high. The debate in Silicon Valley now is about how much exposure to phones is O.K. ‘Doing no screen time is almost easier than doing a little,’ said Kristin Stecher, a former social computing researcher married to a Facebook engineer. ‘If my kids do get it at all, they just want it more.’ Ms. Stecher, 37, and her husband, Rushabh Doshi, researched screen time and came to a simple conclusion: they wanted almost none of it in their house. Their daughters, ages 5 and 3, have no screen time ‘budget,’ no regular hours they are allowed to be on screens. ... Athena Chavarria, who worked as an executive assistant at Facebook ... said: ‘I am convinced the devil lives in our phones and is wreaking havoc on our children.’ Ms. Chavarria did not let her children have cellphones until high school, and even now bans phone use in the car and severely limits it at home. She said she lives by the mantra that the last child in the class to get a phone wins. ... For longtime tech leaders, watching how

the tools they built affect their children has felt like a reckoning on their life and work. Among those is Chris Anderson, the former editor of *Wired* and now the chief executive of a robotics and drone company. ... ‘On the scale between candy and crack cocaine, it’s closer to crack cocaine,’ Mr. Anderson said of screens. ... ‘We thought we could control it. And this is beyond our power to control. This is going straight to the pleasure centers of the developing brain. This is beyond our capacity as regular parents to understand.’ He has five children and 12 tech rules. They include: no phones until the summer before high school, no screens in bedrooms, network-level content blocking, no social media until age 13, no iPads at all and screen time schedules enforced by Google Wifi that he controls from his phone. Bad behavior? The child goes offline for 24 hours. I didn’t know what we were doing to their brains until I started to observe the symptoms and the consequences.” **CONCLUDING NOTE FROM D. CLOUD:** These people are exercising more wisdom in this matter than the average parent in a Bible-believing church. Pastors must take the lead in this and inform and warn and exhort the people about how to protect the children and youth from the great spiritual danger of modern communications technology. We have been publishing material on this subject since 1998, including *The Mobile Phone and the Christian Home and Church*.

BONO CALLS EUROPEAN LEADERS OPPOSED TO OPEN BORDERS “THE DEVIL” (Friday Church News Notes, November 9, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - At a concert in Milan, Bono, lead singer of the rock band U2, dressed

as Satan and called European populist leaders who oppose open borders “my people.” Bono, speaking for the devil, said, “My people are all over Europe. They go by many names.” He referred in particular to the Swedish Democrats, Marine Le Pen’s Front National in France, Matteo Salvini of Italy. Bono has no idea what he is talking about, and he is a first class hypocrite. He calls for open borders, but he doesn’t open his own house to immigrants. He calls for socialistic redistribution of wealth, but he doesn’t give away his own wealth. Like socialists the world over, he wants to “do good” by confiscating and redistributing other people’s money. He claims to love Jesus, but he doesn’t believe that Jesus is the only way to heaven and “never accepted the whole ‘born again’ tag” (“Bono Bites Back,” *Mother Jones* magazine, May 1989). He claims to revere the holy Bible, but he lives an unholy life by his own admission and



claims that Paul was wrong about women and homosexuality (“Bono: The Rolling Stone Interview” with Jann Wenner, Dec. 27, 2017). In 2006, Bono said: “I recently read in one of St. Paul’s letters where it describes all of the fruits of the spirit, and I had none of them” (“Enough Rope with Andrew Denton,” TV series, March 13, 2006).

PRAY FOR PREACHERS (Friday Church News Notes, November 9, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)



- The following is from Charles Spurgeon's *Morning and Evening*: "Brethren, pray for us' (1 Th. 5:25). This one morning in the year we reserved to refresh the reader's memory upon the subject of prayer for ministers, and we do most earnestly implore every Christian household to grant the fervent request of the text first uttered by an apostle and now repeated by us. Brethren, our work is solemnly momentous, involving weal or woe to thousands; we treat with souls for God on eternal business, and our word is either a savour of life unto life, or of death unto death. A very heavy responsibility rests upon us, and it will be no small mercy if at the last we be found clear of the blood of all men. As officers in Christ's army, we are the especial mark of the enmity of men and devils; they watch for our halting, and labour to take us by the heels. Our sacred calling involves us in temptations from which you are exempt, above all it too often draws us away from our personal enjoyment of truth into a ministerial and official consideration of it. We meet with many knotty cases, and our wits are at a non plus; we observe very sad backslidings, and our hearts are wounded; we see millions perishing, and our spirits sink. We wish to profit you by our preaching; we desire to be blest to your children; we long to be

useful both to saints and sinners; therefore, dear friends, intercede for us with our God. Miserable men are we if we miss the aid of your prayers, but happy are we if we live in your supplications. You do not look to us but to our Master for spiritual blessings, and yet how many times has He given those blessings through His ministers; ask then, again and again, that we may be the earthen vessels into which the Lord may put the treasure of the gospel. We, the whole company of missionaries, ministers, city missionaries, and students, do in the name of Jesus beseech you 'BRETHREN, PRAY FOR US.'"

OLD BAPTIST CHURCHES AND DISCIPLINE (Friday Church News Notes, November 9, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- Abraham Marshall (1748-1819) is an example of the type of man who pastored Baptist churches in America in the early 19th century. He was the son of Daniel Marshall, founder of the first Baptist church in Georgia (Kiokee Baptist, founded in 1772). Abraham pastored Kiokee Baptist for 37 years after his father's death. He also had an itinerant ministry. On one arduous six-month journey in 1786, he traveled 3,000 miles on horseback, visited 11 states, and preached at least 197 times. "The minutes reveal that Marshall and the church were strict in their discipline but they were never hasty or careless. They exhibited patience and only exercised discipline when their pleas and counsel were rejected or ignored. They were slow to discipline but quick to forgive, welcoming back into the church anyone who demonstrated a humble and repentant spirit. Marshall was a loving and compassionate pastor, but at the same



time he was a man of strong convictions--especially when it involved loyalty to Christ and His church. Whenever he observed his people being careless or neglecting their Christian duties he was quick to admonish and if necessary rebuke their actions. One such issue which aroused Marshall's ire was church members who would load up their wagons in the latter part of the week and go to market in Augusta and not return in time for the Sunday services. ... As pastor he expected all of the heads of families to have a daily time of prayer, Bible reading, and personal instruction. ... Marshall's goal was to produce a people that put Christ and His church first in their lives" (Thomas Ray, *Daniel and Abraham Marshall: Pioneer Baptist Evangelists to the South*, pp. 36, 37).

MORE ABOUT THE AMAZING HUMAN EYE (Friday Church News Notes, November 9, 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: "Intelligent processing occurs in the retina before the information is transmitted to the brain. It has been estimated that 10 billion calculations occur every second in the retina *before the image even gets to the brain* (Gillen). George Marshall, Ph.D. in Ophthalmic Science from Glasgow University, says: 'The retina is probably the most complicated



tissue in the whole body. Millions of nerve cells interconnect in a fantastic number of ways to form a miniature *brain*. Much of what the photoreceptors ‘see’ is interpreted and processed by the retina long before it enters the brain’ (‘An Eye for Creation: An Interview with Eye-disease Researcher Dr. George Marshall,’ *Creation*, September 1996, www.answersingenesis.org/creation/v18/i4/eye.asp). Even the atheist Richard Dawkins has to marvel at the complexity of the human eye, though he reaches the strange conclusion that it is the product of blind evolution: ‘The optic nerve is a trunk cable, a bundle of separate *insulated* wires, in this case about three million of them. Each of the three million wires leads from one cell in the retina to the brain. You can think of them as the wires leading from a bank of three million photocells (actually three million relay stations gathering information from an even larger number of photocells) to the computer that is to process the information in the brain’ (Dawkins, *The Blind Watchmaker*, p. 93). The eye’s optic nerve can handle 1.5 million simultaneous messages that are sent to the brain where this massive amount of information is instantaneously processed. The eyes are set in the body at the ideal place and are protected by the surrounding bone structure, by the eyelid, the eyelashes, and the eyebrows. The eyes are self-cleaning and self-maintaining. They produce three different types of tears, each with its

own complex chemical makeup. Basal tears are the normal lubricating tears that keep the eye clear of dust. The composition of these tears includes lysozyme which fights against bacterial infection as part of the body’s mind-bogglingly complex immune system. Reflex tears are produced to flush the eye of irritants, such as onion or pepper vapors. Emotional tears are produced as a result of emotional stress and contain a natural painkiller and calming hormones. Tears have three layers, an outer layer which contains oils that prevent evaporation and controls the flow of tears onto the cheek; a middle layer, which contains the proteins and hormones, and a mucous layer touching the eye itself which coats the cornea and provides for even distribution of the tear film.”

FACEBOOK: THE DEVIL’S MIXING BOWL (Friday Church News Notes, November 16, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- Facebook is a two-edged sword. On one hand, it has benefits such as advertising churches and legitimately keeping touch with friends. On the other hand, it is one of the greatest tools of the devil to foster spiritual compromise. It has great potential to corrupt through evil communications (1 Corinthians 15:33). Facebook is the devil’s mixing bowl. It tends to mix everything together, the holy and the unholy, the spiritual and the worldly. The following observation is from Brian Snider, “Most people in our circles do not have the discernment, discretion or courage to stand against things that are wrong. For instance, when someone leaves a good church and goes down a worldly or wicked road, many people continue to remain friends with them and ‘Like’ everything they do. They

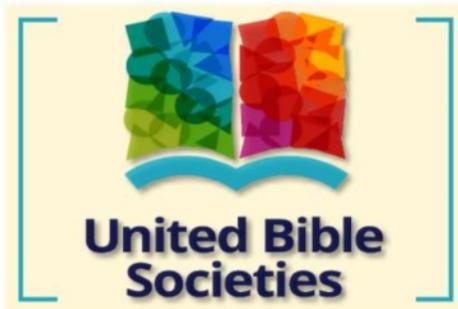
will approve of things on Facebook that their church and pastor plainly stand against including immodest attire, worldly activities, wrong relationships, wrong marriages, rebellion against church, bad doctrine...you name it. They hear these things preached against on Sunday, but Monday morning they approve of them on Facebook. They will not clearly and plainly separate from folks who are going in a direction that contradicts the doctrine of their own church. This encourages the one who is doing wrong, weakens those who would stand against that behavior, and signals to others that these wrong activities are okay. In doing this, they seem to care more about the feelings of rebels than they do the feelings and concerns of a pastor who loves and cares for them. From that standpoint, I believe that Facebook has done untold damage to churches. I have friends in independent, fundamental churches around the world and I have observed that this takes place everywhere.”

CONCLUDING NOTE: Spiritual victory in the age of social media is the same as it has been since the days of Job, who loved God and wanted to honor Him and therefore made a



would use her in bringing about my salvation. In fact, my family and I were nervous because she didn't speak in tongues. ... one day she pointed to a verse I had never seen: 1 Corinthians 12:30 ('Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret?'). I was shaken to the core. There it was plain as day—not everybody has to speak in tongues. Soon, the domino effect began. Other longstanding beliefs were failing the biblical test. No longer did I believe that God's purpose was to make me happy, healthy, and wealthy. Instead, I saw that he wanted me to live for him regardless of what I could *get* from him. ... I am thankful that my wife was willing to question my insistence on speaking in tongues and that my pastor loved me enough to disciple me out of prosperity gospel confusion."

UNITED BIBLE SOCIETIES: UNHOLY HANDS ON GOD'S HOLY WORD (Friday Church News Notes, November 16, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The United Bible Societies (UBS) and the World Council of Churches have published a book that discussed the Bible as an ecumenical tool. It is called *Your Word Is Truth: The Bible in 10 Christian Traditions*. "The publication revives a long history between the WCC and UBS of working together to nurture engagement with Scripture as a



unifying element in ecumenical, inter-confessional relations" (Christian Newswire, Nov. 8, 2018). The only way that the Bible can be a unifying element in ecumenical relations (Catholic, Protestant, Orthodox) is to misuse it. If it were interpreted literally and accurately, it would destroy the ecumenical movement. The Bible says, "... earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints" (Jude 3). Fighting for the one true faith of God's Word is the very opposite of ecumenical unity. If I stand up, for example, for the gospel of the grace of Christ without works or sacraments as taught in God's Word, then I destroy unity with those who preach a sacramental gospel. If I stand up for the literal interpretation of Bible prophecy, I destroy unity with those who hold to an allegorical method of interpretation. If I stand up for the cessation of apostolic sign gifts, I destroy unity with those who claim to exercise those gifts. In truth, the World Council of Churches and the United Bible Societies are enemies of the Bible. they together because they are unified in error. They have a false christ, a false gospel, and a false spirit. For evidence of this, see the free eBooks [Unholy Hands on God's Holy Book](#) and [The World Council of Churches](#), available at www.wayoflife.org.

IS THERE REALLY EVIDENCE FOR EVOLUTION IN THE FOSSILS? (Friday Church News Notes, November 16, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is from CreationMoments.com, Oct. 8, 2018: "It is popularly supposed, without foundation, that fossils are the definitive proof of the theory of evolution. This is the impression that



has been given in high schools, and the like, the world over. For example, the Washington Science Standards says this: 'Earth History has been uncovered by observing processes that take place today, and projecting those processes back in time. These remnants, especially fossils, provide essential clues to understanding the evolution of our planet' (Washington Science Standards K-12, Washington State Board of Education, Version 1.2, 2010). Other states and countries have similar things to say. The BBC's website contains some pages to help high school students in England and Wales. On one of these pages, we find this: 'Most of the evidence for evolution comes from the fossil record. Fossils show how much, or how little, organisms have changed over time.' If most of the evidence for evolution comes from fossils, how much evidence really is that? The BBC's website continues. 'One of the problems with the fossil record is that it contains gaps.' What sort of an admission is this? The evidence for evolution is in the fossil record, yet this record contains gaps. How do they know the record contains gaps? Because important stages in the evolution of certain species are missing? But how do they know they are missing if the actual evidence for evolution is in the fossils? Could it be that the statement is disingenuous and the fossils do not, after all, provide evidence for evolution? In fact, the fossil record provides no such evidence. Instead, there is evidence

for stasis--that many organisms have remained the same--and for extinction.”

FACEBOOK: A SURVEILLANCE MACHINE THAT IS BEING WEAPONIZED

(Friday Church News Notes, November 23, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from “The Facebook Dilemma,” part one, *Frontline PBS*, Oct. 29, 2018: “Zeynep Tufekci, of the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, observes, ‘What Facebook does is profile you. If you are on Facebook, it is collecting everything you do. If you are off Facebook, it is using tracking pixels to collect what you are browsing. And for its micro-targeting to work, for its business model to work, it has to remain a surveillance machine.’ From 2012-2015, Rand Waltzman and his colleagues at the U.S. Department of Defense published more than 200 academic papers and reports about the threats they were seeing from social media. Waltzman says, ‘The concern was that social media could be used for really nefarious purposes. The opportunities for disinformation, for deception, for everything else, are enormous. Bad guys, or anyone else, could use this for any kind of purpose in a way that wasn’t possible before. That’s the concern. [The potential threat of people giving up their data] is that they are opening themselves

up for being targets for manipulation. I can manipulate you to buy something. I can manipulate you to vote for somebody. It is like putting a big target on yourself and saying, ‘Here I am; come and manipulate me. I’ve given you everything you need. Have at it.’ That’s the threat. What I saw over the years of the program was that the medium enables you to really take disinformation and turn it into a serious weapon. When you look at how it works, you see the opportunities for mass manipulation. **People are easily misled, if you do it the right way.** For example, when you see people forming into communities, I can exploit that to craft my message so that it resonates most exactly with that community. And I can do that for every single community. It would be pretty easy to set up a fake account, and large numbers of fake accounts, embedded in different communities, and use them to disseminate propaganda. It’s a serious weapon, because it is an enormous scale. It’s the scale that makes it a weapon.’ Dmytro Shymkiv, adviser to the president of Ukraine, 2014-2018, describes the propaganda center that was set up in St. Petersburg, Russia, called the Internet Research Agency, which has poured out disinformation to fight the anti-Russian government in Ukraine. ‘Russian propaganda against the Ukrainian government was massive on social media. There were so many stories that started emerging on Facebook. ... They scared people. ... They planted a story that Ukrainian soldiers had crucified a child, which is totally nonsense. It was proven that the people telling the story of the crucifixion were actually hired actors. So Facebook was weaponized. [Just as in the Arab Spring, Facebook was being used to flame division. But now by groups working in behalf of

a foreign power, using Facebook’s tools built to help advertisers boost their content.] By that time in Facebook, you could pay money to promote these stories so your stories emerge on the top lines. You immediately get media response. **You can test all kinds of nonsense and understand which nonsense people do not believe and to which nonsense people start believing which will influence the persons receptive to propaganda. And then provoking that person to certain action.’** [After Shymkiv met with Facebook executives and asked them to intervene, the response was,] ‘Sorry, we are an open platform; anyone can do anything within our policy, which is written on the website. We will think about this, but you know we have freedom of speech and we are a very pro-democracy platform; everybody can say anything.’”

MAN FILES SUIT TO CHANGE AGE FROM 69 TO 49 (Friday Church News Notes, November 23, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from “Dutch man, 69, starts legal fight,” *The Guardian*, Nov. 8, 2018: “A 69-year-old Dutch ‘positivity guru’ who says he does not feel his age has started a battle to make himself legally 20 years younger on the grounds that he is being discriminated against on a dating app. Emile Ratelband told a court in



Emile Ratelband

Arnhem in the Netherlands that he did not feel 'comfortable' with his date of birth, and compared his wish to alter it to people who identified as transgender. Ratelband said that due to having an official age that did not reflect his emotional state he was struggling to find both work and love. He has asked for his date of birth to be changed from 11 March 1949 to 11 March 1969. 'When I'm 69, I am limited. If I'm 49, then I can buy a new house, drive a different car,' he said. 'I can take up more work. When I'm on Tinder and it says I'm 69, I don't get an answer. When I'm 49, with the face I have, I will be in a luxurious position.' Doctors had told him his body was that of a 45-year-old man, Ratelband argued. He described himself as a 'young god.'" The Bible says, "The wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23), and, "it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment" (Hebrews 9:27).

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS ISSUES WARNING AGAINST SPANKING CHILDREN (Friday Church News Notes, November 23, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

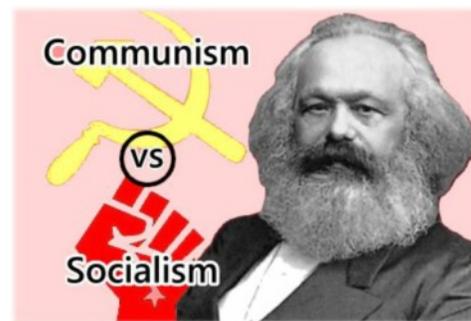
-The American Academy of Pediatrics has issued a strong policy statement claiming that the use of corporal punishment in the home is harmful. The group, which represents about 67,000 doctors, defines spanking as "noninjurious,



openhanded hitting with the intention of modifying child behavior." The group's previous policy encouraged parents not to spank, but stopped short of calling it harmful. According to polls, the use of spanking in the U.S. has declined over the past two decades, but 70% of adults still have enough sense to agree that a "good, hard spanking is sometimes necessary to discipline a child" (2014 General Social Survey, cited from "Spanking Is Ineffective and Harmful, Pediatricians' Group Says," *New York Times*, Nov. 5, 2018). There are still 19 states in the U.S. that either allow spanking in schools or do not have specific rules prohibiting it. God's Word is unequivocal on the issue. "He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes" (Proverbs 13:24). "Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him" (Proverbs 22:15). "The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame" (Proverbs 29:15). Note that the Bible is enjoining the rod of loving correction, not the rod of hateful abuse.

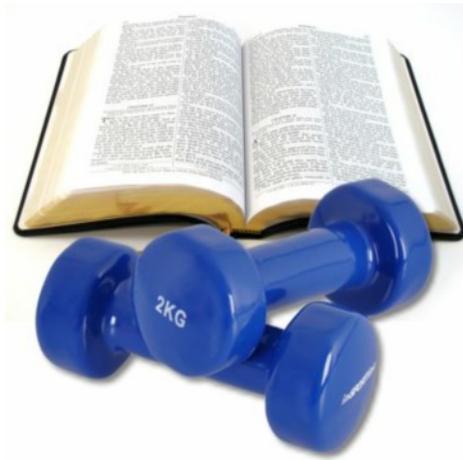
WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SOCIALISM AND COMMUNISM? (Friday Church News Notes, November 23, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The following is excerpted from Jay Richards, "What's the Difference?" *The Stream*, Aug. 7, 2017: "Too many of us are still clueless about socialism and communism. I blame biased media and fuzzy thinking. ... Still, sometimes, the truth leaks out. Last year, *The Washington Post* published a long piece by Ilya Somin. It's about the 'greatest mass



murderer' in the world. ... Guess who wins that grim prize. ... It's Mao Zedong, the leader of China's communist revolution. 'From 1958 to 1962,' Somin notes, 'his Great Leap Forward policy led to the deaths of up to 45 million people--easily making it the biggest episode of mass murder ever recorded.' Let that sink in. In under five years, a government led by one man murdered 45 million of its own people. Scholars have long known the basic stats. But historian Frank Dikötter has shown [*Mao's Great Famine*, 2011] that the number is larger than previously thought. And many more of the deaths were deliberate, rather than 'just' the outcome of bad policies that led to famine. Millions were tortured to death, often for minor crimes like digging up a potato. ... **Lots of people seem to think 'communism' just means 'bad socialism.' But that ignores the meanings of words and Marxist theory itself** ... Here's a brief primer: Marx and his disciples claimed that 'capitalism' must give way to 'socialism,' where private property would be abolished and an all-powerful state would own everything on behalf of the people. That's what Marx meant by the word socialism, and that's the main dictionary definition. This was only supposed to be a stage, though, not the end of all our strivings. At some point, under socialism, people would lose their silly fondness for property, family, religion, and other evils. A 'new socialist man' would emerge

and then the state would ‘wither away.’ Everyone would enjoy peace, prosperity, and the brotherhood of man. Marx and his acolytes called that final, stateless paradise ‘communism.’ Here’s the point: Those regimes led by mass murderers with their gulags, death camps, man-made famines and killing fields were *socialist*. That’s not slander. It’s what these countries called themselves. USSR stood for the ‘Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.’ You gotta break millions of eggs with socialism to make the communist omelet. ... That was sort of the theory anyway. In practice, socialism has just been evil. Unremitting evil, wherever it’s tried. Have a look at North Korea and now Venezuela. Socialism doesn’t lead to a higher plane of existence or a stateless utopia. It leads to a bottomless pit of immorality, poverty, and death. Why would we expect anything different? It’s based on a false view of human nature, history, labor, property, economic value, capital, and the role of prices.”



PHYSICALLY FIT AND SPIRITUALLY FLABBY (Friday Church News Notes, November 23, 2018, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - “For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come” (1 Timothy 4:8). “Bodily exercise does profit a little. The necessity for it in our time and place is well established. But it must not be allowed to place inordinate demands upon the stewardship of our time and money. I have a friend who spends two hours a day running, thirty

minutes (plus showering and dressing time) three times a week in a health club at substantial cost, and three hours or more per week playing racquetball. In addition, he belongs to the local tennis club and plays there once or twice a week. He appears to be in excellent physical condition. He asked me to lunch not long ago because he wanted to talk personally. The all-too-common story was shared of a lack of joy in his work and family in particular, and a growing sense of boredom and frustration with life in general. I asked him if he was willing to take an honest inventory of himself. He was. **He discovered that the time and energy spent on the physical compared to the spiritual was one hundred to one! His conclusion: ‘I’m physically fit, but spiritually flabby.’** That may become the epitaph on too many of our headstones. We may well be in need of regular physical exercise, and we should not ignore our physical fitness. But our spiritual fitness is of much greater importance” (*The Preacher’s Commentary Series*).

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- 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)
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