

O Timothy

"Keep that which is committed to thy trust..."

A Monthly Newsletter for Spiritual Protection and Edification

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"There is a frightful lack of biblical knowledge among members of the average Independent Baptist church, in my experience...In many Independent Baptist churches, people can attend faithfully for years without learning the Bible well. The Sunday School lessons and preaching are biblically shallow, and the people are not taught to study the Bible for themselves." Page 10.

Digging in the Walls: A month's worth of news items, republished from Friday Church News Notes. **Page 13.**



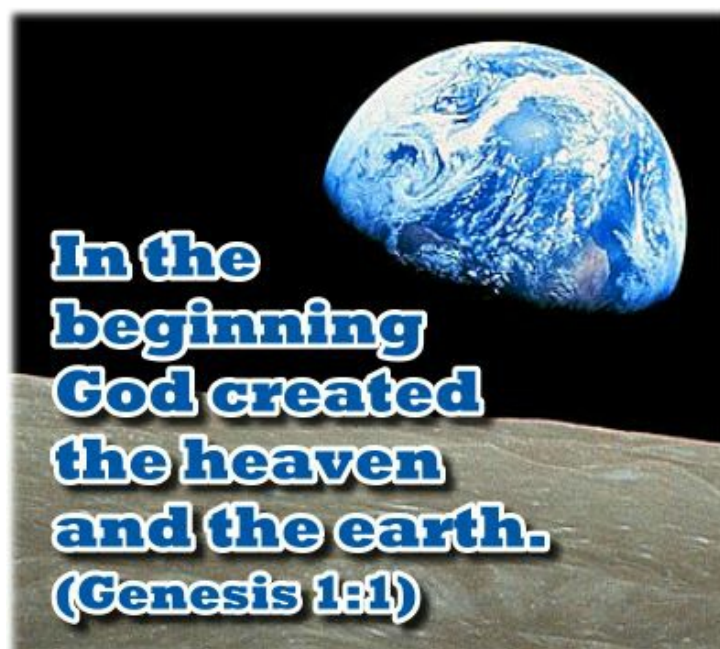
THE DAY THAT GOD'S WORD WAS BROADCAST TO EARTH FROM MOON ORBIT ~ By David Cloud

A half century ago, NASA's Apollo 8 was the first manned mission to leave earth's orbit and to fly around the Moon.

Seven years earlier, U.S. President John F. Kennedy, in a historic speech in Houston, Texas, announced to the world, "We choose to go to the Moon in this decade."

In 1968, NASA was pushing every system hard to achieve this incredible goal. A year earlier, Apollo 1 was a total catastrophe, the three astronauts perishing in a fire during launch training.

Apollo 8 was only the third launch of the 40-story Saturn V rocket with its three million parts, and the first time that men were aboard the contraption. When one of the Apollo 8 astronaut's wives demanded to know the crew's prospect, a NASA director candidly gave the mission a 50-50 chance of success.



The astronauts were Frank Borman, William Anders, and Jim Lovell.

After a journey of 68 hours, the crew circled the Moon 10 times. They were the first men to see the dark side of the Moon (the same side of the Moon always faces earth) and the first to see the earth from the Moon.

On the third journey around the Moon, on Christmas Eve, William Anders took the famous photo “Earthrise.” The high quality photograph, captured with Nikon equipment, shows the lovely blue earth, with its unique life-supporting atmosphere, off in the distance beyond the surface of a barren and colorless Moon. The two craters visible in the photo were named *8 Homeward* and *Anders’ Earthrise*.

On that historic occasion, the crew of Apollo 8 read the creation account from the King James Bible. The reading from Genesis 1:1-10 was done via a live video transmission to earth. The estimated one billion people who heard the broadcast was the largest audience ever to listen to a human voice up to that time.

Borman said, “The only instructions that we got from NASA was to do something appropriate,” so he, Jim Lovell, and Bill Anders took turns reading the Scripture.

In an press interview at the launch of his 2018 book *Rocket Men*, Borman said the idea was that of “the wife or a friend of a friend.” The only way it could have been topped, would have been for the men to have also read John 1:1-14 and John 3:16.

They concluded the historic broadcast with the gracious words, “And God bless all of you, all of you on the good Earth.”

That night, in these end times, in the midst of the very apostasy prophesied in Scripture (2 Timothy 3), by God’s grace, a large percentage of the world’s population heard the eternal words of the Creator.

Seven months later, Neil Armstrong stepped into the pages of history when Apollo 11 put the first men on the Moon.

“In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. And God said, Let there be light: and there was light. And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness. And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day. And God said, Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters. And God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament: and it was so. And God called the firmament Heaven. And the evening and the morning were the second day. And God said, Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one place, and let the dry land appear: and it was so. And God called the dry land Earth; and the gathering together of the waters called he Seas: and God saw that it was good” (Genesis 1:1-10).



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The Southern Baptist Convention and the Charismatic Movement

By David Cloud

The charismatic movement has been sweeping through the Southern Baptist Convention since the late 1980s and the pace of spread is increasing with each decade.

In April 1995, *Charisma* magazine reported that two professors at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary (William Hendricks and Tim Webber) urged the churches not to fear the charismatic movement. Hendricks, director of Southern's doctoral studies, said, "We shouldn't feel defensive or threatened by an alternative experience, perspective or insights about the Holy Spirit," and warned that in fighting the charismatic movement "you could be fighting what is a legitimate experience of the Spirit."

In March 1999, a *Charisma* magazine report entitled "Shaking Southern Baptist Tradition" gave many examples of charismatic Southern Baptist congregations.

Three of the men that are associated with the charismatic move within the SBC are Jack Taylor, Ron Phillips, and Gary Folds, all of whom accepted the unscriptural nonsense that occurred at the Toronto Airport Church in Ontario and/or at Brownsville Assembly of God in Pensacola, Florida.

This charismatic "revival" took the form of gibberish speakings, uncontrollable laughter, falling on the floor, rolling on the floor, barking like a dog, roaring like a lion, braying like a donkey, electric shocks, shakings, jerkings, and other bizarre experiences with no biblical support.

Jack Taylor is a former vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention. Taylor was converted to the "Toronto Blessing" when he visited there in 1994. Since then he has spoken frequently on the radical Trinity Broadcasting Network and similar Charismatic forums.

He founded Dimension Ministries and is busy influencing Southern Baptists and others with his unscriptural doctrines.

Ron Phillips is pastor of Central Baptist Church of Hixson, Tennessee. His annual Fresh Oil & New Wine Conference, which features speakers such as Rodney Howard-Browne, the "Holy Ghost Bartender," draws hundreds of Southern Baptist pastors and church members. The church uses the charismatic rock-style music and is experiencing charismatic phenomenon. Another Southern Baptist pastor, Dwain Miller of Second Baptist Church in El Dorado, Arkansas, has prophesied to Phillips that God would use him "to bring renewal to the SBC's 41,000 churches." He is referring to a charismatic "renewal," which is always accompanied by unscriptural ecumenical fervor and downplaying of Bible doctrine. In 2006, Phillips told the *Tennessean* newspaper that he first experienced speaking in tongues when he was sleeping. He said his wife woke him up and said, "What in the world are you saying?" He concluded that it was a gift from God to encourage him ("Some Baptists Believe Gift of Tongues Remain," *The Tennessean*, March 26, 2006). He says that he continues to speak in tongues in his "private prayers." Of course, there is not a hint of something like this in the New Testament Scriptures. In 2008 Phillips counted 500 churches in his charismatic network ("Charismatic Southern Baptist Churches," *Baptist Standard*, Oct. 30, 2008).

Gary Folds is the former pastor of First Baptist Church in Belle Glade, Florida. He has written a book promoting the Toronto "Blessing" entitled *Bull in a China Shop: A Baptist Pastor Runs into God at Toronto*. He describes being "slain" in the Spirit and other such things. Following is how he described the meetings he attended:

“Some people would simply lay on the floor as though they were sleeping ... Others would writhe in what appeared to be anguish, pain, or possibly agony. Some would twitch, while others shook, and some would even have convulsive-type jerking. Many would cry, while an even greater number would laugh ... Many of them would laugh for an hour or longer. One night I saw people laugh for almost two and a half hours.”

James Robison is another example of SBC charismatics. The once fiery evangelist used to lift his voice against sin and apostasy, but those days are over. In 1979, he had some sort of charismatic experience. That same year he spoke at an Assembly of God church. By 1981, he had completely gone over to the ecumenical Charismatic-Roman Catholic line. That was the year he first invited a Roman Catholic to speak at his Bible conference. Robison was so comfortable with the ecumenical program by 1987 that he joined hands with 20,000 Roman Catholics, including hundreds of priests and nuns, at New Orleans '87. At this meeting, Robison made the following amazing statement: “I tell you what, one of the finest representatives of morality in this earth right now is the Pope. People who know it really believe he is a born again man.”

I was at this meeting with press credentials and personally recorded the message from which this excerpt is taken. Robison remains affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention and has influenced many Southern Baptists in the charismatic direction.

Another example is evangelist Bill Sharples. He resigned a Southern Baptist pastorate after accepting the tongues-speaking movement, but 25% of his meetings are in SBC churches. He claims that 15 to 20 percent of Southern Baptists that he meets are open to the Charismatic movement.

Billy Graham is another Southern Baptist who has recommended tongues and charismatic signs and wonders. In his 1978 book, *The Holy Spirit*, he “endorsed laying on of hands, divine healing and tongues.” He said: “As we approach the end of the age I believe we will see a dramatic recurrence of signs and wonders, which will demonstrate the power of God to a skeptical world.” Graham even promoted the false charismatic prophet Oral Roberts. Graham spoke at the dedication ceremony of Oral Roberts University in 1962. Later that year Graham

joined Oral Roberts as a speaker at the July 1962 convention of the Full Gospel Business Men’s Fellowship International in Seattle, Washington. Graham invited Roberts to the World Congress on Evangelism in 1966 and recommended him to influential evangelical leaders.

Pat Robertson is another example. In the late 1950s he became involved in the Pentecostal movement and began “speaking in tongues.” He established the Christian Broadcasting Network in 1960, and that same year was ordained by the Freemason Street Baptist Church in Norfolk, Virginia, a Southern Baptist congregation.

A few years later he formed the “700 Club,” which spread ecumenical and charismatic doctrine far and wide. He still claims to be affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention. Speaking at Celebration 2000 in St. Louis, Missouri, Robertson testified that though he is a Baptist, he sees the need for Roman Catholic charismatics to visit Baptist churches in order to teach the Baptists how to dance and worship God.

Another charismatic Southern Baptist is Pastor Wallace Henley, Crossroads Baptist Church, Houston, Texas. His church practices tongues speaking, and he supports the “revival” at the Brownsville Assembly of God in Pensacola, Florida, where the pastor gets so “drunk in the spirit” that he cannot lead the congregation. Henley claims that those who are opposed to the charismatic movement are “pharisaical” and “mean-spirited.”

In November 2005 the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board voted to forbid missionaries to speak in tongues, but Jerry Rankin, the head of the board, said that he has spoken in a “private prayer language” for 30 years. What confusion!

Speaking at a chapel service on August 29, 2006, Dwight McKissic, a trustee of the Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, told the students that he speaks in tongues in his “private prayer life” (“Southwestern Trustee’s Sermon on Tongues Prompts Response,” Baptist Press, Aug. 30, 2006). McKissic, who is the pastor of Cornerstone Baptist Church, an SBC congregation in Arlington, Texas, said he has prayed in tongues since 1981. The first time, he says, was when he was a seminary student. He recalls, “Strange sounds begin to come out of my mouth” (“Southern Baptists Debate Tongues,” cbs11tv.com, October 07, 2006).

Missionary David Rogers, son of the late Adrian Rogers, SAID HE WORKS WITH MANY MISSIONARIES WHO PRACTICE PRIVATE TONGUES.

Charles Carroll, SBC missionary to Singapore who was dismissed by the Southern Baptist International Mission Board in 1995 because of his charismatic activities, testified that many Southern Baptists living overseas are charismatic, but most remain “in the closet” for fear of being fired (“Baptist Missionaries in the Closet,” *Charisma*, March 1999, p. 72).

In May 2015, the Southern Baptist International Mission Board reversed its former policy, approving a new one accepting missionaries who speak in “tongues” so long as they don’t become “disruptive” by placing “persistent emphasis on any specific gift of the Spirit as normative for all” (“FAQs on Missionary Appointment Qualifications,” IMB Policy 200-1, IMB.org).

Thus, this is not a small issue. Rankin and those supporting his position are trying to distinguish between public tongues and private, saying that while they are opposed to public “tongues” they believe there is a private form of tongues that one can use to edify oneself.

In fact, the tongues of Acts are the tongues of 1 Corinthians 14. Biblical tongues were real languages that a believer was enabled to speak supernaturally.

Biblical tongues were a sign to the nation Israel that God was going to send the gospel to every nation and create a new spiritual body composed of both Jews and Gentiles (1 Cor. 14:20-22, quoting Isaiah 28:11-13). Each time tongues were spoken in the book of Acts (Acts 2, 10, 19) Jews were present.

As the prophet Isaiah foretold, the Jews rejected the sign and were judged by God. The purpose of tongues speaking ceased even before the events recorded in the book of Acts were completed. The last mention of tongues is in Acts 19. The sign, having been fulfilled, ceased.

When John Chrysostom wrote in the 4th century about the sign gifts of 1 Corinthians 12-14, he said: “This whole place is very obscure: but the obscurity is produced by our ignorance of the facts referred to, and BY THEIR CESSATION, being such as then used to occur but now

no longer take place” (“Homilies on 1 Corinthians,” Vol. XII, *The Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers*, Hom. 29:2).

There is no “private prayer language” in the New Testament. It is the recent invention of Pentecostals and charismatics who, having realized that they cannot speak in real tongues that can be interpreted (one of the absolute biblical requirements), were forced either to renounce their experience or to create some sort of cockeyed defense for it. There is not one example of a prayer in the Bible that is uttered in unintelligible mutterings that “bypass the intellect.” Jesus Christ did not pray that way and neither did the apostles. I have heard charismatics speak in their “private prayer language” in churches and conferences in many parts of the world. Larry Lea’s “private prayer language” at Indianapolis ’90 went something like this: “Bubblyida bubblyida hallelujah bubblyida hallabubbly shallabubblyida kolabubblyida gloooooory hallelujah bubblyida.” I wrote that down as he was saying it and later checked it against the tape. Nancy Kellar, a Roman Catholic nun who was on the executive committee of St. Louis 2000, spoke in “tongues” that went like this: “Shananaa leea, shananaa higha, shananaa nanaa, shananaa leea...” repeated over and over.

Friends, this is not any sort of biblical language; it is childish nonsense, but it is neither innocent nor lacking in spiritual danger. The Bible warns repeatedly and forcefully about the danger of spiritual deception, and those who empty their minds through the practice of a “private prayer language” are in danger that the devil will fill them. Being “sober and vigilant” is the opposite of emptying one’s mind, of “moving outside of the box,” of “letting go and letting God.”

The depth of which the SBC has drunk of the charismatic spirit was evident in December 2015 when SBC President Ronnie Floyd spoke at International House of Prayer’s OneThing 2015 (ihopkc.org/onething/speakers-worship-leaders). IHOP was founded in 1999 by Mike Bickle (b. 1955). He was joined by men such as Bob Jones, John Paul Jackson, Paul Cain, David Parker, and Francis Frangipane, who were promoted as prophets of a latter-day miracle revival movement. Bickle’s emphasis is a Latter Rain signs and wonders ministry in preparation for Christ’s return. IHOP hosts 24/7 prayer meetings which are mystical contemporary worship “encounters” powered by rock music. They are weird charismatic free-for-alls. IHOP’s 24/7 prayer sessions have been described as

“frenetic ... euphoric worship ... mesmeric, musical worship, repeating the same phrases over and over” (“Love and Death in the House of Prayer”).

I can confirm this from my visit in October 2014 to an IHOP conference. IHOP’s 24/7 “prayer” is not about thoughtful, biblical prayer or quiet, thoughtful meditation on Scripture. It is about charismatic mysticism whereby God is allegedly “encountered” in and beyond prayer and Scripture. It is about “experiencing” God. It is about bringing in the kingdom of God through signs and wonders. This is why IHOP is attracted to Roman Catholic contemplative prayer, as evidenced by the fact that their bookstore features dozens of contemplative titles.

Contemplative prayer has the same mystical objective as IHOP’s 24/7 prayer: an *experience* with God and direct revelation from God beyond Scripture. But when you go beyond Scripture, you go beyond the God of Scripture, and you open yourself to angels of darkness masquerading as angels of light. This is why charismatic worship and contemplative prayer lead to association with Rome, the heart and soul of apostasy, and ultimately to universalism, pantheism, panentheism, and idolatry, as we have documented in our book *Contemplative Mysticism*. IHOP is so deceived that it believes it will literally direct God’s judgments on earth during the Tribulation. For more on this see “The International House of Prayer” at www.wayoflife.org.

One of the major bridges from the charismatic movement into Southern Baptist churches and homes is contemporary worship music. The 2008 Southern Baptist Hymnal contains a great many songs written by charismatics and published by charismatic music companies such as Integrity, Maranatha, and Hillsong. About 75 of the top 100 contemporary worship songs are included. For example, songs by David Ruis, Paul Baloche, Jack Hayford and Darlene Zschech are included.

These songs are direct bridges to the one-world “church.” I don’t know of one prominent contemporary worship artist who is opposed in any practical sense to the charismatic movement and ecumenism, and that includes the Gettys.

David Ruis was a worship leader at the Toronto Airport Church where people rolled on the floor, barked like

dogs, roared like lions, laughed hysterically, and got “drunk in the spirit” during their “revivals.” Ruis’s song “Break Dividing Walls” calls for unscriptural ecumenical unity between all denominations.

Paul Baloche was worship leader at the charismatic Community Christian Fellowship of Lindale, Texas. Their 2002 Leadership Summit featured Ricky Paris of Vision Ministries International, who calls himself an apostle and is said to give “apostolic covering” to Vision Church of Austin, Texas. Baloche’s *Offering of Worship* album was recorded at Regent University in Virginia Beach, which was founded by the radical charismatic ecumenist Pat Robertson. As far back as 1985, Robertson said that he “worked for harmony and reconciliation between Protestants and Catholics” (*Christian News*, July 22, 1985).

Some of the Regent professors are Roman Catholic and Regent’s Center for Law and Justice has a Roman Catholic executive director. According to *Frontline* magazine, May-June 2000, a Catholic mass is held on Regent’s campus every week.

Jack Hayford, author of the song “Majesty” (which teaches the Pentecostal kingdom-now theology) and many other very popular worship songs, is pastor of Church-on-the-Way Foursquare Church, a Pentecostal denomination founded by the female pastor Aimee Semple McPherson. Paul and Jan Crouch, of the Trinity Broadcasting Network are members of Hayford’s church. Speaking at the St. Louis 2000 conference, Hayford told how his daughter approached him one day and expressed concern that her “tongues speaking” was mere gibberish. He encouraged her that the believer must first learn to speak in “baby tongues” before he speaks in “adult tongues.” (I attended this conference with press credentials and heard Hayford say this.) To the contrary, biblical tongues-speaking is not something that can be learned; it is a supernatural gift and there is not one example in the New Testament of someone learning how to speak in tongues.

Hayford claims that in 1969, as he approached a large Catholic church in Southern California, God spoke to him and instructed him not to judge Roman Catholicism. He says he heard a message from God saying, “Why would I not be happy with a place where every morning the testimony of the blood of my Son is raised from the altar?” (“The Pentecostal Gold Standard,” *Christianity Today*,

July 2005). Based upon this “personal revelation,” Hayford adopted a neutral approach to Catholicism, yet the atonement of Jesus Christ is NOT glorified on Roman Catholic altars. The Catholic mass is an open denial of the doctrine of the once-for-all atonement that we find in the book of Hebrews. Note what the Second Vatican Council said about the mass: “For in it Christ perpetuates in an unbloody manner the sacrifice offered on the cross, offering himself to the Father for the world’s salvation through the ministry of priests” (*The Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy*, “Instruction on the Worship of the Eucharistic Mystery,” Intro., C 1, 2, p. 108).

This is only a small part of Rome’s wicked heresies, and it is impossible that God would encourage Jack Hayford to look upon the Roman Catholic Church in any sort of positive, non-judgmental manner. Hayford has acted on this “personal revelation” by yoking up with Roman Catholic leaders in conferences throughout the world. For example, he joined hands with thousands of Roman Catholics, including hundreds of Catholic priests and nuns, at the North American Congress on the Holy Spirit & World Evangelization in St. Louis in 2000. This is evidence of spiritual blindness of the highest degree.

Darlene Zschech and her Hillsong worship band performed for the Catholic Youth Day in Sydney, with the pope present. The lyrics to Zschech’s “Holy Spirit Rain Down” (which is included in the new Baptist Hymnal) begin: “Holy Spirit, rain down, rain down/ Oh, Comforter and Friend/ How we need Your touch again/ Holy Spirit, rain down, rain down.” Where in Scripture are we instructed to pray to the Holy Spirit? To the contrary, the Lord Jesus Christ taught us to pray to the Father (Mat. 6:9). The charismatic movement is not in submission to the Word of God and does not care one way or the other that there is no Scriptural support for this type of prayer, but shame on Baptists who follow in these presumptuous and disobedient footsteps.

Zschech’s song “I Believe the Presence” from her *Shout to the Lord* album preaches false Pentecostal latter rain theology. The lyrics say: “I believe the promise about the visions and the dreams/ That the Holy Spirit will be poured out/ And His power will be seen/ Well the time is now/ The place is here/ And His people have come in faith/ There’s a mighty sound/ And a touch of fire/ When we’ve gathered in one place” (“I Believe the Presence” from *Shout to the Lord*).

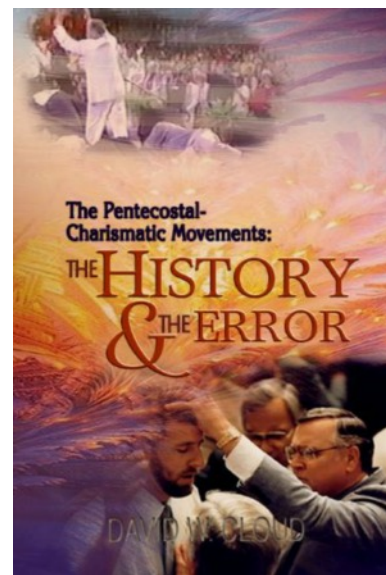
Shame on Lifeway for giving charismatics a powerful forum to influence Baptist churches, and shame on the Southern Baptist Convention for allowing Lifeway to do these things.

Because the SBC refuses to deal with this error consistently, the leaven will continue to spread. The Bible warns that “a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump.” This is true for sin (1 Cor. 5:6) as well as for false doctrine (Gal. 5:9).

In a few years, someone will probably be writing about “tongues speaking” and other charismatic phenomena among Independent Baptists.

(For more about the charismatic movement see [*The Pentecostal-Charismatic Movements: History and Doctrine*](#), available from [Way of Life Literature](#).)

The Pentecostal-Charismatic Movements The History & The Error



Examining some of the major Pentecostal denominations, including an historical section looking at the Laughing Revival. The last section of the book deals with the theological errors of the Pentecostal-Charismatic movements.

Available from: [Way of Life Online Store](#)



The following is excerpted from the new book [*The Hyles Effect*](#), which is available as a free eBook from the Way of Life web site -- www.wayoflife.org. It is also available in print.

The fruit of the Jack Hyles model and methodology has often consisted of moral and spiritual shipwreck.

Multitudes of former members of Hyles-type churches, having witnessed so much error and hypocrisy, have abandoned church altogether. Or they have explored the contemporary emerging philosophy, having allegedly found more spiritual reality in those circles than they witnessed in "fundamentalism."

Being the products of shallow evangelism, many of these have never been biblically converted. They have prayed a sinner's prayer but haven't been born again. Having never had a real and dynamic relationship with Christ, they are man-followers, and when the man fails, they are offended and quit, sometimes blaming Christ and the church for something that is man's fault alone.

Even if they were truly saved, they were not properly disciplined and grounded in the Scriptures and in solid doctrinal truth. All too typically they have been used or neglected and sometimes abused, but not shepherded.

The following is one of the many testimonies we have received through the years of the wretched fruit of the Hyles philosophy:

"I have so much to say, I do not know where to start. I was brought up in an extremely fundamental ... Hyles and Bob Gray worshiping church in southern California. At one point this church, which averaged no more

than 200 on Wednesday nights (at its peak in the late 90's), was 3rd in America in baptisms, with more than 10,000 in a single year. I was one of the 'top' teenagers in the church and I was 'in' as far as popularity and promise at our church. It was a shallow, man praising, numbers driven Christianity that has driven countless men, women, families, and teenagers to bitterness and a hatred for anything that has to do with the Bible or God. I know because I was one of them. I have many old friends who have told me they could never trust a man and/or pastor cause of the trauma they went through.

"My family is currently struggling and I am praying for my family as they, too, have grown bitter. My family is currently looking to go to the complete other side of Christianity (new evangelical/praise chapel type) and I am praying and hoping they see Christ and the Bible more real as I have during this last year. I have recently read your book 'The Two Jacks' and am currently reading the book on quick prayerism, which I could tell so many stories about. I have had to "reset" my whole foundation of salvation, repentance and following Christ. I cannot even tell you how that the book 'The Two Jacks' took me on a roller coaster of emotions, from anger to disbelief, but I realized that all my emotions and EXTREMELY high, almost worship-like, feelings towards men were getting in the way of me worshiping and following Christ wholeheartedly.

"I was bitter and lost for most of my early 20's but I am now studying the Scriptures, discipling people, and following Christ in a new church. I am writing to say thanks!"

The solution to this problem is not to abandon church or to capitulate to a contemporary style of Christianity that is conformed to the world. The "newest" part of the true

Christian faith is 2,000 years old; it simply is *not* going to be contemporary cool! Biblical Christianity is pilgrim Christianity.

When I was saved in 1973 out of a “hippie” background, I was perfectly cool by the world’s standards. I was a real “dude.” I had my long hair; had my self-centered attitude and my New Age philosophy; had my sensual party music; had my drug-using, hitchhiking background. But after my conversion I didn’t search for a cool type of Christianity. I had truly repented of my foolish ways and my rebellion against God. I had drunk deeply of “this world” and I was fed up with it. I wanted something different: something eternal rather than temporal, solid rather than shallow, unbending rather than plastic, holy rather than worldly.

When I was confronted with cool Christianity in the form of the Jesus Movement in the 1970s, I was confused by it at first, then I was offended by it. That is what God saved me OUT OF! Why should God’s people want to conform themselves to the plastic pop culture? Why should they want to conform to the world’s music and appearance and drink deeply of its entertainment? The Bible is very plain that you cannot have the world and Christ, too. This world is at enmity with the holy God and His Christ, and the friend of this world is the enemy of God. And the Western pop culture is the most powerful and effective form of the “world” that has ever come down the pike. See the warnings of Romans 12:2; Ephesians 5:11; James 1:27; 4:4; 1 John 2:15-17.

Many who reject “fundamentalist” type churches as being too strict and hypocritical end up straining at gnats and swallowing camels (Mat. 23:24). I mean that while they claim to see all of the real and perceived errors of “fundamentalists,” they overlook even worse errors in the contemporary crowd.

The church is God’s plan. Jesus said, “I will build my church” (Mat. 16:18). He said to the first disciples that He would be with His people to the end of the age as we seek to fulfill the Great Commission (Mat. 28:18-20).

We should reject unscriptural churches, but we must not reject the church as God’s holy institution.

Further, the solution is not to abandon “fundamentalism,” which I am referring to merely in the sense of practicing separatism and being strict in one’s approach to doctrine

and practice. “Fundamentalism” in this sense is not the problem.

(I reject “fundamentalism” as a movement as being contrary to Scripture due particularly to its trans-denominational character, its “in essentials unity, in non-essentials liberty” heresy, and its “universal church” mentality. When I speak of holding to “fundamentalism” I am using the term as a synonym for biblical separatism. See the report “The [Insufficiency and Error of Fundamentalism](#)” and the free eBook [New Evangelicalism: Its History, Characteristics and Fruit](#) at the Way of Life web site -- www.wayoflife.org.)

God’s Word demands separation from error and worldliness (e.g., Romans 12:2; 16:17; 2 Corinthians 6:17; Ephesians 5:11; Philippians 3:17-18; Colossians 2:8; 1 Timothy 6:3-5; 2 Timothy 2:16-18; 3:5; James 1:27; 4:4; 1 John 2:15-17).

Separatism is not an optional part of Christianity. It is biblical and it is right and it is pleasing to God.

God’s Word demands strictness in the matter of doctrinal purity (e.g. Acts 20:27-28; Ephesians 4:14; 1 Timothy 1:3; 2 Timothy 2:2; Titus 1:9) and holy living (e.g. 2 Corinthians 7:1; Titus 2:11-14; 1 Peter 2:11).

Just because some have practiced “fundamentalism” hypocritically and shallowly does not mean that it is wrong at its essence.

We must exercise great patience and mercy because every church has failings. Yea, we all have failings, so it would be hypocritical to demand perfection of others. We must find the wise, spiritually-mature balance of being patient with those sins, compromises, and errors of a sort that will always be a factor in a Bible-believing church, while not ignoring the sins, compromises, and errors that render the church incapable of fulfilling its God-given task.

We must learn when to stay and when to leave, when to submit and when to separate, and only the Spirit of God can grant such wisdom.

The solution to the problem we discuss in this report [referring to the book [The Hyles Effect](#)] is to move beyond criticizing error and to strive to do something right, as we have discussed in the chapter “Not Enough to Criticize.”



BIBLICAL SHALLOWNESS in the CHURCHES

By David Cloud

The following is excerpted from [*Why Most Independent Baptist Churches Will Be Emerging*](#), available from Way of Life Literature in print and a free eBook edition, www.wayoflife.org.

There is a frightful lack of biblical knowledge among members of the average Independent Baptist church, in my experience. Many pastors have admitted to me that the majority of their people are not serious Bible students.

It is impossible to understand the Bible properly and grow in understanding of it effectively without training in such things as principles of interpretation, Bible history and geography, Bible culture, and theology or Bible doctrine, yet most members of Independent Baptist churches are grossly lacking in such things.

Most are like a church member I talked with recently who told me that his Bible reading is “hit and miss” and that he had no Bible dictionary, concordance, or commentary, had never learned to use such tools, and knew little to nothing about the principles of Bible interpretation. Another church member told me recently that his daily Bible study consists of reading a couple of verses chosen randomly.

It is not uncommon for church members not even to look at their Bibles during the preaching. Few come to the services to obtain serious Bible education and to capture practical truth they can use in their lives and ministries.

In many Independent Baptist churches, people can attend faithfully for years without learning the Bible well. The Sunday School lessons and preaching are biblically shallow, and the people are not taught to study the Bible for themselves.

No wonder so many churches change direction so easily when the pastor changes. They aren’t properly grounded in Scripture. They are dependent on a man rather than the Spirit of God and the Word of God. They are man-centered rather than Christ-centered.

And the problem begins with pastors who are not serious Bible students.

In the Pastoral Epistles, we see that every preacher is to be a serious Bible student. Paul taught Timothy to be nourished up in good doctrine (1 Tim. 4:6), to give attendance to reading and to doctrine (1 Tim. 4:13), to take heed unto doctrine (1 Tim. 4:16). He taught Timothy that it is the elder who labors in the word and doctrine who is worthy of double honor (1 Tim. 5:17).

Too many pastors want the double honor of this verse without paying the price of laboring in the Word of God.

Paul reminded Timothy that he had been educated among many witnesses and exhorted him to pass this same biblical education along to others (2 Tim. 2:2). He exhorted him to study to show himself approved unto God, rightly dividing the word of truth (2 Timothy 2:15). He taught him to be “apt to teach,” which requires much learning (2 Tim. 2:24). He taught him that the Scripture is for doctrine (2 Tim. 3:16). He taught him to preach God’s Word with doctrine (2 Tim. 4:2).

Paul showed Timothy the example of having a passion for study even when he was in prison and old and knew that he would soon face martyrdom (2 Tim. 4:13)!

Paul taught Timothy that the qualified pastor is a man who has “been taught” so well that he is capable of protecting the congregation from whatever error the devil throws at it (Titus 1:9-16). This requires a lot of teaching and a lot of study.

Christ instructed us not only to preach the gospel to every creature, but also to disciple the converts so thoroughly that we teach them to *observe all things* whatsoever He has taught us (Mat. 28:19-20). See also Acts 20:27, where Paul taught the *whole counsel of God*. That refers to the complete canon of Scripture. That is a lot of Bible education. It requires the teaching of history and geography and prophecy and a thousand other things.

Many Independent Baptist preachers are not too far behind the Primitive Baptists described in *The Man Who Moved a Mountain*, a biography of Virginia preacher Robert Childress. They actually gloried in their ignorance. One preacher shouted, “Praises be to God that I am ignorant. I’d only praise him more if I were ignoranter” (p. 22). Hearing such things as a child, Childress recalled thinking to himself, “Did God hate learning?” (p. 22).

One preacher described the situation at First Baptist Church of Hammond, Indiana, as follows:

“I attended Hyles-Anderson and I noticed very quickly that they had a huge emphasis on ministry (i.e. bus work, winning souls) but they REALLY lacked in the Bible department. I heard a lot of do’s and don’t’s, I heard a lot of ‘Dr Hyles says,’ but I rarely heard anybody explain from the Bible why. Why do we need to be separated, why the CCM churches are wrong, why dress modestly. Hyles people are very anemic when it comes to Bible. I once heard Jack Schaap (before he became pastor) in chapel say, ‘Some of you guys say you need to come back early from your bus route to study your Bible; don’t worry about learning your Bible; you are here for the ministry; you can learn your Bible when you graduate from here.’ Bro, they are Biblically ignorant; they are all practical and no doctrine.”

I have found that the most difficult place to sell serious Bible study books and associated materials is at the

average Independent Baptist preachers’ meeting. There are exceptions, but I have found this to be the rule.

A pastor friend who has been in the ministry for many decades wrote the following to me in 2014:

“I asked a missionary what books he had read lately that were a blessing, and he replied that all he reads is a magazine on running. I fear that Independent Baptists may be the *illiterati* of the 20th and 21st centuries. And the present addiction to iPhones and social media only makes it worse. John Nordman, who worked with Hyles years ago at Hyles Anderson, led the Bible college in Brisbane for some years until the pastor’s son did a Schaap on some kids there and the wheels fell off. He sent me their college prospectus one year hoping to get some of our kids, and I wrote him back and asked him why there was not a course on theology. I later found out that Hyles Anderson never allowed theology to be taught because Jack Hyles thought it would turn their students into Calvinists. Some years ago I started asking preachers questions when we sat around talking or when we drove down the road. Questions on what doctrine was especially precious to them at that moment, or what book of the Bible they love the most this week, or what good book they are reading, or which one has helped them grow the most, or what authors are the most challenging to them spiritually, or what they think about this or that verse (and I pick the hardest ones to ask about). If they are driving, I take my Bible and read to them some passage I am meditating on and ask them to explain it to me. Most of them are out of their depth within ten seconds. Some stare at me with open mouth and shake their head. The Presbyterian pastors I know are the most adept at discussing solid Bible doctrine. Most of the Independent Baptist pastors have never read anything deeper than John Rice or Curtis Hutson. We had a missionary here this weekend who tells great stories, but doesn’t know ANY solid Bible doctrine.”

This preacher said further:

“There is abysmal ignorance concerning the doctrine of Christ, concerning the doctrines of justification, sanctification, and glorification. One of our major problems is that expository preaching is not politically correct in fundamental churches. For a pastor to preach through a book of the Bible is a rare thing. Most of the men I know don’t do that because it doesn’t draw big crowds and they like fireworks in the pulpit or fairy tales.”

A major reason why so many Independent Baptist churches are biblically shallow is the shallow preaching.

Shallow evangelism and carelessness about membership has produced churches that are mixed multitudes, and shallow preaching has kept the mixed multitudes biblically shallow.

I witnessed this at the largest, most influential Independent Baptist church in its heyday in the 1970s. In my three and a half years at Highland Park Baptist Church I heard the most acclaimed preachers of the Independent Baptist movement, and they were great speakers, great story tellers, great entertainers, great motivators, but for the most part they were shallow Bible preachers. Expository preaching was exceedingly rare.

Jack Hyles was the king of shallow biblical preaching, taking verses out of context and using a text as a pretext. He would read a verse, then say, “Now close your Bibles and listen to me.”

Recently a friend described the sermon of a preacher who was visiting his church: “It was a typical ‘Sword’ sermon. Five points with all comments and no Scripture. There was literally a one verse ‘text’ and then reference to one other verse thru the whole sermon. Else it was just him telling us stuff and telling stories.”

This type of preaching does not build up the people in God’s Word. They remain babies by the definition of Hebrews 5:13-14 in that they are unskillful in the Word. They learn some basics about salvation and Christian living and some other doctrines, and they learn how to be busy doing those things that will grow the congregation numerically, but for the most part they do not grow to become mature saints who really know God and really walk with him and have a strong knowledge of God’s Word.

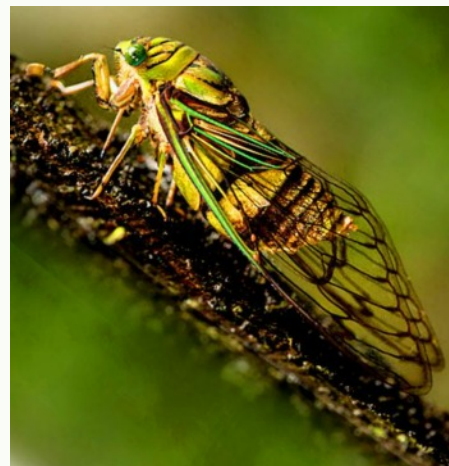
They don’t learn how to interpret Scripture; they don’t learn the meaning of great doctrinal words; they don’t learn how to interpret biblical difficulties; they don’t learn how to understand figures of speech. They don’t learn how to exercise their senses to discern good and evil (Heb. 5:14). They don’t even expect to be taught the Word of God in a serious way.

This is evident in congregations that barely look at the Bible during preaching.

Churches that aren’t serious Bible education institutions are building on the sand, and they won’t stand for long in today’s spiritual climate.

CICADA RACKET IS DESIGNED (Friday Church News Notes, February 22, 2019, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is from Creation Moments, Jan. 31, 2019: “While the call of the cicada sounds like raucous chaos to us, researchers have only just learned that these amazing creatures have a complicated system of communication. Cicada beetles live underground for 13 to 17 years before emerging to live a few brief weeks to sing and mate before they die. Immature cicadas feed off the fluids flowing through tree roots. One acre of ground can have as many as 400 pounds of immature cicadas beneath its surface. Once

out of the ground, cicadas molt into their final adult form and, after a few days, are ready to begin mating. At this point, they have only four to six weeks to mate before they die. Males begin their call to find a suitable female. The male’s rasping call ends by slurring into a lower pitch. Then he listens. If a female is interested, she will make a click with her wings. The male responds and after several successful conversations, the male changes his style. If the female responds to this change with more clicks, the female will allow him to mate. Eggs are laid in the twigs. After they hatch, the hatchlings fall to the ground and begin burrowing to start the life cycle again. While the racket made by cicadas sounds like random noise to us, it is a complex



communication system that follows set rules. Complex systems of communication can only be the product of an intelligent Designer, the very Creator God Who is revealed in the Bible. Ref: *Science News*, 6/24/00, pp. 408-410, ‘Cicada Subtleties.’”

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?



PAUL CHAPPELL SCHEDULED TO SPEAK IN ROCK & ROLL SOUTHERN BAPTIST CHURCH WITH SLATE OF EVANGELICALS (Friday Church News Notes, February 1, 2019, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- Paul Chappell, Pastor of Lancaster Baptist Church of Lancaster, California, and President of West Coast Baptist College, is scheduled to speak in May at the One Nation Under God Conference at the hard-rocking First Baptist Church in Villa Rica, Georgia. (For evidence of their rocking, see the church's youth ministry video clips.) Other speakers include Todd Starnes (former staff writer for the Southern Baptist Press); Robert Jeffress, Pastor of First Baptist Church of Dallas, Texas (Southern Baptist); Tony Perkins, Southern Baptist and president of the Family Research Council; and Emir Caner, President of the Southern Baptist-affiliated Truett-McConnell University. Pastor Chappell is obviously sensing more liberty these days to be what he has long been, which is a conservative evangelical. This is the type of preachers that he has been producing for some time. God said through the prophet Amos, "Can two walk together, except they be agreed?" (Am. 3:3). This is a truism, which requires the simple answer, "No, when men walk together it is because they are in agreement." So who is Paul Chappell

walking together with? Todd Starnes, Robert Jeffress, Tony Perkins, Emir Caner, and the other speakers at this conference are conservative evangelicals. They are not theological liberals; they are not on any of the radical sides of evangelicalism; they are not Pentecostals; they are not emergents. They are pro-life. They support traditional family values. Politically, they are fiscal conservatives, constitutionalists, pro-military preparedness. They favor the enforcement of immigration laws and border security. But they are not, *by any means*, biblical separatists, which means that they are bridges to anything and everything religiously. Evangelicalism renounced "separatism" back in the 1950s and 1960s, in Billy Graham's heyday. Harold Ockenga, who coined the term "neo-evangelicalism" in 1948, said that the chief difference between "neo-evangelicalism" and fundamentalism is "its repudiation of separatism." That repudiation has become more hardened with each passing decade. Sometimes it seems that the evangelical (even the most "conservative") has only one thing that he really and truly dislikes, and that is "separatism," and only one type of preacher that he renounces with any real vigor, and that is the "separatist." But to repudiate separatism is to repudiate the clear teaching of Scripture, such as 2 Chronicles 19:2; Psalm 119:104, 128; Proverbs 8:13; Amos 5:15; Matthew 7:15; Romans 12:9; 16:17-18; 1 Corinthians 15:33; 2 Corinthians 6:14-18; 10:5; 11:1-4; Ephesians 4:14; 5:11; Colossians 2:8; 1 Thessalonians 5:21; 2 Thessalonians 3:6; 1 Timothy 6:3-5; 2 Timothy 2:16-18; 3:5; Titus 3:10-11; 1 Peter 3:11; 1 John 4:1; and 2 John 8-11. By his own admission, Pastor Chappell

has been drinking from the wells of big-tent evangelicals, such as Chuck Swindoll, John Maxwell, Max Lucado, and John Piper, even Peter Drucker, one of the fathers of the emerging church. These are authors on Chappell's own list of recommended books; not books he reads to critique, but books he reads for profit; not books he reads only in private, but books he recommends publicly on his Ministry 127 blog to influence church leaders (as of the last time I checked, which was January 20, 2019).

<https://paulchappell.com/2014/06/23/reading-for-leading-recommended-books/>

Another name on Chappell's list of recommended books is the late Eugene Peterson, one of the most dangerous authors of this generation. And the Peterson book Chappell lists promotes contemplative prayer, which are the most dangerous spiritual waters conceivable. Peterson, author of *The Message*, is a bridge to anywhere: Romanism, Orthodoxy, the one world church, even female gods (Peterson was a strong recommender of *The Shack*), universalism, and goddess theology. That is where the author Sue Monk Kidd ended up after beginning to dabble in contemplative prayer when she was a Southern Baptist Sunday School teacher. (See "From Southern Baptist to Goddess Worship" at www.wayoflife.org.) Shame on any man who recommends that God's people drink from these dangerous waters!

ANOTHER COOL CHURCH ESTABLISHED BY A LANCASTER INSIDER (Friday Church News Notes, February 1, 2019, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Lancaster Baptist Church of



Lancaster, California, and its college, West Coast, are producing a steady stream of very cool, slick, contemporary churches. The latest is CityPoint Baptist Church of Tempe, Arizona, founded in 2018 by John Guy. It is a full-blown CCM church with the darkened auditorium and the skinny-jeans-clad preacher delivering motivational, felt-need type messages. This is the model that I saw at an Emerging Church conference in San Diego in 2009, which I attended with press credentials. The conference was sponsored by Zondervan and InterVarsity Press, two of the largest and most influential Christian publishers. Their authors represent the mainstream of evangelicalism today as well as evangelicalism's more cutting edge. *Christianity Today* magazine was prominently represented at the conference. Andy Crouch, a senior editor, was one of the main speakers and led a praise and worship session. Other speakers included Bill Hybels, Brian McLaren, Rob Bell, Leighton Ford, Gordon Fee, Shane Claiborne, J.P. Moreland, John Ortberg, David Kinnaman, Scot

McKnight, Alex McManus, Christopher Wright, and William Paul Young (author of *The Shack*). There were roughly 1,500 pastors and Christian workers in attendance. This is the emerging crowd that many young Independent Baptists are emulating to various degrees. CityPoint's John Guy was an assistant pastor at Lancaster, working alongside Paul Chappell, and helped lead the worship. Guy spoke at Lancaster's Majesty Music Conference in March 2018. One of the staff members (worship leader) at CityPoint is Mark Rasmussen, Jr., son of Mark Rasmussen, Vice President of West Coast Baptist College. Mark Jr. had a prominent role in the music ministry at Lancaster, and he has been at the forefront of pushing the envelope of music and philosophy. In 2017, Paul Chappell's youngest son, Matt, started a contemporary work called Rock Hill Church in Fontana, California. Paul ordained him for this work on April 25, 2016, and tweeted praise for the new work. Rockhill Church uses full blown contemporary music, including Hillsong, and in typical emerging fashion, everything

is dark. The room is dark for the worship service and it is dark for the preaching. It would be very difficult to actually look at your Bible and “search the Scriptures.” Matt’s messages are littered with motivational, positive-thinking language such as “leveraging a new beginning.” The messages are light on sin and holiness and heavy on grace, and it is not a Titus 2:11-15 grace. It is an emerging grace. It is a Chuck Swindoll grace. Matt’s preaching is filled with non-critical references to the pop culture. In his first message at Rock Hill, Matt cited and *non-critically* referenced a basketball star, rock goddess Taylor Swift, Steve Jobs, the Los Angeles Lakers, and a professional fisherman. What signal does that send to his listeners? When Paul Chappell ordained Matt in 2016, he reminisced online about how that Matt surrendered to preach in the 7th grade and that he is the product of Lancaster Baptist Church and West Coast Baptist College, and we agree with that. (For more on this, see “Lancaster Baptist Church’s Contemporary Fruit” at www.wayoflife.org. Also see the free eBook [What About Steven Anderson?](#) for information about another church in Tempe, Arizona, and the free eBook [The Emerging Church Is Coming](#) for a firsthand account of the aforementioned conference - https://www.wayoflife.org/free_ebooks/)

NEW YORK GOVERNOR CELEBRATES NEW ABORTION LAW THAT ALLOWS THE MURDER OF BABIES UP UNTIL BIRTH (Friday Church News Notes, February 1, 2019, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from



“NY Governor Cuomo Celebrates,” *The Daily Wire*, Jan. 23, 2019: “On Tuesday, New York Governor Andrew M. Cuomo, delighted that the New York legislature passed the Reproductive Health Act which would allow mothers to kill (pardon me, abort) their babies up until birth, celebrated this legalized murder by ordering that the spire at One World Trade Center, the Governor Mario M. Cuomo Bridge, the Kosciuszko Bridge and the Alfred E. Smith Building in Albany all be lit in pink on Tuesday night. Cuomo chortled, ‘The Reproductive Health Act is a historic victory for New Yorkers and for our progressive values. In the face of a federal government intent on rolling back Roe v. Wade and women’s reproductive rights, I promised that we would enact this critical legislation within the first 30 days of the new session--and we got it done. I am directing that New York’s landmarks be lit in pink to celebrate this achievement and shine a bright light forward for the rest of the nation to follow.’ ... Cuomo has been a long-standing champion of murdering the unborn and contemptuous of those people who are pro-life, saying they had ‘no place in the state of New York.’”

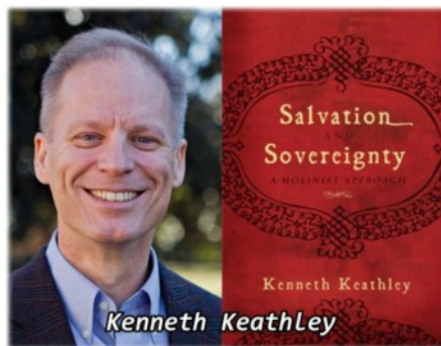
FAST DEAD TREE OIL (Friday Church News Notes, February 1, 2019, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The following is from CreationMoments.com, Nov. 21, 2017: “Forestry organizations have a major problem with beetles. The Mountain Pine beetle infests many coniferous trees in the Western United States. Apparently 40 million acres of forest have been damaged by these critters. A fungus can get into the tree with the beetle, and this fungus prevents transportation of water and nutrients. The beetle lays its eggs in the bark, and beetle larvae can also cause the tree to die. If this were not bad enough, forestry companies then have the difficulty of disposing of these trees, before they cause further damage from fire. The timber from the trees, however, is likely to be cracked and damaged, and is often stained by the presence of the beetles and fungus. University of Washington scientists have come up with an ingenious solution. The damaged timber can still be used as a fuel. So the UW School of Environmental and Forest Sciences have come up with a way of heating this wood, and other organic materials, at very high temperatures, in the absence of oxygen. This treatment creates a type of fuel oil, which is a dark brown liquid. This



fuel has been used in some countries for heating buildings, such as hospitals. Different kinds of oil will have different compositions. While there is not necessarily a close similarity between this wood oil, and petroleum oil, the process at least demonstrates that fuel oils do not take millions of years to form. Similarly, petroleum oils need not have taken millions of years, but could have formed in conditions at the time of the Flood. Ref: 'More efficient way to make oil from dead trees,' *ScienceDaily*, May 2, 2017.

BEWARE OF MOLINISM (Friday Church News Notes, February 8, 2019, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Molinism is a theology developed by 15th century Jesuit priest Luis de Molina as a half-way thing "between Calvinism and Arminianism." It is defined as follows by Jake Rainwater: "Molinism is an attempt to reconcile God's sovereignty and man's responsibility through the use of 'middle knowledge.' Between God's 'natural knowledge' of everything that could be and God's free knowledge of everything that is, there is God's middle knowledge of everything that would be" ("Salvation and Sovereignty: A Molinist Approach," Oct. 3, 2017). If you don't understand that, you are not alone! Molina himself didn't understand it. "Middle knowledge" is a worthy addition to the many other inscrutable Calvinist terms, such as supralapsarianism, sublapsarianism, infralapsarianism, compatibalism, monergism, synergism, hypothetical atonement, libertarian free will, subjective grace, immediate imputation, desiderative will, and antecedent hypothetical will. A major proponent of Molinism today is Southern Baptist Kenneth Keathley, professor of theology at Southeastern Baptist Seminary in Wake Forest, North



Carolina. Keathley's book *Salvation and Sovereignty: A Molinist Approach* is listed on the "Reading for Leading" list of Paul Chappell, pastor of Lancaster Baptist Church of Lancaster, California. Keathley's approach is described as follows: "Molina's middle knowledge is key for Keathley's soteriology. After introducing and laying the framework in the first two chapters, Keathley borrows Timothy George's ROSES framework (an alternate to TULIP - Radical depravity, Overcoming grace, Sovereign election, Eternal life, Singular redemption) to unpack his Molinist soteriology. Keathley is a clear writer, and has the ability to bring lofty concepts such as the workings of the Molinism and soteriology down to an accessible level." Reformed Theology has spread widely throughout the Southern Baptist Convention in recent decades, having first captured its seminaries, and it is spreading rapidly among the more intellectual Independent Baptists, with Bob Jones University graduates at the forefront. In truth, Molinism is Jesuitical philosophical *junk*. Some men can't simply and humbly accept what the Bible says; they must try to bind Bible teaching into a philosophical package (which they

call systematic theology). And Molinism holds to the fundamental error of John Calvin and his mentor Augustine, which is "sovereign election" (or "unconditional election"). The Bible's approach is foreknowledge election, not "sovereign election." That's what we see in two major passages on election, Romans 8:29-30 and 1 Peter 1:2. The Bible begins with God's foreknowledge. And fore-knowledge is *not* fore-will; the Greek *proginosko* (verb) and *prognosis* (noun) in Ro. 8:29 and 1 Pe. 1:2 mean "to know beforehand, to foresee, forethought." Foreknowledge election, which is the plain teaching of Scripture, allows for and encompasses all that the Bible says about human free will and choice and the fact that the gospel is for whosoever will. Election is as complicated as God Himself, but it is simple enough at a basic level as revealed in Scripture. The doctrine of the Trinity, too, has a basic simplicity that a child can understand, if we let the Bible speak for itself in its own words and don't try to go beyond Scripture. "The Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world"! Foreknowledge election is something I can teach to highly literate and illiterate, which I do in our missionary work. I don't have to try to explain dense, manmade terms. If you try to philosophize and enter into the mysteries of God's eternal counsels beyond the Bible's actual teaching in the Bible's own precise words, you waste a lot of time and enter dangerous spiritual territory.

HILLSONG PHOENIX HOSTED ALPHA CONFERENCE, CATHOLIC PRIEST, AND CATHOLIC MASS (Friday Church News Notes, February 8, 2019, www.wayoflife.org,

fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)
 - Hillsong is a church in the suburbs of Sydney, Australia, the largest church in that country (formerly Hills Christian Life Centre), long affiliated with the Assemblies of God. It is co-pastored by the Houstons, a husband-wife team: Brian (author of "You Need More Money") and Bobbie (author of "Kingdom Women Love Sex"). Hillsong is also a growing family of churches around the world. There are Hillsong affiliates in New York, Los Angeles, Phoenix, London, Madrid, Amsterdam, Copenhagen, Paris, Zurich, Sao Paulo, Tel Aviv, and Moscow, among other places. Hillsong churches are among the most influential producers of contemporary worship music, music that is used by all denominations, even by some Independent Baptists after a lot of the rock & roll is squeezed out. Darlene Zschech of "Shout to the Lord" fame was worship leader at Hillsong Sydney for 25 years before becoming co-pastor with her husband of Hope Unlimited Church in 2010. Hillsong has long been *radically* ecumenical. In a 2004 interview with *Christianity Today*, Zschech expressed her philosophy: "I've been in the Catholic Church, in the United Church, the Anglican Church, and in many other churches, and when worship is offered in truth, this sound emerges-regardless of the style" (Michael Herman, "Zschech, Please," *christianitytoday.com*, June 4, 2004). She doesn't explain how worship can be "in truth" in the context of an ecumenical unity among denominations that teach doctrinal error. Zschech and Hillsong performed for the Roman Catholic World Youth Day in Sydney on July 18, 2008. Pope Benedict XVI



conducted a papal mass on the last day of the extravaganza. On July 3-4, 2015, Zschech and Hillsong joined hands with the pope at the Convocation of the Renewal of the Holy Spirit at the Vatican. The Catholic mass was celebrated at the event led by Cardinal Angelo Comastri. According to blasphemous Catholic dogma, the priest has the power to turn the bread into the actual body and blood of Jesus, and it is then worshiped in the form of the consecrated host. We wonder if Hillsong addressed some of their enthusiastic worship to Rome's Host-Jesus? Pope Francis praised the charismatic movement's zeal for unity and said that Christian unity is "rooted in a common baptism" ("Pope Greets Members of the Renewal," July 4, 2015, *FullyCatholic.com*). According to Roman Catholic dogma, baptism is the new birth and the entrance into the Christian life which is then nurtured by the sacraments. It is a cursed "grace plus works" gospel (Galatians 1:8-9) which the Catholic Church in recent times has cleverly rebranded as "grace only." In Rome, Darlene Zschech and Hillsong sang "God Is Here," but whatever God they were singing about, it is not the God revealed in Scripture, for He does not countenance heresy, false gospels, and rebellion to His Word.

We wonder if the Hillsong folk took the time to visit Rome's Santa Maria Maggoire (Saint Mary Major) basilica to pray to the Queen of Heaven and to meditate on the statue of Mary hanging on the cross with Jesus? Hillsong United participated in Together 2016 in Washington, D.C., joining hands in that forum with Pope Francis, who delivered a message by video. **Most recently, January 31-February 1, 2019, Hillsong Phoenix hosted the annual Alpha Conference. Catholic priest Mike Schmitz, one of the speakers, conducted a Catholic mass.** Fundamental Baptists and Bible-believing churches that use contemporary praise music are playing with fire. This music brings with it a philosophy that will change the character of any "fundamentalist" church. It builds bridges to the "broader church," which is progressing toward the formation of a one-world apostasy.

WEIRD MADONNA AT WORLD YOUTH DAY 2019 (Friday Church News Notes, February 8, 2019, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)
 - World Youth Day 2019 was held in Panama City in January, and Pope Francis conducted an open air papal mass for about half a million devotees on the last day. Behind the altar was a painting of the typical long-haired hippie Jesus and on the altar was a Madonna holding the monstrance. The Mary image features a halo, signifying Mary as the Queen of Heaven. Her position between Jesus and the people, and the fact that she is holding the monstrance, which is the container for the consecrated wafer or host, which is the very Jesus Himself according to official Catholic



theology, depicts Mary's position as Mediator. The Second Vatican Council proclaimed, "[T]he Blessed Virgin is invoked in the Church under the titles of Advocate, Helper, Benefactress, and Mediatrix" (*Vatican Council II--The Conciliar and Post Conciliar Documents*, "Dogmatic Constitution on the Church," chap. 8, II, 62, pp. 382-383). But the Mary image at the papal mass is mostly empty from the breasts down where body should be and has extraordinarily long thin legs. We don't know exactly what the thing is supposed to signify, but it is very strange and New Agey. Many popular Contemporary Christian Music groups have participated in papal masses or have performed at forums where masses were conducted, including Hillsong and Darlene Zschech, Lincoln Brewster, Tammy Borden, Switchfoot, Newsboys, Norma Jean, Steven Curtis Chapman, Casting Crowns, Underoath, Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir, Sanctus Real, the Gaithers, Matt Maher, Graham Kendrick, Jack Hayford, John Michael Talbot, Rich Mullins, Sandi Patty, Michael W. Smith, John Wimber of the Vineyard churches, Third Day, TobyMac, Kari Jobe, David Crowder, Kirk Franklin, Passion, and Jeremy Camp. At World Youth Day 2019, the Pope urged the young people to work for Christian unity, claiming that disunity is of the devil. "True love ... harmonizes [differences] in a superior unity. On

the other hand, we know that the father of lies prefers people who are divided." This is the ecumenical philosophy that is building the end-time one world "church," and contemporary music is its most practical and effectual element.

CHINA'S SOCIAL CREDIT SYSTEM - SOCIALISM IN ACTION (Friday Church News Notes, February 15, 2019, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from "China's Social Credit System," futurism.com, Dec. 2, 2017: "In a contentious world first, China plans to implement a social credit system (officially referred to as a Social Credit Score or SCS) by 2020. The idea first appeared in a document from the State Council of China published in June 2014. It is a technological advancement so shocking to modern-minded paradigms that many can do little but sit back in defeatist chagrin as science fiction shows us its darker side. The SCS seems relatively simple. Every citizen in China, which now has numbers swelling to well over 1.3 billion, would be given a score that, as a matter of public record, is available for all to see. This citizen score comes from monitoring an individual's social behavior—from their spending habits and how regularly they pay bills, to their social interactions—and it'll become the basis of that person's trustworthiness, which would also be publicly ranked. This actually sounds worse than an Orwellian nightmare. A citizen's score affects their eligibility for a number of services, including the kinds of jobs or mortgages they can get, and it also impacts what schools their children qualify for. ... China's

SCS proves reality is darker than fiction. ... The government also says that this will 'allow the trustworthy to roam everywhere under heaven while making it hard for the discredited to take a single step,' according to *The Wall Street Journal*. ... The major issue is this: the SCS goes well beyond just rating one's ability to manage debt; in essence, it puts a number on a citizen rating their worth as a human being—and it forces others to respect that rating. 'China's proposed social score is an absolute reaffirmation of China continuing to push forward to be a complete police state,' said Anurag Lal, former Director of the U.S. National Broadband Task Force for the FCC under the Obama administration and president and CEO of mobility solutions firm Infinite Convergence, in an email to *Futurism*. 'They take it a step further by becoming not only an establishment of a totalitarian police state that monitors its people but one that completely evades users' privacy. All forms of activity and interactions, online or otherwise, will be rated, available to view and stored as data.' Ultimately, the problem is that 'socially acceptable behavior' will be defined by the Chinese government, not a democratic process or an objective panel. And punitive measures will certainly be taken when a person breaks this trust. With the SCS, the Chinese government will actually hit two birds with one stone: They will have a way of promoting



and enforcing what they consider to be ‘socially acceptable behavior,’ and they will have a way of monitoring virtually all aspects of citizens’ lives.”

WHAT’S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SOCIALISM AND COMMUNISM? (Friday Church News Notes, February 15, 2019, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The following was printed in Friday News on November 23, but we want to republish it in this issue. There is a rapidly growing acceptance of socialism among American voters, but it is the product of gross and frightful ignorance. 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 meaning 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.”



MEDITATION BUSINESS EVALUATED AT \$1 BILLION

(Friday Church News Notes, February 15, 2019,

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

- Calm, an online meditation subscription service, has raised \$115 million in startup funding and is evaluated at \$1 billion, which is called “unicorn” status (referring to its rarity) (“The Meditation Unicorn,” *businessresearcher.com*, Feb. 6, 2019). Calm is only the largest of a slew of popular meditation services



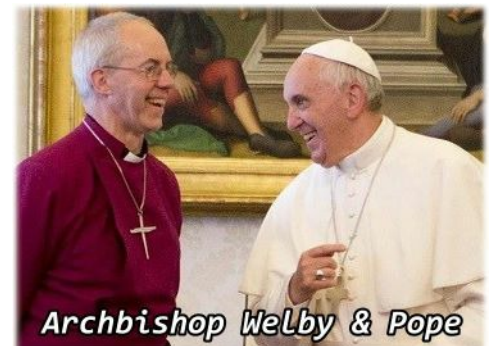
and apps, such as Simple Habit, BioBeats, and Headspace. The latter has in-flight meditation channels on eight airlines. Calm cofounder Alex Tew says, “This financing will accelerate our mission to make the world healthier and happier.” Meditation is the practice of entering into a transcendental or altered state of consciousness by means of a mantra or by focusing the mind on a single mental image, etc. Meditation is an integral part of Hinduism and Buddhism that has spread widely through Western society since the twentieth century. The invasion from the east began in the 1920s with Hindu gurus such as Paramahansa Yogananda (d. 1952), founder of the Self-Realization Fellowship Society, and Jiddu Krishnamurti (d. 1986) of the Order of the Star in the East. Yogananda’s book *Autobiography of a Yogi*, continuously in print since 1946, has been translated into 18 languages and has wielded a great influence. Before I was saved in 1973, I joined the Self-Realization Fellowship Society. It emphasizes the Hindu-New Age concept that man is divine, the universe is God (pantheism), and man can connect with truth and power in his inner self through mystical practices, particularly meditation. It is “the science of uniting the individual soul with the Cosmic Spirit.” It was in the 1960s that Hindu meditation exploded in popularity in the West when the Beatles became associated

with Maharishi Mahesh Yogi, founder of Transcendental Meditation. Maharishi called TM “the spontaneous flow of knowledge.” In October 1975, Maharishi’s picture appeared on the cover of *Time* magazine. Most members of the Beatles moved on from TM, but George Harrison remained closely affiliated with the International Society for Krishna Consciousness. His 1970 hit song “My Sweet Lord” glorified the Hindu god Krishna and featured a yoga mantra. Meditation is a major instrument in the New Age tool kit, together with positive thinking, positive confession, visualization, guided imagery, and hypnosis. It is used by New Age channelers and alternative health care providers. It is a mainstay of life coaching and human potential gurus, such as Jack Canfield and John Gray. It is used by the world’s largest corporations and by the U.S. military. There is a New Age meditation room at the United Nations headquarters in New York City. Meditation cannot be separated from its pagan roots and has inherent spiritual dangers. The attempt to enter an alternative state of mind is a recipe for spiritual deception. Deepak Chopra says that through meditation “a change occurs” and that “something may be glimpsed behind the screen of thought, a sense that you have entered a deeper reality” (*The Third Jesus*, p. 93). At this point, the meditator “may sense a hidden presence that cannot be described but can still be felt.” In view of the Bible’s warning about demons that pose as angels of light, this is a loud warning to those who have ears to hear. Not surprisingly, meditation often leads to acceptance of pagan beliefs such as pantheism, panentheism, reincarnation, and

universalism. “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 11:14-15). “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour” (1 Peter 5:8).

HEAD OF CHURCH OF ENGLAND SAYS HE SPEAKS IN TONGUES EVERY DAY (Friday Church News Notes, February 22, 2019, www.wayoflife.org,

fbs@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury, says that he speaks in “tongues” every day. In a recent interview with the Christian radio station Premier, he said, “In my own prayer life, and as part of my daily discipline, I pray in tongues every day--not as an occasional thing, but as part of daily prayer. It’s not something to make a great song and dance about. Given it’s usually extremely early in the morning it’s not usually an immensely ecstatic moment” (*BBC News*, Jan. 21, 2019). The “archbishop” is also open to receiving words of knowledge and prophecies. He claims that he was “filled with the Holy Spirit” and began speaking in tongues at age 19. That was at Holy Trinity Brompton



Archbishop Welby & Pope

SNOW ROLLERS (Friday Church News Notes, February 15, 2019, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - A snow roller is formed when a thin blanket of snow is rolled across ice by wind or gravity to form something that looks like a bale of hay. They are extremely rare and fascinating. Though a “natural” phenomenon, like the marvelous snow flake, it is obvious to the Bible believer that they are also controlled by God. The Creator did not make the world and then leave it. Christ upholds all things by His power (Heb. 1:3) and by Him all things consist (Col. 1:17). “Fire, and hail; snow, and vapour; stormy wind fulfilling his word” (Psalm 148:8). Every scientist should fall to his knees in wonder at the marvels of God’s creation that are being discovered on a daily basis, but instead their hearts are ever



more hardened as they hold steadfastly to the myth of evolution. It is wiser to bow before the compassionate but holy God and receive His gracious salvation. Then you can go through life singing, “*This is my Father’s world, the birds their carols raise, the morning light, the*

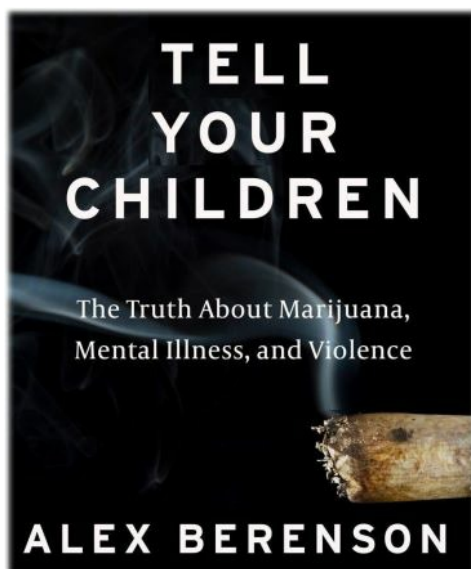
lily white, declare their Maker’s praise. This is my Father’s world; He shines in all that’s fair; in the rustling grass I hear Him pass, He speaks to me everywhere” (“This Is My Father’s World,” text by Malthie Babcock, music by Franklin Sheppard).

(HTB), one of the largest and most prestigious Church of England parishes. It is located at the heart of Knightsbridge, London’s most exclusive shopping district, just down the street from Harrods department store. It was at Holy Trinity that the “laughing revival” was birthed in England in 1994. Nicky Gumbel, a priest at Holy Trinity, had an experience “like massive electricity going through” his body. In a meeting Gumbel was leading, a man lay on the floor with his feet in the air and started laughing like a hyena. (This information is from material published by Holy Trinity Brompton that I picked up on a research visit there in 1997.) In an interview with Charles Moore in 2013, Welby said

it isn’t necessary to have a personal conversion experience to be a Christian. “There is an incredible range of ways in which the Spirit works. It doesn’t matter how you get there” (Welby interview with Charles Moore, *The Daily Telegraph*, Jul. 12, 2013). Welby practices Roman Catholic contemplative prayers. His “spiritual director” is a Roman Catholic priest who has taught him to engage in “the adoration of the Eucharist,” which is the worship of the consecrated host of the mass, and the methodology of Ignatius of Loyola, founder of the Jesuits (*The Daily Telegraph*, Jul. 12, 2013). When asked if “gay sex is sinful,” Welby said, “I don’t do blanket condemnation and I haven’t got a

good answer to that question” (“Justin Welby unable to give ‘straight answer,’” *The Guardian*, Oct. 2, 2017). In conclusion, I have a word of knowledge for Archbishop Welby that is based solidly on the Bible’s teaching: “You are the head of an apostate institution which is not a New Testament church; your ‘tongues’ are gibberish; your contemplative mysticism is demonic; and there is only one way of salvation, which is through a born again conversion experience by repentance toward God and faith in the once-for-all sacrificial blood atonement of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

MARIJUANA NOT EFFECTUAL FOR PAIN RELIEF (Friday



Church News Notes, February 22, 2019, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The following is excerpted from "Marijuana, Mental Illness and Violence," Walter Williams, DailyWire.com, Feb. 16, 2019: "Alex Berenson is a graduate of Yale University, with degrees in history and economics. He delivered a speech last month at Hillsdale College's Allan P. Kirby, Jr. Center for Constitutional Studies and Citizenship in Washington, D.C., on the hidden dangers of marijuana use. He told his audience, 'Almost everything that you think you know about the health effects of cannabis, almost everything that advocates and the media have told you for a generation, is wrong.' The active ingredient in marijuana is tetrahydrocannabinol, or THC. Marijuana is most commonly prescribed for pain, but it's rarely tested against other pain relief drugs, such as ibuprofen. Last July, a large four-year study of Australian patients with chronic pain showed that cannabis use was associated with greater pain over time. Marijuana, like alcohol, is too weak as a painkiller for people with terminal

cancer. They need opiates. Berenson said, 'Even cannabis advocates, like Rob Kampia, who co-founded the Marijuana Policy Project ... acknowledge that they have always viewed medical marijuana laws mostly as a way to protect recreational users.' Marijuana legalization advocates sometimes argue that its use reduces opiate use. That is untrue. Berenson said, 'The United States and Canada, which are the countries that have the most opioid use, also have by far the worst problem with ... cannabis.' Marijuana carries not only a devastating physical health risk but also mental health dangers. A 2017 National Academy of Medicine study found that 'cannabis use is likely to increase the risk of developing schizophrenia and other psychoses; the higher the use, the greater the risk. ... Regular cannabis use is likely to increase the risk for developing social anxiety disorder.' Also, a paper in the *American Journal of Psychiatry* last year showed that people who used cannabis in 2001 were almost three times as likely to use opiates three years later, even after adjusting for other potential risks. Something else that's not given much attention is that cannabis today is much more potent than it was in the 1970s, when most marijuana contained less than 2 percent THC. Today marijuana routinely contains 20 to 25 percent THC, as a result of sophisticated farming and cloning techniques. As such, it produces a stronger and quicker high. Berenson said that the difference between yesterday's marijuana and today's is like the difference between 'near beer and a martini.' Berenson cited several studies and other findings showing a relationship between marijuana use and violence and crime."

DISNEY HOLDING A "GAY PRIDE" PARADE FOR FIRST TIME (Friday Church News Notes, February 22, 2019, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The following is excerpted from "Disney Holding," *The Daily Wire*, Jan. 30, 2019: "The Walt Disney Company is embracing LGBT pride month for the first time ever and hosting a gay pride parade in its Disneyland Paris park in France. The massive corporation has been moving toward a more liberal approach to sexual identity over the last decade, but the 'Magical Pride' parade, set to take place on June 1, 2019, is the first time the Disney Parks have openly embraced and endorsed the shift. The event will take place right at the beginning of global pride month--June--and will feature a 'Magical March of Diversity Parade,' reportedly involving DJs, live music performances, and themed photo opportunities for visitors to the Disneyland Paris park, according to Queerty. Gay pride events in Disney Parks are not new. The 'Magical Pride' celebration has been an "unofficial" event at Disneyland Paris since 2014. Disney parks located in the United States--Walt Disney World in Orlando, Florida, and Disneyland in Anaheim, California--have both hosted unofficial LGBT events including 'Gay Days,' an unofficial weekend celebration for



gay couples and same sex parents. The first Gay Days celebration took place in the mid-to-late 2000s. ... Disney has been inching closer to a cultural shift over the last decade, slowly incorporating openly LGBT characters into its television shows and animated features (including an LGBT background character in *Frozen*). The upcoming Disney live action film, *Jungle Cruise*, based

on the Disney parks attraction of the same name, will feature the first openly gay character in a Disney live action feature."

IRANIAN AIR CHIEF SAYS IRAN READY FOR WAR THAT WILL DESTROY ISRAEL (Friday Church News Notes, February 22, 2019, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- In the latest example of Iran's undying hatred of Israel, the head of Iran's air force says that his country is ready to destroy the Jewish nation. Brig. Gen. Aziz Nasirzadeh said, "We're ready for the decisive war that will bring about Israel's disappearance. Our armed forces are prepared for the day when Israel will



be destroyed" ("Iranian air chief," *The Times of India*, Jan. 21, 2019). This statement was made after Israel targeted Iranian weapons storehouses, intelligence facilities and a training camp in Syria. A day earlier, Iran had targeted the Mt. Hermon ski facility in Israel with a rocket, which was destroyed by Israel's Iron Dome defense system. In July 2018, the deputy commander of Iran's Revolutionary Guards 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). He said that "the Zionist regime constitutes a threat ... to the entire Islamic world." In 2016,

Ahmad Karimpour, senior advisor to the elite al-Quds force, boasted, "If the Supreme Leader's orders [are] to be executed, with the abilities and the equipment at our disposal, we will raze the Zionist regime in less than eight minutes" ("Iranian Commander," *The Times of Israel*, May 22, 2016). In March 2016, Iran tested ballistic missiles

emblazoned with the words "Israel must be wiped off the map." Last year, Iranian Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei tweeted that Israel "will not see the next 25 years." This is delusional, for the Bible says that Israel cannot be destroyed and that land is her God-given land. Her judgments at God's hand during the "times of the Gentiles" as prophesied in Deuteronomy 28 will be completed during the reign of the Antichrist, the conversion prophesied in Deuteronomy 30:6 will occur, and a truly spiritual Israel will be at the heart of Christ's kingdom. Israel is back in the land, and this is an exciting thing for Bible believers, but she is far from "circumcised in heart" at this time.

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