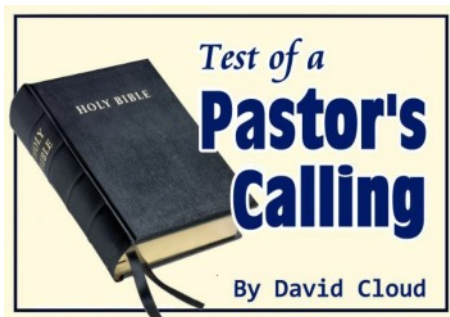


# O Timothy

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

A Monthly Newsletter for Spiritual Protection and Edification

Volume 36 - Issue 5 - May 2019



*"Psalm 37:4 ... does not say that whatever an individual desires he will have. Desire itself is not evidence of God's leading and calling, because there can be many wrong desires in a man's heart. The promise is for those who delight in the Lord, those who love the Lord and love His Word and abide in Him and pursue His holy will." Page 4.*

**Digging in the Walls:** A month's worth of news items, republished from Friday Church News Notes. **Page 10.**

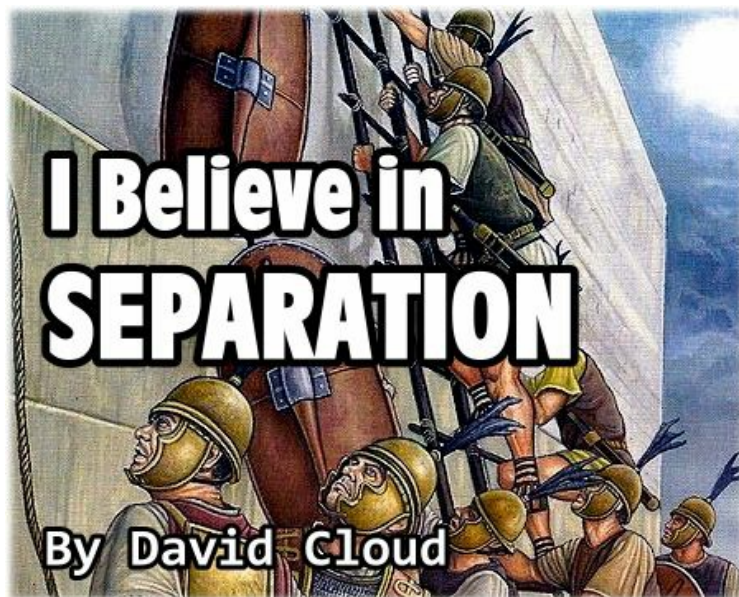


## I BELIEVE IN SEPARATION ~ By David Cloud

The following is from [Why Most Independent Baptist Churches Will Be Emerging Within 20 Years](http://www.wayoflife.org), available as a free eBook from [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org).

I, for one, believe in separation. I am convinced that the "renunciation of separatism" is the renunciation of biblical Christianity. Separation is biblical. It is even an "essential" and a "fundamental" doctrine. Separation is not the gospel, but it is a divinely-ordained wall of spiritual protection against apostasy and the world. To reject "separatism" is to tear down this important wall so that God's people are no longer kept from the "good words and fair speeches" whereby heretics deceive the hearts of the simple (Romans 16:17-18) and no longer protected from the siren call of the world.

I was not raised a separatist. I don't hold to separation as some form of tradition from my fathers. I was raised Southern Baptist and learned nothing about separation in



my youth. I became a separatist by conviction after I was born again as a young man and began studying the Bible for myself.

As a new Christian I wasn't attracted to separatism because of my background or personal inclination. I am a converted hippy. After I was discharged from the Army as a Vietnam vet, I grew my hair long, sold drugs, hitchhiked across America, went to jail, and otherwise lived the rock & roll lifestyle to the hilt. Any natural inclination I had as a new Christian was to *keep* my long hair, hold on to rock music, and remain friends with the Pentecostal movement. God's Word didn't allow that, and it was learning to separate from the world and from false teaching that kept me on the right track in the Lord's will.

#### SEPARATION IS NECESSARY FOR TRUE DISCIPLESHIP.

Knowing the importance of separation, I am deeply concerned about the next generation, if Jesus "tarries." I am concerned about my kids and grandkids and as yet unborn great grandkids. There are fewer and fewer churches that give more than lip service to separation. Will such churches still exist in 20-30 years so that God's people can find the spiritual protection they will need even more urgently than we do now?

By God's grace, there will be such churches if I have anything to do with it, and I pray that many preachers will join me in that determination.

When I find a preacher who is playing games about biblical separation and who is showing signs of rejecting it, I refuse to have anything to do with him as far as ministry goes. I am not going to join his church. I'm not going to preach in his church. I am not going to preach with him on the same platform in meetings. I am not going to invite him to preach in my church. And I am not going to preach in churches that would have him!

Yes, that is narrow and strict, but I believe it is necessary to cut off the effect of compromise. Compromise is a communicable disease!

The old backslidden prophet in 1 Kings 13 taught the young prophet to disobey God by taking His commandments lightly. God told the young prophet to preach against the idolatrous altar at Bethel and then to leave and not even to eat there. The prophet obeyed for a while. He ran a good race for a distance. He proclaimed God's message against the altar boldly, refusing the king's offer of a reward, then headed away from Bethel. But instead of continuing to get away from there as fast as his donkey could carry him, he decided to take a rest under an oak tree. There an old compromised prophet, who had become comfortable in Bethel, met him and encouraged him that he didn't need to take God's commandments so strictly, that he could go to his house and enjoy a meal before leaving the idolatrous city.

That sounded reasonable, didn't it? Surely God would understand. The "little bit" of compromise didn't work out for him, though. As a result of his association with an old backslidden prophet, the foolish young prophet was killed. By the way, we see in this account that backslidden preachers lie!

There are a lot of compromised preachers in Independent Baptist churches who are saying it is OK to lighten up on separation. They say that music is more an issue of taste, that teaching the biblical principles of modest dress is legalism, that it is fine to take the youth group to Dollywood and initiate them into Hollywood.

They leave separation up to the people. Their theme song is "lighten up, don't be so strict and narrow. Let's be separatists but let's not go overboard with it. Let's not be fanatics. Surely, it can't hurt to read the 'conservative' evangelicals and use their materials and follow their blogs. If we don't lighten up, we'll lose the kids."

#### O TIMOTHY Magazine Volume 36 Issue 5

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This spirit of compromise on separation which is permeating Independent Baptists was described to me in the following recent communication from a young preacher:

"I have been GREATLY encouraged by your writings because I had been struggling with the idea of holding to and preaching Christian standards when so many of the 'good' independent Baptist churches and pastors no longer do. I was getting to the place where I felt alone in desiring to preach and teach holiness from the pulpit, for I had asked many (at least 10) preachers if adapting CCM was ok and if we should preach hard on modesty and music and they ALL told me that if we love people and show them the love of the Lord they will eventually come around to creating their own standards. I was so discouraged because I had been convicted about the music/dress that I was listening to and allowing in my own life and family and was desiring to find a man who would say, 'YES! TAKE A STAND!' So thank you for doing right no matter the cost. I have been the youth pastor at an independent Baptist church, but I have been asked to leave by the pastor because he feels I am 'too conservative/fundamental' for his ministry (our church is adapting CCM praise music and giving up modesty for the sake of 'keeping the unsaved in church')."

Observe that all of the preachers that this young man consulted counseled him not to preach and teach holiness and separation from the pulpit, to leave it up to the people to make their own decisions. Observe that he was dismissed from an Independent Baptist church for being too conservative. This is happening everywhere.

I don't want anything to do with that crowd! I believe that if you "lighten up" on biblical separation you will definitely lose the kids. You will lose them to the world, and you will lose them to the contemporary emerging philosophy. I am convinced that this thinking is wrong, that it is compromise, and I don't want to be affected by it.

Even if I could associate with such men without being personally affected, which is probably not possible, what about those who observe my example? I don't want to risk having our church members and Bible college students influenced by an association with compromising preachers and churches.

Biblical separation cannot be maintained without a campaign. A separatist stance will only be maintained on purpose and at a cost, but it is worth it.

Separation is not the gospel and it is not the work of the ministry, but it is a divinely-ordained wall of spiritual protection against apostasy and the world. To reject "separatism" is to tear down this wall so that God's people are no longer kept from the "good words and fair speeches" whereby heretics deceive the hearts of the simple (Romans 16:17-18) and no longer distanced from the siren call of the world (2 Timothy 2:22).

"Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us" (2 Th. 3:6).

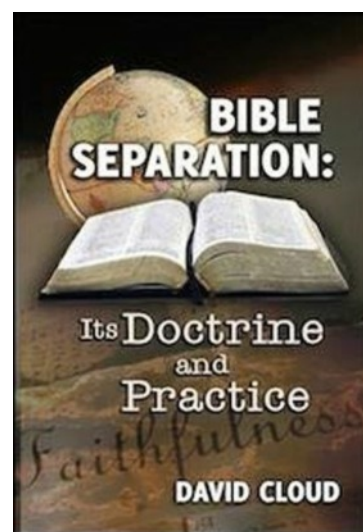
For an extensive course on separation see [\*Bible Separation: Its Doctrine and Practice\*](#)

[https://www.wayoflife.org/publications/books/bible\\_separation.php](https://www.wayoflife.org/publications/books/bible_separation.php)

## Bible Separation:

### Its Doctrine and Practice

By David W. Cloud



An extensive, practical study on Bible separation, both ecclesiastical (separation from doctrinal error, apostasy, and spiritual compromise) and moral (separation from the world).





We find a number of tests of a pastor's calling in Scripture. These can help a man determine if God is calling him to be a pastor, and these can help churches to examine men before ordination.

### 1. THE TEST OF DESIRE (1 Timothy 3:1)

1 Timothy 3:1 ("If a man desire the office")

- This speaks of a strong, compelling desire; a passion; a zeal. It could be translated "if a man *reach out to grasp*" (John Economidis). The Greek word is *oregomai* which is elsewhere translated *covet*. In 1 Ti. 6:10 it refers to coveting money and possessions. In contrast, the qualified pastor covets the work of God. In Hebrews 11:16 it refers to pilgrim Christians who "desire a better country, that is, an heavenly."

- Paul speaks of this strong calling in 1 Co. 9:16 when he says, "for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!"

- Those in Israel who did the work of building the Tabernacle were men "whose hearts stirred them up, to come unto the work to do it" (Ex. 36:2). Likewise, men who lead the churches must be men whose hearts have been divinely stirred for this great task. This desire must be more than a mere interest; it must be a passion, a powerful, divine summons. It has been said, and rightly so, that if a man can refrain from preaching and from church leadership, he should refrain, because God's call to such ministry is attended by a powerful, unmistakable summons. A man might say no to God's call, as Jonah temporarily did, but he will not mistake the call or ignore it lightly!

- Charles H. Spurgeon, in addressing the men in his Pastor's College, warned, "If any student in this room

could be content to be a newspaper editor, or a grocer, or a farmer, or a doctor, or a lawyer, or a senator, or a king, in the name of heaven and earth let him go his way ... If on the other hand, you can say that for all the wealth of both the Indies you could not and dare not espouse any other calling so as to be put aside from preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ, then, depend upon it, if other things be equally satisfactory, you have the signs of this apostleship."

- This is the type of calling I experienced after I was saved in 1973. I was consumed with the desire to study and teach the Bible. That's all I wanted to do. Immediately I started witnessing to my old friends. Within the first year I started printing little booklets containing the spiritual truths I was learning. I was working as a printer at the Florida Citrus Commission in Lakeland, Florida, and I did my work well and had a good testimony on the job, but I wasn't satisfied. I just wanted to study the Bible and pursue God's calling, and the Lord soon gave me freedom to do that, and I've done it ever since. I couldn't be happy doing anything else.

### Psalm 37:4

- God imparts the right desires to those who love Him. He imparts His will into that individual's life. Then He fulfills those desires.

- The verse does not say that whatever an individual desires he will have. Desire itself is not evidence of God's leading and calling, because there can be many wrong desires in a man's heart. The promise is for those who delight in the Lord, those who love the Lord and love His Word and abide in Him and pursue His holy will.

- To delight in the Lord is a passionate thing. It is not a casual, half-hearted thing. It is not lukewarm. Delight in

the Lord is first-love passion (Re. 2:4). It is the passion of Psalm 1.

- Delight in the Lord is fed by God's Word. Through Scripture the mind is renewed (Ro. 12:1-2) so that we know the mind of Christ (1 Co. 2:15-16). Through studying God's Word and through the preaching of God's Word, God's people are stirred to do His will. His desires are put into their hearts. The coveting after the world is replaced by the coveting after God and His business.

## 2. THE TEST OF LIFE (1 Ti. 3; Tit. 1)

Desire is important, but this, in itself, is not enough. The individual's life must also meet the requirements for the calling. Some people who desire to be pastors, deacons, or missionaries are deceived about God's call, because they don't meet the standards that God has laid out.

Examples of how the test of life restricts the calling.

- If a woman, for example, feels God is calling her to be a pastor or deacon, she is wrong, because the Bible says plainly that this is a man's work.
- If a man has a poor reputation in his community, or is given to wine, or has an angry, combative spirit, or loves money, or does not have faithful children and a good home life, or has more than one wife, etc., he can be certain that God does not want him in the pastorate until such issues are solved.
- In 1980, I was invited to teach a group of pastors in Nepal in an all-day Bible conference, and I chose the book of Titus as my outline. After we had gone through the standards for pastors in chapter one, I was informed that one of the men had three wives. He maintained three families on three properties that he owned and he visited them on sort of a circuit. I told the national pastors that this man could not be a pastor because of his marital status. He spoke up and said that he knew that God had called him to pastor because he had a vision. The entire group chose to ignore the Word of God in favor of the man's vision!

We would note here that the call to preach is not necessarily the same as the call to pastor. A man can preach in many ways without being a pastor: in the highways and byways, in the jails and nursing homes, on the street corners, from house to house, in a bus ministry,

etc. Men who are not qualified to be a pastor or deacon can still preach the Word of God in many ways if they are faithful to Jesus Christ and have a good Christian testimony.

## 3. THE TEST OF ABILITY (Tit. 1:9-11; 1 Ti. 3:5; 1 Pe. 5:2)

When God calls, He equips. He will never call someone to do something without giving that person the ability to do it.

When the Lord wanted the Tabernacle built in the time of Moses, He prepared men for this work. "See, I have called by name Bezaleel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah. And I have filled him with the spirit of God, in wisdom, and in understanding, and in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship" (Ex. 31:2-3). We see here the main aspects of God's call for special service. First, it was *an individual call*. God called Bezaleel, the son of Uri, the son of Hur. Second, it was *a call to a particular work*. Third, the call was *accompanied by the ability to perform that work*.

It is true that God loves to use the weak things of this world for His service. In this way Jesus Christ receives the glory. God often calls men to preach who seem unlikely candidates by man's natural standards. He will not, though, call a man to be a pastor who cannot do the work of a pastor.

No man without such ability is qualified to be a pastor, even if he has a strong desire and a good Christian testimony. Such a man should heed Romans 12:3 - "For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith."

Consider some of the things the pastor must be able to do:

- The pastor must be able to feed and shepherd the Lord's sheep (1 Pe. 5:1-2). He must be apt to teach God's Word (1 Ti. 3:2). He must be able to preach God's Word effectively (2 Ti. 4:2). He must be able to teach all the counsel of God (Acts 20:27). The man called to be a pastor must, therefore, be able to read and study well enough to do this work. The qualified pastor is a studious man, a man who "labours in the word of God and doctrine" (1 Ti. 5:17). He must be a serious student of God's Word (2 Ti. 2:15).

- The pastor must be able to make disciples by teaching the believers “to observe all things” (Mt. 28:20). This involves more than teaching facts. It involves teaching how to walk with Christ, how to live the Christian life, how to do the work of the ministry.

- The pastor must be able to take oversight of the church. He must have the ability to lead and oversee and supervise all areas of church life and ministry (Ac. 20:28; 1 Pe. 5:2; Heb. 13:17). The qualified pastor is a leader, a manager, an overseer, a supervisor. He must have leading ability and planning ability. He should be a man of ideas. He has to lead the church in accomplishing everything Christ has commanded. He has to take God’s commands and apply them to his cultural setting and figure out the best way to do God’s work in that particular situation. He isn’t a man who blindly follows tradition. That is not a leader. Yet many pastors don’t rethink the tradition they have inherited. They don’t analyze the services and programs to see if things could be done more effectively.

- The pastor must be able to protect Christians from error (Tit. 1:9-13; Ac. 20:28-30). This includes rebuking when necessary (Tit. 1:13). It requires the exercise of discipline (Tit. 3:9-11). It requires the courage to confront sin and error. It requires spiritual discernment to know true believers from false (Tit. 1:16). The qualified pastor is the opposite of the simple man who “believeth every word” (Pr. 14:15). The pastor must have keen doctrinal and spiritual discernment and a shepherd’s heart for protecting and watching over the sheep. He must be informed about any danger that his church faces, such as New Evangelicalism, charismaticism, ecumenism, contemplative prayer, and contemporary music, and he must be able to protect the church from such things.

- The pastor must be able to train Christian workers and leaders (2 Ti. 2:2). A qualified pastor is a serious educator.

The man who lacks the ability to do the work of a pastor is not qualified to be a pastor, even if he has a good Christian life and testimony and even if he has the ability to do *some* of the work of a pastor.

There are many good Christian men who can preach and teach, but they don’t have the gifting to be pastors. They might not be strong enough to exercise discipline as they should and to deal with error. They might not be able to reprove and rebuke. They might not have the spiritual

wisdom to deal with people effectually in a pastoral way. They might not be good leaders and overseers.

#### 4. THE TEST OF RECOGNITION (Acts 13:1-3; 16:1-3)

When God called Paul and Barnabas to a particular missionary work, their church recognized that call. This is an important test. The normal Bible pattern is for an individual’s call and burden to be recognized by the church which knows him best. The same was true when Timothy was called to accompany Paul on his journeys (Ac. 16:1-3).

Consider this statement by Spurgeon to the preachers in his Bible college: “Considerable weight is to be given to the judgment of men and women who live near to God, and in most instances their verdict will not be a mistaken one. *Yet this appeal is not final nor infallible, and is only to be estimated in proportion to the intelligence and piety of those consulted.* I remember well how earnestly I was dissuaded from preaching by as godly a Christian matron as ever breathed; the value of her opinion I endeavoured to estimate with candour and patience--but it was outweighed by the judgment of persons of wider experience ... I have noted ... that you, gentlemen, students, as a body, in your judgment of one another, are seldom if ever wrong. There has hardly ever been an instance, *take the whole house through*, where the general opinion of the entire college concerning a brother has been erroneous. Meeting as you do in class, in prayer-meeting, in conversation, and in various religious engagements, you gauge each other; and a wise man will be slow to set aside the verdict of the house” (C.H. Spurgeon, *Lectures to My Students*).

As Spurgeon noted, there are exceptions to this rule. When a church is controlled by unsaved or carnal men, the church’s judgment can be wrong. There have been instances when God called a man or woman to a certain work, but the church refused to recognize the call or support the ministry. In fact, there are examples of this in the Bible. Jesus was rejected by His own people (Joh. 1:11). Paul was rejected by the Galatians and by some in the Corinthian church (Ga. 4:15-17; 1 Co. 9:1; 2 Co. 6:11-12; 3:1). John and other men of God were rejected by the proud Diotrephes (2 Jo. 9-10).

#### 5. THE TEST OF PROVING (1 Ti. 3:10; 2 Co. 8:22)

The Scriptures show that churches must be careful in ordination. Men should demonstrate their zeal and

faithfulness *before* ordination, not *by* ordination. This is true for every position of service in the church. The believer should show by his manner of life that he is qualified for a special place of service, regardless of how “lowly.”

The Scriptures warn about hasty ordinations (1 Ti. 5:22). Timothy was instructed to be cautious about ordaining men to positions of leadership.

The context of 1 Timothy 5:17-25 concerns leaders in the church. By laying on of hands, those performing the ordination are testifying publicly that they are convinced God has called the person being ordained. It is a recognition of divine call. Those performing the ordination are identifying themselves with the one being ordained. If the church makes a mistake because of hastiness and failure to prove the person by God’s standards, they become partaker of the sins of the man wrongly ordained.

## 6. THE TEST OF FRUIT

The Bible emphasizes the importance of fruit. “And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper (Ps. 1:3).

Note that the fruit is personal and individual (“his fruit”). Fruit is different for different people. There are different gifts and callings, but there will be fruit.

If you are called to a certain ministry, you should have some fruit, some success, some evidence. The blessing of God should be evident in some tangible way. “... make full proof of thy ministry” (2 Ti. 4:5).

There are pastors who are never successful in the ministry. In fact, there are pastors who only kill churches. They always have an excuse for their failures, and the excuse might sound reasonable, but there should be some evident blessing and fruit if a man is called of God to that ministry.

Many men simply don’t have the ability to do the work of the pastorate. They are good Christian men. They have a good testimony and a good family, and they love Christ and love the Word of God, but they don’t have the gifting and wisdom and ability and discernment to lead a church.

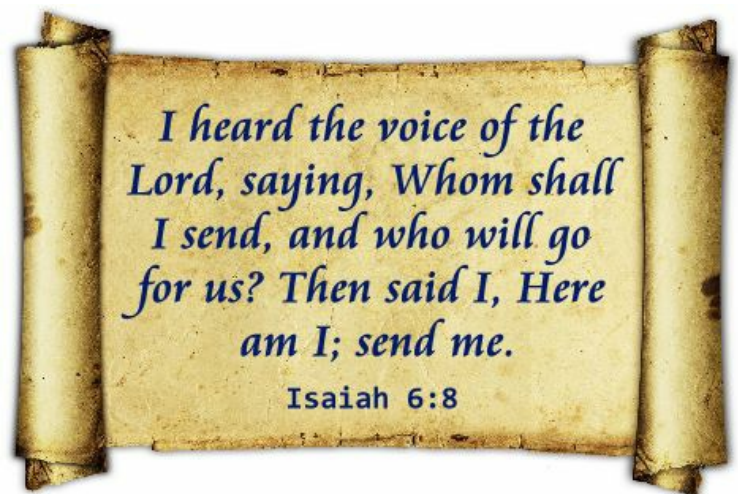
One fruit of a pastor should be more preachers. Many pastors do not reproduce themselves, do not raise up and train more preachers, do not send out preachers to start new churches. After 25 years, there are no more preachers in the church than when his ministry began. We don’t see this in Scripture. The missionary church that is put before us in Scripture is Antioch. Paul and Barnabas worked together to establish the foundation of that church (Ac. 11:22-26), and by the time God called them to go out from that church as foreign missionaries, there were already other preachers in the church (Ac. 13:1).

Fruit is an important test in all areas of ministry. There are missionaries who never start sound, self-governing, self-supporting, self-propagating churches. There are Sunday School teachers who do not grow their classes either spiritually or numerically. There are song leaders who do not raise the standard and blessing of the church’s song service.

A God-called pastor will show evidences of his calling in all of the aforementioned ways: by the test of desire, the test of life, the test of ability, the test of recognition, the test of proving, and the test of fruit.

A man who does not have the biblical evidence of God’s calling should be content with doing something other than pastoring. There are many ways to preach without being a pastor.

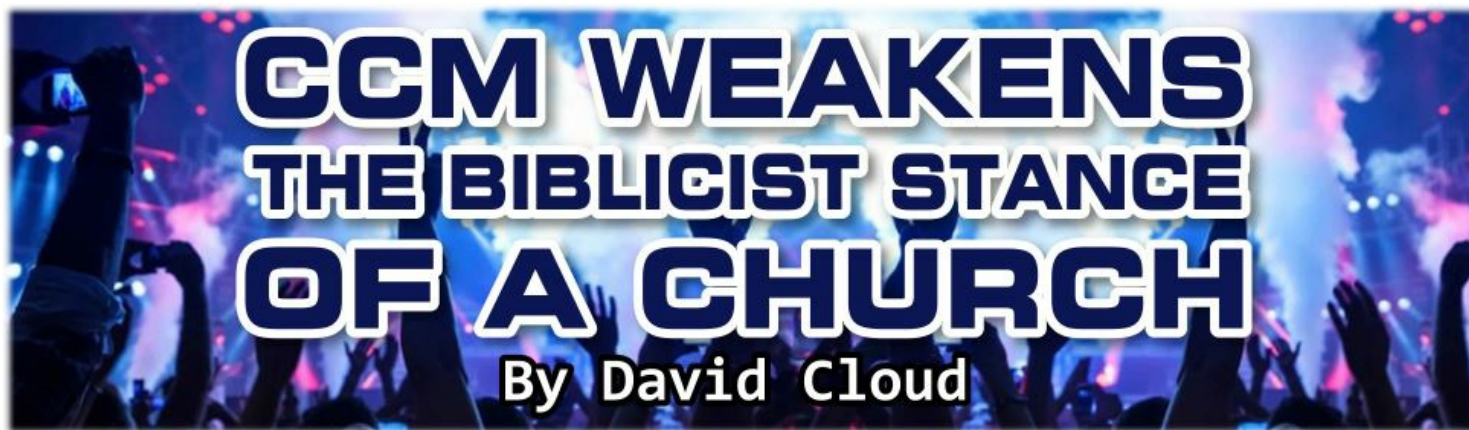
Churches must be very careful in ordaining men. They must measure men by God’s standards, not by human standards. By ordaining the wrong men, they are doing both those men and the churches a disservice, and this business will doubtless be addressed at the judgment seat of Christ.



*I heard the voice of the  
Lord, saying, Whom shall  
I send, and who will go  
for us? Then said I, Here  
am I; send me.*

Isaiah 6:8





The following is excerpted from the book [\*Baptist Music Wars\*](#) -

A final reason why we are opposed to Contemporary Christian Music is that when it comes into a church (or into the life of an individual) it weakens the church's Biblicist stance and results in a gradual lowering of standards of morality and doctrine.

The late Gordon Sears, who had an evangelistic music ministry for many years and ministered with Rudy Atwood, was saddened before his death by the dramatic change that was occurring in many fundamental Baptist churches. He warned:

"When the standard of music is lowered, then the standard of dress is also lowered. When the standard of dress is lowered, then the standard of conduct is also lowered. When the standard of conduct is lowered, then the sense of value in God's truth is lowered" (Sears, *Songfest Newsletter*, April 2001).

Dr. Frank Garlock of Majesty Music warned,

"If a church starts using CCM it will eventually lose all other standards" (Bob Jones University, chapel, March 12, 2001).

The late fundamentalist leader Dr. Ernest Pickering gave a similar warning:

"Perhaps nothing precipitates a slide toward New Evangelicalism more than the introduction of Contemporary Christian Music. This inevitably leads toward a gradual slide in other areas as well until the entire church is infiltrated by ideas and programs alien to the original position of the church" (Pickering, *The Tragedy of Compromise: The Origin and Impact of the New Evangelicalism*, Bob Jones University Press, 1994).

Victor Sears called Contemporary Christian Music "the Trojan Horse of the ecumenical movement."

"Good fundamental Baptists and others that refuse the teachings of the charismatic crowd concerning tongues, signs, miracles, and so forth are now singing their music in our churches and preparing our people for the world, the flesh and the devil. It is the new Trojan Horse move ... to deaden our churches to spiritual truth" (Sears, *Baptist Bible Tribune*, 1981).

David Sorenson, a third-generation fundamental Baptist preacher and author of the *Understanding the Bible* commentary series, says,

"When a church begins to move to the left, one of the first changes is its music. It is symptomatic of a church moving from a fundamentalist to an evangelical stance. ... the basic issue of CCM is a conformity to the world and the world's music. It is a musical rejection of the biblical principle of separation. ... When the music shifts, a repudiation of separation in general is often not far behind. Dress standards are lowered or eliminated. Preaching against the world and its pursuits evaporates. Fellowship and association with groups and preachers toward the liberal side of the theological spectrum develop" (Sorenson, *Broad Is the Way: Fundamentalists Merging into the Evangelical Mainstream*, pp. 187, 212).

We can see this happening on every hand today.

**The reason is that contemporary worship music is not just music. Even when its lyrics are biblical and its rock rhythm is toned down, it represents a philosophy of Christianity that is opposed to what Biblicist churches stand for.**

**It is a philosophy that is opposed to a staunch, unwavering doctrinal stance, opposed to separation from the world, opposed to ecclesiastical separation.**





# The most AMAZING ARTIFACT in ISRAEL today

By David Cloud

I recently returned from my seventh trip to Israel, and each one has been more profitable. The study of Israel is a *major* key in understanding the Bible, which is not surprising since Israel is the Land of the Book. The Bible is an historical book, the events of which occurred in the land of Israel and neighboring nations. The better the student knows the geography and history and culture of those places, the better he understands the Bible.

On our Israel trips, we have seen many things that most visitors do not see, including sites pertaining to the ancient Philistines (including one of the Dagon temples where I stood with my hands touching the pillars that upheld the roof), the Red Sea, the wilderness of Zin, Jezreel, Samaria, the waters of Merom, Michmach, Shiloh, Gerizim, Ashdod, the Scorpion's Ascent, the Valley of Megiddo from a hot air balloon, the entire circuit of the Sea of Galilee in a boat, to name a few. We have seen the treasures of the Shrine of the Book and have photographed and cataloged 3,000 artifacts in the Israel Museum, the Rockefeller Museum, the Eretz Israel Museum, the Maritime Museum, the Haganah Museum, the Air Force Museum, the Mezgaga Museum, to name some.

But of all of the amazing things I have seen in Israel, I still believe the most amazing thing is the gold menorah that the Temple Institute has built to put in the Third Temple. It is plated with 99 pounds (45 kilos) of 24-karat gold, valued at \$3 million.

It is standing outdoors in a plaza in Jerusalem's Old City as a dramatic sign of the times.

It reminds us that prophecy is being fulfilled before our very eyes in the restoration of Israel and that much is left to come.

As we have documented in the book [\*Jews in Fighter Jets: Israel: Past, Present, and Future\*](#), most Jews are not looking for a Messiah; they are looking for a prophet

who will work things out for them and bring peace, and that will be the Antichrist!

This was made clear in a biography of Rabbi Shlomo Goren that I purchased on a visit to the Temple Institute. He fought in the War of Independence in 1948 and was present when the old city of Jerusalem was liberated in the Six Day War. There is a famous photo of him blowing the shofar at the Wailing Wall at that time, surrounded by Israeli soldiers. He was the first chief rabbi of the Israeli Army and later chief rabbi of Israel and had a powerful influence on the founding of the modern state of Israel.

"He believed that the construction of the Third Temple is incumbent upon the coming of a prophet who would teach the boundaries, the location of the Altar, the pedigree of priests who are to do the sacrificial service in the Temple, the design of the building structure" (*Rabbi Shlomo Goren: Torah Sage and General*, p. 113).

A few years ago, we were told by a representative of the Temple Institute that the temple could be rebuilt in eight months.

The Antichrist will come on the scene as a brilliant man of peace and will seemingly solve the "Middle East problem" by satanic power, making it possible for the Jewish temple to be built. The Muslims are also looking for a prophet and a messiah. The stage is set. Revelation 11 describes the measuring of the Third Temple during the first 3.5 years of the Antichrist's reign, the time when the Two Witnesses will prophesy in Jerusalem.

Hebrews 10:25 teaches us that we can see the day of the Lord's return "approaching" in the light of Scripture, and we certainly see it!

"Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some *is*; but exhorting *one another*: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching."

## 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?



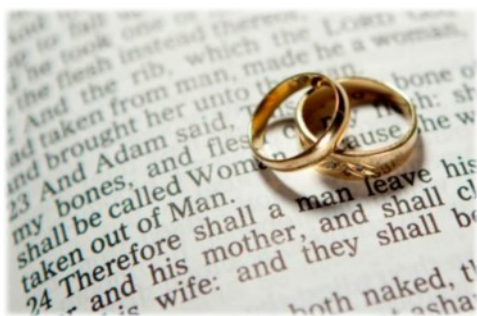
### HIGH POTENCY MARIJUANA "STRONGLY LINKED" TO PSYCHOSIS (Friday Church News Notes, March 29, 2019, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143)

- The following is excerpted from "High potency marijuana," UPI, Mar. 20, 2019. It is the latest in a long line of evidence that marijuana is not an innocent relaxation drug. "Smoking high-potency cannabis, used daily, has been linked to diagnosis of conditions like schizophrenia, paranoia and other psychosis disorders, new findings say. About 50 percent of new cases of psychosis disorders diagnosed in Amsterdam were linked to use of high-potency cannabis, according to a study published Tuesday in *The Lancet*. Additionally, 30 percent of new psychosis cases diagnosed in London were also associated with high strains of the drug. ... Overall, daily cannabis users were three times more likely to suffer a psychotic episode than those who never used the drug. That risk increased to five times for high-potency users. ... 'As the legal status of cannabis changes in many countries and states, and as we consider the medicinal properties of some types of cannabis, it is of vital public health importance to consider the potential adverse effects that are associated with daily cannabis use, especially high potency varieties,' said Marta Di Forti, researcher at King's College London."

### DEMOCRATS IN THE U.S. CONTINUE TO TRY TO DESTROY FREEDOM OF RELIGION AND FREEDOM OF SPEECH (Friday Church News Notes, March 29, 2019, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143)

- The following is excerpted from "Rep. Cicilline," CNSNews.com, Mar. 15, 2019: "On March 13, House and Senate Democrats introduced H.R. 5, the Equality Act, a proposal to expand protections in the 1964 Civil Rights Act to people based on their sex, sexual preference or gender identity. The sponsor of the bill, Rep. David Cicilline (D-R.I.), Who is openly gay, said conservatives would 'use fear' to stop the legislation and asserted, 'we cannot allow claims of religious freedom to be used to discriminate against an LGBT individual.' At a Capitol Hill press conference alongside House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) and Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.), Cicilline said, 'We know that in the weeks ahead conservatives will do everything they can to kill this bill and block progress once again.' ... The bill states that it is designed 'to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex, gender identity, and sexual orientation, and for other purposes.' ... Democrats previously introduced the legislation in 2015 and 2017, with the initiative dying in committee both times."





### U.S. SUPREME COURT SIDES WITH LOWER COURT AGAINST RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

(Friday Church News Notes, March 29, 2019, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143)

- The following is excerpted from "Christian B&B Owner Forced to Serve Gay Couples," CBNNews.com, Mar. 19, 2019: "The US Supreme Court refused to hear an appeal from a Christian bed and breakfast owner who was ordered by a lower court to serve a lesbian couple despite it being a violation of her religious beliefs. The Supreme Court rejected the appeal Monday, thus upholding the lower court's ruling in favor of the lesbian couple. Now, litigation will continue to determine what penalty the Christian business owner must face. Phyllis Young, the owner of Aloha Bed & Breakfast in Honolulu, Hawaii, refused to rent a room in her home to Diane Cervili and Taeko Bufford in 2007 due to her religious beliefs about marriage. Cervili and Bufford sued Young over her actions and accused her of discriminating against them because of their sexuality. Alliance Defending Freedom represented Young and argued that because she 'only rented 1-3 rooms in her personal home she did not fall under the Hawaii public accommodations law that makes sexual-orientation discrimination unlawful.' The conservative law firm also pointed out that the Constitution protects Young's right to not promote

behavior that violates her faith or associate with people unwilling to respect her convictions. However, a state court found Young in violation of Hawaii's Civil Rights Commissions' public accommodation law. The law applies to hospitality, entertainment, and transportation services. The law makes it 'illegal to deny a person access to or to treat them unequally in a place of public accommodation' because of a person's 'religion,' 'sexual orientation,' and 'gender identity or expression.'"

### JOURNALIST FACES POSSIBLE JAIL TIME IN BRITAIN FOR "MISGENDERING"

(Friday Church News Notes, March 29, 2019, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143)

- The following is excerpted from "Can you go to jail for 'misgendering'?" *Spectator*, Mar. 19, 2019: "Another woman in Britain is facing a police investigation—and potentially, a jail sentence—because she wrote things online about sex, gender and a person who changed gender. So far, so familiar, but this tale has a significant feature. The woman is a journalist. A British police force is investigating a journalist over words that she published. Caroline Farrow, 44, is the subject of an investigation by Surrey Police over tweets she sent referring to the adult child of Susie Green, head of Mermaids, a charity concerned with transgender children. Farrow says the investigation arises because she 'misgendered' the child, who was born male but now identifies as female. Farrow is a columnist and occasional TV commentator. She writes and speaks from a Catholic perspective about a



number of issues including education, family policy, euthanasia and gender. ... Farrow told me that on Monday this week an officer from a police station in Guildford had contacted her to tell her she was to be interviewed under caution in relation to tweets she sent last year some time after September, when she appeared on ITV's *Good Morning Britain* with Susie Green of Mermaids, a charity. Farrow said: 'I am being interviewed under caution for misgendering Susie Green's daughter. It's all rather Orwellian and rather scary.' ... Susie Green said, 'At four years old, my child told me that God had made a mistake, and that he should have been a girl.' [Concluding comment from *Friday News Notes* editor: Susie Green's son, Jack, underwent sex change surgery in Thailand at age 16 and he and his mom insist that the boy is now a girl named Jackie, and it is Susie's position that anyone calling her "daughter" a "son," or "her" a "him," they are "misgendering" and should be punished.]

### IRANIAN CONVERT FROM ISLAM REFUSED ASYLUM BY UK BECAUSE BIBLE IS TOO VIOLENT

(Friday Church News Notes, March 29, 2019, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143)

- The following is excerpted from "Iranian Convert Refused," *The Daily Caller*, Mar. 21, 2019: "An Iranian man applying for asylum to the U.K.





had his application denied because he converted from Islam to Christianity. According to a report from *The Times*, U.K. immigration officials wrote back to the man after he sent in his applications, explaining why they were discriminating against him. Immigration officials cited biblical passages from the books of Revelation and Leviticus. The *Times* reports: Immigration officials wrote to the man citing violent passages from the Bible to prove their point. They said that the Book of Revelation was ‘filled with imagery of revenge, destruction, death and violence.’ According to the report, the immigration officials were condemned by the Church of England for their ‘lack of religious literacy.’ Iran is one of the most hostile countries in the world toward Christians. Last year, Iran arrested more than 100 Christians shortly before Christmas as the faithful were celebrating the birth of Jesus. Iran has also made a point to target pro-Israel Christians. In 2017, four Iranian Christians were arrested and sentenced to ten years in prison for ‘promoting Zionist Christianity.’ Arrests for vague crimes such as ‘blasphemy’ are also frequently used by the theocratic state to target Christians.” In conclusion, John Zmirak made the following comments about this report: “Whoever made the decision to send back that helpless, harmless Iranian Christian to a regime that executes apostates from Islam?

He did it out of malice, and spite. He did it to make a political point. To mock the legitimate worries of Westerners at the influx of Islamists. I’m sure when he signed the order, he snickered to himself all the way home. He’s lucky there was no jihadist on his tram” (“Iranian Christian Barred,” *The Stream*, Mar. 22, 2019).

**CHINA’S CITIZEN MONITORING CONTINUES TO RISE TO NEW LEVELS** (Friday Church News Notes, March 29, 2019, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from “Not Paying Attention in Class?” Futurism.com, May 17, 2018: “China’s mass surveillance operation has a new target: distracted high school students. In March, Hangzhou Number 11 High School in east China installed a ‘smart classroom behavior management system’ (or ‘smart eye’) in one of its classrooms. The smart eye uses facial recognition technology to monitor students, and by this summer, administrators plan to install the Big Brother-esque system in every classroom. Here’s how it works. Every 30 seconds, three cameras installed in the front of the room scan each student’s face to determine their expression: surprised, sad, antipathy, angry, happy, afraid, or neutral. The cameras also record each student’s actions throughout the class, noting



whether they are reading, listening, writing, standing up, raising hands, or leaning on the desk. Smart eye then notifies the teacher in real-time if it notices that a student appears distracted. The teacher can also view a report at the end of the class that provides an average of each student’s expressions.”

**BEHOLD, I COME QUICKLY** (Friday Church News Notes, March 29, 2019, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143) - Christ’s quick coming is repeated three times in the last chapter of Revelation (Re. 22:10, 12, 20), and once in Revelation 3:11. Twice in Revelation we are told that these things will “shortly come to pass” (Re. 1:1; 20:7). And twice we are told that “the time is at hand” (Re. 1:3; Re. 22:10). The eight-fold repetition is divine emphasis. Christ is coming! Christ is coming! The words “quickly” and “shortly” and “at hand” emphasize the imminency of Christ’s coming. It is an emphasis on the importance of ever watching. The Bible is saying, “Wake up! Be ready! Look up!” This is a major theme of the New Testament from Matthew to Revelation. It must be a major theme in every believer’s life, and it must be a major theme of every church. It must be a major theme of preaching. Any preaching ministry that lacks the theme of the imminent coming of Christ is not a biblical ministry. The fading away of imminent Second Coming preaching is evidence of a slide toward apostasy.

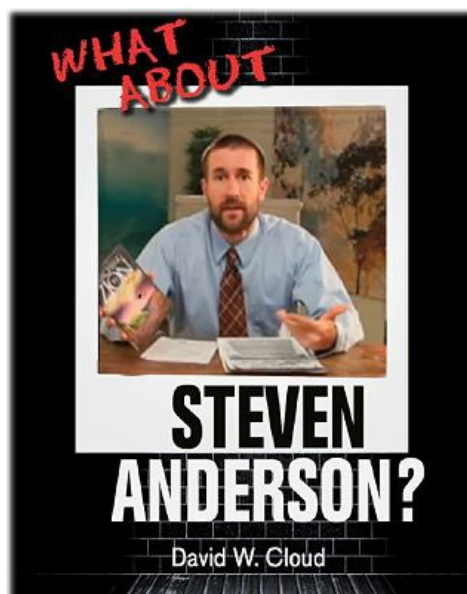
**ANOTHER SPECTACULAR ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIND IN ISRAEL** (Friday Church News Notes, April 5, 2019, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143)



- Since Israel's return to the land at the turn of the 20th century, a slew of artifacts have been unearthed that support the biblical record. The latest, announced this week, is a seal impression (bullae) that reads "Belonging to Nathan-Melech, servant of the king" ("2,600 Year Old Seal Discovered in City of David," *Jerusalem Post*, Apr. 1, 2019). This name is mentioned in 2 Kings 23:11 in connection with King Josiah's revival. "And he took away the horses that the kings of Judah had given to the sun, at the entering in of the house of the LORD, by the chamber of Nathanmelech the chamberlain, which was in the suburbs, and burned the chariots of the sun with fire." We aren't told specifically that Nathanmelech was complicit with the worship of the sun, but it seems probable since he apparently had allowed this idolatry to be carried out by his own chamber. The Greeks and Romans worshipped the sun god Helios, whose chariot was supposedly drawn by four horses. This image has been found on the mosaic floors of two ancient synagogues in Israel (Tiberias and Zippori). "Jarchi says, that those who adored the sun had horses, which they mounted every morning, to go out to meet him at his rising. The kings of Judah had imitated these idolatrous customs, and kept the horses of the sun even at the entrance of the temple of the Lord! (*Treasury of Scripture Knowledge*). The prophet Jeremiah, whose ministry

began in the days of Josiah, would have been a witness to these things (Jer. 1:3). The Nathanmelech seal impression, which is dated to the 7th century BC, was found on the western slope of the City of David south of the Temple Mount in a building that shows evidence of having been destroyed by the Babylonians in the 6th century. Thus it is exactly the right time and place for a direct connection with the individual named in Scripture. The seal joins others that have been discovered in the area of David's palace bearing the names of people mentioned in the books of Jeremiah, Kings, and Chronicles who lived or worked in the palace just before it was burned by Nebuchadnezzar. These include Jehucal the son of Shelemiah (Jer. 37:3), Gedaliah, son of Pashur (Jer. 38:1), Gemariah the son of Shaphan (Jer. 36:10), and Azariah the son of Hilkiah (1 Ch. 9:11). Some of these are in the Israel Museum. (For more on this see, "Great Archaeological Discoveries in Israel," [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org).)

#### DEBUNKING STEPHEN ANDERSON (Friday Church News



Notes, April 5, 2019, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143) - Brian Snider has published a video presentation "[Debunking Steven Anderson](#)" in two parts. Following are the links:

<https://vimeo.com/315765512>

<https://vimeo.com/326329545>

See also [What About Steven Anderson?](#) a free eBook available for viewing and download from [https://www.wayoflife.org/free\\_ebooks/what\\_about\\_steven\\_anderson.php](https://www.wayoflife.org/free_ebooks/what_about_steven_anderson.php)

#### HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS PROTEST BIOLOGICAL MALES BEING ALLOWED TO CHANGE IN THEIR LOCKER ROOMS

(Friday Church News Notes, April 5, 2019, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143)

- The following is excerpted from "High School Girls," *The Stream*, Mar. 21, 2019: "There are at least 787 students at Pennsylvania's Honesdale High School—but only one of them seemed to know about a major change in the school's rules. The others found out the most traumatic way possible—when they walked into the girls' locker room and found a teenage boy in women's underwear. ... Turns out, the students weren't the only ones who'd never been notified about the policy. Still in shock, the parents called the principal and Wayne County superintendent. Neither was particularly sorry about the girls' experience. And to prove it, they refused to lift a finger to help. The girls' only option was to wait outside the locker room—a place designated for them—until the boy inside was finished. ... Just to the south, in Boyertown, Alexis Lightcap ran into the same situation. 'No one prepared us, warned us, or counseled us' about the boys they'd find in their restrooms



and locker rooms. And they were just as unsympathetic when the girls complained about it. Like this sophomore, Alexis thought the adults' job was to protect students. Instead, she got the same cold shoulder from administrators, who seem to be more concerned about looking politically incorrect than guarding their girls' privacy. Because of that, these girls are being put in an impossible position, lawyer Andrea Shaw argues in her formal complaint to the U.S. Department of Education. 'Given the culture's treatment of LGBT issues, [she] has to choose between her privacy and ostracism.' Now that Wayne County is taking the boy's side, girls are 'unbearably uncomfortable'—and not just her client. Other students have come forward from the cross-country team and said they object to changing in front of him. Parents are worried about 'overnight trips and whether the male will be assigned the same hotel room.' Girls aren't using the restroom during school because they're worried they'll run into male classmates. And others are concerned that 'the teachers will retaliate' if they bring up how uneasy they are. ... congressional Democrats ... want to open up everyone's locker rooms, showers, and bathrooms to men under the so-called Equality Act." "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves ... unholy ... without natural affection ... incontinent,

fierce, despisers of those that are good ... heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God" (2 Timothy 3:1-4).

### PRINCE HARRY AND WIFE TO RAISE BABY "WITHOUT GENDER STEREOTYPES"

(Friday Church News Notes, April 5, 2019, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbs@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbs@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from "Meghan Markle and Prince Harry," Yahoo.com/lifestyle, Mar. 1, 2019: "Despite reports surfacing that Meghan Markle and Prince Harry have learned they are having a boy, the royal pair don't plan to let that change how they will raise their child. A source recently revealed to *Vanity Fair*, that Meghan has expressed wanting to raise her baby without gender stereotypes. 'Meghan has been talking to some of her friends about the birth and how she and Harry plan to raise their baby. Her exact word was *fluid*,' the source said. 'She said they plan to raise their child with a *fluid* approach to gender and they won't be imposing any stereotypes.' While there are many definitions of *fluid*, the Duke and Duchess of Sussex may choose not to restrict what toys they buy their child or what sports they play based on sex. They may also go for a gender-neutral approach when dressing their child, avoiding pinks and blues. This is also the approach the parents-to-be are taking for the baby's nursery. One of the major renovations happening at the couple's new home of Frogmore Cottage is a neutral nursery. ... A source told *VF* in February that Meghan is planning for a natural, at-home delivery. 'Meg wants a natural birth if she can have one,' they said. 'Her mother is very into anything that is holistic and



natural, and having been brought up with yoga and mindfulness, it's all very much part of Meghan's birth plan."

### MASSIVE STUDY CONFIRMS THAT VACCINES DON'T CAUSE AUTISM

(Friday Church News Notes, April 5, 2019, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbs@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbs@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from "Massive Study" Futurism.com, Mar. 5, 2019: "More than two decades ago, a doctor published a study claiming that vaccines can cause autism. Despite the fact that that study was later completely discredited and debunked—and the doctor behind it barred from practicing medicine—the belief continues to persist throughout society. Now, a massive study of more than half a million children has confirmed what those in the medical community have been saying for two decades: vaccines don't cause autism. But in an era when fringe theories can continue to spread online in spite of overwhelming counter-evidence, some worry that studies alone won't be enough to effectively address the world's vaccine crisis. In a paper published on Tuesday in the journal *Annals of Internal Medicine*, researchers from Denmark's Statens Serum Institut describe how they analyzed data about 657,461 children born in Denmark between 1999 and 2010, with regular checkups on the





kids' health. Of all the children, 6,517 were diagnosed with autism. The researchers then compared the mumps, measles, and rubella (MMR)-vaccinated children in that group with the MMR-unvaccinated children. Their conclusion: 'The study strongly supports that MMR vaccination does not increase the risk for autism, does not trigger autism in susceptible children, and is not associated with clustering of autism cases after vaccination.' Of course, this isn't the first study to conclude that vaccines almost certainly don't cause autism. However, it is one of the largest and longest, and it arrives at a time when vaccine fears are leading to measles outbreaks across the globe."

**WORLD'S SMALLEST BABY BOY TO SURVIVE** (Friday Church News Notes, April 5, 2019, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from "World's Smallest Baby," ChristianHeadlines.com, Feb. 28, 2019: "A baby boy born in Tokyo is believed to be the world's smallest



recorded preemie. He has recently been discharged from the hospital in good health, having survived delivery at 24 weeks. Weighing 'the same as a large onion' at 268 grams, the baby was so small he fit into an adult's cupped hands. He was delivered by emergency C-section in Keio University Hospital after he reportedly stopped growing in the womb. He spent 5 months in the hospital for treatment in intensive care. When released last week, two months after his initial due date, he had grown to a weight of 3.2 kg, and is 'now feeding normally,' *BBC News* reports. ... The doctor who treated the infant, Doctor Takeshi Arimitsu, told the BBC that according to a database compiled by the University of Iowa of the world's smallest surviving babies, the boy was the littlest infant born on record to be released from a hospital. The doctor said he wanted people to know that 'there is a possibility that babies will be able to leave the hospital in good health even though they are born small.' ... Before this latest record, the smallest surviving baby boy was in Germany, weighing 274 grams. The smallest surviving baby girl was born in 2015 in Germany and weighed 252 grams."

**U.S. UNIVERSITIES AWASH WITH CURRICULUM AIMED AT "QUEERING" STUDENTS** (Friday Church News Notes, April 12, 2019, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from "Queer and Trans Readings," CBNNews, Feb. 19, 2019: "Many of America's top colleges and universities are now offering courses designed to 'advance a liberal agenda, malign conservatives and their values, and shut out ideological



diversity,' asserts a new report from Young America's Foundation (YAF). YAF argues the curriculum at a wide range of American schools, from Harvard University to Columbia University to Swarthmore College, seems to target conservative and Christian values in some shocking ways. 'Many of the courses and descriptions listed in this year's report may seem comical at first glance, but the situation that continues to unfold on America's campuses is hardly a laughing matter. Beyond the inane, identity- and intersectionality-obsessed topics, these classes advance a liberal agenda, malign conservatives and their values, and shut out ideological diversity,' said YAF spokesman Spencer Brown, author of the 25th annual Comedy and Tragedy Report. The report examines the curriculum of approximately 50 top schools. ... One of the most unsettling classes from a Christian perspective may be Swarthmore's religion class called 'RELG 033—Queering the Bible.' Here's the description: 'This course surveys the queer and trans readings of biblical texts. It introduces students to the complexity of constructions of sex, gender, and identity in one of the most influential literary works produced in ancient times. By reading the Bible with the methods of queer and trans theoretical approaches, this class destabilizes the long held assumptions about what the Bible—and religion—says about gender and

sexuality.’ There’s a similar course at Pomona College called ‘RLST 184—Queer Theory and the Bible.’ Here’s what it teaches: ‘This course will look at how the Bible can be read productively through queer theory. We will examine biblical passages that are central to prohibitions on homosexuality and the larger discourses of heteronormativity (constructed around gender, sexuality, class, national identity, state formations, kinship, children, etc.) in which homophobic readings of the Bible emerge. We will also look at the ways in which these discourses and the identities they shore up can be queered, as well as at biblical texts that can be read as queer friendly. This process of queering will allow and require us to approach the biblical text in new ways.’ According to Brown, the schools’ goal in presenting such subject matter is clear—to indoctrinate the younger generation with left-wing ideology. ‘Peel back the shiny veneer colleges and universities place on themselves in the name of “higher” education to reveal a stark reality: campuses devoid of intellectual diversity populated with leftist professors, faculty, and administrators intent on indoctrinating the rising generation in the ways of the Left,’ he charged.”

**WIDE SUPPORT AMONG “FAITH GROUPS” FOR LGBT PROTECTION LAWS** (Friday Church News Notes, April 12, 2019,



[www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from “Survey: Faith groups maintain widespread support,” Religion News Service, Mar. 12, 2019: “A new report from the Public Religion Research Institute finds that strong majorities within all religious groups, including white evangelicals and Jehovah’s Witnesses, show sustained support for LGBT nondiscrimination policies. The newly released data from PRRI’s 2018 American Values Atlas, an annual survey of more than 40,000 Americans, showed that 69 percent of all Americans are in favor of enacting laws shielding LGBT people from discrimination in jobs, public accommodations and housing. The two faith groups least likely to support these policies, according to the survey, were white evangelical Protestants and Jehovah’s Witnesses, but even they were in favor of laws protecting LGBT people by small majorities, at 54 percent for white evangelicals and 53 percent for Jehovah’s Witnesses.”

#### **SOUTH CAROLINA MOVING TOWARD**

#### **BANNING ABORTION WHEN UNBORN**

**BABY’S HEARTBEAT BEGINS** (Friday Church News Notes, April 12, 2019, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143)

- The following is excerpted from “South Carolina Panel Passes Bill,” LifeNews.com, Apr. 4, 2019: “South Carolina lawmakers moved forward with a bill late Tuesday to ban abortions after an unborn baby’s heartbeat is detectable. Following the lead of Georgia and other states, the South Carolina House Judiciary Committee passed the heartbeat bill in a 15-7 vote Tuesday night, the AP



reports. State House Bill 3020 would require abortionists to test for a fetal heartbeat before every abortion and prohibit abortions if a heartbeat is detected. Exceptions would be allowed for rape, incest and threats to the mother’s life. It also would require abortionists to offer the woman the chance to hear her baby’s heartbeat and see the ultrasound. An unborn baby’s heartbeat is detectable by about six weeks of pregnancy, though new research suggests the heartbeat may begin as early as 18 days after conception. If the bill becomes law and withstands a legal challenge, it could ban almost all abortions in South Carolina. WSPA 7 News reports the committee heard a number of heartbreaking testimonies prior to the vote. One came from a local chaplain who said she deeply regrets aborting her unborn baby. ... About 5,100 unborn babies were aborted in South Carolina in 2017, and most were later than six weeks of pregnancy, according to the state Department of Health and Environmental Control. Pro-life Gov. Henry McMaster, who also is in a legal battle to defund the abortion giant Planned Parenthood, said he would support the legislation.”

#### **CATHOLIC CARDINAL SENTENCED TO SIX YEARS IN PRISON FOR MOLESTING CHOIRBOYS**

(Friday Church News Notes, April 12, 2019, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org),





[fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from "Cardinal Pell sent to prison," RNS, Mar. 13, 2019: "The most senior Catholic convicted of child sex abuse was sentenced Wednesday (March 13) to six years in prison for molesting two choirboys in an Australian cathedral in a crime the judge said showed 'staggering arrogance.' Cardinal George Pell must serve a minimum of three years and eight months before he is eligible for parole, according to the judge's order. The five convictions against Pell carried a maximum possible sentence of 10 years each. 'In my view, your conduct was permeated by staggering arrogance,' Victoria state County Court Chief Judge Peter Kidd said in handing down the sentence. Pope Francis' former finance minister was convicted by a unanimous jury verdict in December of raping a 13-year-old choirboy and indecently dealing with the boy and the boy's 13-year-old friend in the late 1990s, months after Pell became archbishop of Melbourne. ... the judge also said that Pell had abused his position of power and had shown no remorse for his crimes. Kidd described the assaults as egregious, degrading and humiliating to the victims."

**SPACEX LAUNCHES FIRST PRIVATE PASSENGER SPACECRAFT TO ISS** (Friday Church News Notes, April 12, 2019, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org),

866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from "SpaceX Launches," Futurism.com, Mar. 1, 2019: "SpaceX successfully launched its Crew Dragon spacecraft on a Falcon 9 rocket from historic Launch Complex 39A at NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida at 2:49 am EST this morning. Main engine cutoff and stage separation were confirmed by SpaceX at 2:52 am EST. First stage successfully landed on the drone ship platform *Of Course I Still Love You* at 3:00 am EST. The Crew Dragon is scheduled to dock with the International Space Station early Sunday morning. It will spend about five days docked to the station before returning to Earth and splashing down in the Atlantic. The launch



marks the first time a private American rocket and spacecraft built for human passengers has ever been launched to travel to the space station. An upcoming crewed mission, Demonstration Mission 2, is scheduled for July."

**CYBER ARCHAEOLOGY** (Friday Church News Notes, April 12, 2019, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143) - Cyber archaeology is a new field that recreates archaeological sites and artifacts using the latest technology. The first serious use of the technology was the recreation of King Tutankhamun's tomb in the Valley of the Kings in ancient Thebes (modern Luxor). It is an exact



replicate of the 3,245-year-old tomb. The five-year project, completed in 2014, began with making a high-resolution scan of the tomb using 3-D laser scanning systems that measured up to one hundred million points per square meter ("Tut's Tomb: A Replica Fit for a King," *National Geographic*, May 20 2014). This computer data was used to create an exact copy of the tomb by means of computerized routing machines with a resolution of less than a quarter of a millimeter, silicone molds, resin casts, flatbed digital printers. The digital images can also be used in a 3-D visualization theater. Thomas Levy, professor of anthropology and archaeology at the University of California, San Diego, says, "We're able to walk away from an excavation with the whole archaeological site on a hard drive. With this amazing data I've collected, I can then take you into a 3-D visualization theater and we can **enter** the excavation. I can be in San Diego and I can get a cup of coffee and I can throw in my 3-D data set with geo-reference pics of the actual excavation, and I can walk around in it again."

**CAN GOD CREATE A ROCK THAT HE CANNOT LIFT?** (Friday Church News Notes, April 12, 2019, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143) - "Can God make a rock so big that He cannot lift" is a classical skeptical challenge. It is based on the following





line of thinking: “The Christian God is omnipotent, which means he can do anything. But God cannot create a rock so big that he cannot move it, therefore the Christian God is not real.” The challenge is based on ignorance of the Bible’s teaching about God. The simple answer is that God **cannot** make a rock so big that He can’t move it because He is all-powerful (Job 42:2; Je. 32:17; Mt. 19:26; Lu. 1:37), and God **would not** make a rock that He can’t move because He is all-wise (Ps. 147:5; Isa. 40:28; 1 Jo. 3:20). There are, though, things that God cannot do. He cannot lie or repent of His spoken Word. “God **is** not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do **it**? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?” (Nu. 23:19). This means that the following Word of God will prove to be true in the life of every skeptic: “He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him” (John 3:36).

**ISRAEL’S MOON LANDER CRASHES** (Friday Church News Notes, April 19, 2019, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143)

- Israel’s moon lander *Beereshet* crashed on the far side of the moon on April 11. *Beereshet*, meaning “in the beginning,” was the first attempt by a private enterprise to put a

spacecraft on the moon’s surface. (The project was a joint project between the privately-funded SpaceIL and Israel Aerospace Industries.) The craft successfully made the journey to the moon and entered moon orbit, but there was a glitch in the engine as it neared the surface. Morris Khan, president of SpaceIL, announced that a second attempt will be made. Israel’s Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, who had won his re-election bid the day before and was watching the landing attempt from the control room near Tel Aviv, said, “If at first you don’t succeed, you try again.” *Beereshet* accomplished great things on a shoe-string budget of about \$76 million with a team of less than 50 engineers. This is the cusp of privately-funded space exploration. On the same day as SpaceX attempted a moon landing, SpaceX’s massive Falcon Heavy rocket made its second successful launch and all three of its boosters successfully landed back on earth to be reused. SpaceX’s are the first space rockets to achieve this goal, thus greatly reducing the cost of launches. This technology is a fulfillment of Daniel’s prophecy about the time of the end, that “many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased” (Da. 12:4). The day is approaching when Israel will be converted and be the light to the nations that God intends that she be. “Arise, shine; for thy light is come,



and the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee. For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the LORD shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee. And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising” (Isaiah 60:1-3).

**AT LEAST 290 SELFIE DEATHS** (Friday Church News Notes, April 19, 2019, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143)



- The following is excerpted from “More than 250,” *The Washington Post*, Oct. 2, 2018: “More than 250 people worldwide have died while taking selfies in the last six years, according to a new study from researchers associated with the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, a group of public medical colleges based in New Delhi. The findings, which analyzed news reports of the 259 selfie-related deaths from October 2011 to November 2017, were published in the July-August edition of the *Journal of Family Medicine and Primary Care*. Of the 259 deaths, researchers found the leading cause to be drowning, followed by incidents involving transportation—for example, taking a selfie in front of an oncoming train—and falling from heights. Other causes of selfie-related deaths include animals, firearms and electrocution. “The selfie deaths have become a major public health

problem,” Agam Bansal, the study’s lead author, told *The Washington Post*. ... ‘Taking a toll on these many numbers just because you want a perfect selfie because you want a lot of likes, shares on Facebook, Twitter or other social media, I don’t think this is worth compromising a life for such a thing.’” (At least 31 selfie deaths have occurred since November 2017 - “List of Selfie-related Injuries and Deaths,” [wikipedia.org](http://wikipedia.org).)

### CHINA’S FACIAL RECOGNITION SYSTEM ALREADY A FINE-TUNED ORWELLIAN NIGHTMARE

(Friday Church News Notes, April 19, 2019, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from “If You Jaywalk in China,” *Futurism.com*, Mar. 30, 2018: “Residents of Shenzhen don’t dare jaywalk. Since April 2017, this city in China’s Guangdong province has deployed a rather *intense* technique to deter jaywalking. Anyone who crosses against the light will find their face, name, and part of their government ID number displayed on a large LED screen above the intersection, thanks to facial recognition devices all over the city. If that feels invasive, you don’t even know the half of it. Now, *Motherboard* reports that a Chinese artificial intelligence company is partnering the system with mobile carriers, so that offenders receive a text message with a fine as soon as they are caught. The system is just one cog in the vast surveillance machine that the Chinese government has been building over the last several years. Its aim is in part public safety and security, but the information on citizens’ whereabouts

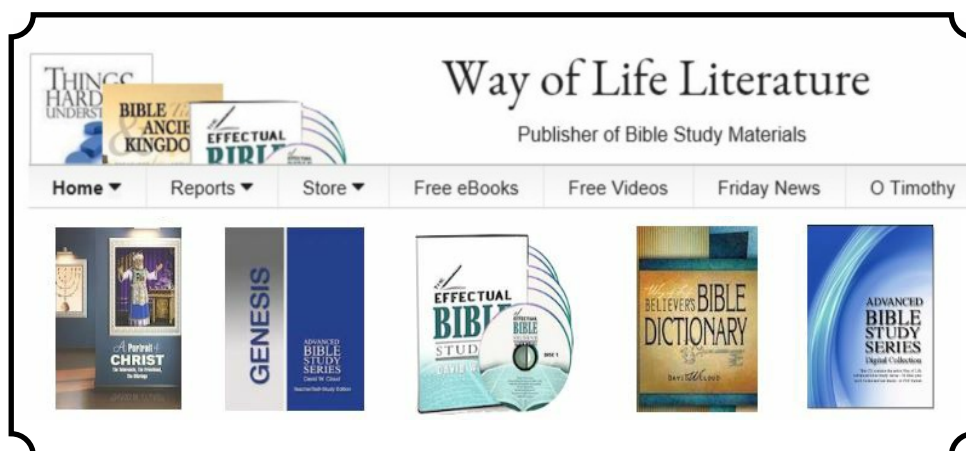


and activities will also feed into China’s national social credit system. The social credit system, which will roll out in 2020, is intended to rate individuals according to a national scoring system for how trustworthy a citizen each person is.”

### PREACHER FINDS GOOD USE FOR WAY OF LIFE BIBLE STUDY MATERIALS

(Friday Church News Notes, April 19, 2019, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143) - The following testimony is by Don Whitecar, former missionary to Belize who is currently starting a church in Pocatello, Idaho: “After one year in Belize, we had a little over 100 saved and in various stages of Christian growth. The attendance was consistently over 100, and a few had grown to the point to be workers in classes, etc. It was at this time that I used Way of Life’s 52 week One Year Discipleship books. I gave every family one that they read and

answered the questions during the week. In the Sunday evening service announcements, I would go over the answers. We had great participation, and it is this effort that grounded the largest group that made up the foundation of that church. After that point, I used those discipleship books by assigning a newly saved person to a grounded Christian who had already been through the book. They would work through the book together. Before the service began on Sunday evenings, it was common to see several places around the auditorium where people were going over the books. That church has used over 250 copies of that text. After the second anniversary of the church I began a Bible Institute to teach more in depth. We met on Monday evenings for 1.5 hours per class (2 classes). My wife offered speech classes (Bible story telling, etc.) for the ladies. Our classes were always well attended, and Way of Life’s Advanced Bible Studies books were always the text (for the Bible classes). The students were turning in their answers to the review questions for homework. We went over the answers in class. The questions from the homework became possible test questions at the end of each section, in addition to the information from my lecture notes.





Later, I added to this. We picked a textbook, and I assigned due dates (always Sunday evenings) for the review questions to be due. We offered this to the entire church. We had upwards of 40 to 50 reading and answering the questions. This method was my favorite because it brought the information to so many more people. In December of 2017, just before I left, I remember going in to the evening service and overhearing two of our church ladies commenting to each other of how hard a life the Waldensian Christians had to live. Most Christians around the world don't even know who the Waldensians were! Thank you for the hard work to provide these materials for our ministry. We are using the discipleship book again here in the new work, and one of the ladies is reading the history of the churches already. Your *Sowing and Reaping* book is another great tool to train new workers. I taught through that in Belize on Saturday morning visitation meeting. I pray every day for your ministry, and I am thankful for your enormous efforts to put out good material."

**A MAGAZINE THAT IS NOT OUTSPOKEN IS A LITERARY NUISANCE** (Friday Church News Notes, April 19, 2019, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143)

- The following words by Charles Spurgeon are from *The Sword &*



Charles Spurgeon

*Trowel*, 1870: "This Magazine has not been conducted in a timid, crouching spirit, neither have we pandered to popular tastes. Some of our articles have brought down upon us upbraidings which we have borne without regret. Our reviews, when we have felt conscientiously bound to censure, have cost us many a postal lecture. We are not, however, penitent; we have nothing to retract, but doubt not that we shall sin again; **we would not needlessly irritate, but we will not be silent in the presence of error, neither will we bespatter with flattery where honesty demands denunciation. A magazine which is not outspoken, and is destitute of principle, is a literary nuisance.** We use the *trowel* wherever we can to aid every good cause, but we have a *sword* also and mean to use it. We expect to receive blows, and therefore when we do we are not overwhelmed with dismay. Christ's truth is too dear to us for us to flinch from its defense. In the widespread defection which is now so sadly apparent in certain quarters, we see not only signs of coming struggles, but calls to duty, stern and arduous, from which only cowards will desire to be excused. The ancient faith, assailed by foes on all hands, must not lack for champions."

**THE SANDS OF PLUTO** (Friday Church News Notes, April 19, 2019, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143)  
- The following is from *Creation Moments*, Feb. 26, 2019: "When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; what is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?" (Psalm 8:3-4). What would it be like,



standing on the surface of Pluto? As a boy, fascinated by astronomy, I avidly devoured any books that I could about the planets. One of my favorites was called *Challenge of the Stars*, published in 1972, with text by TV astronomer Patrick Moore and space artist David A. Hardy. My copy was even given to me and signed by Mr. Moore himself. In the section on Pluto, Hardy had painted a scene where one seems to be looking out through the entrance of an icy cave. Icicles are hanging over the opening. The sky is black and full of stars, but one star is noticeably brighter than the others. The text told me that this was the Sun, appearing so far away, it just looked like the other stars, albeit a bit brighter. The text also told me that the ice was actually solid nitrogen—and so were the icicles. Roll on 45 years. The *New Horizons* space mission has now visited Pluto and taken photographs, along with lots of measurements. This data from that 2015 fly-by is still being analyzed today. Research just published has suggested that nitrogen frost at the edge of Pluto's ice plain has split the rock into tiny particles, looking like sand. Winds of methane have moved the grains into dunes. At -230°C, this must be the coldest beach property in the Solar System. It is truly amazing when we consider that Scripture refers to the universe as the work of God's fingers. Ref: 'Methane ice and winds on Pluto,' [www.newscientist.com](http://www.newscientist.com)."





Israel & Maria Folau

## RUGBY LEAGUE TO FIRE \$1 MILLION STAR PLAYER OVER BIBLE VERSE POSTS ON HOMOSEXUALITY

(Friday Church News Notes, April 26, 2019, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143)

- The following is excerpted from ChristianHeadlines.com, Apr. 16, 2019: "An Australian rugby star who makes more than \$1 million per year is set to be fired in the coming days for posting a Bible verse about homosexuality on social media and urging his follows to 'turn to Jesus.' Rugby Australia said April 14 that Israel Folau was in breach of the players' code of conduct and had 48 hours to accept the sanction or have the matter referred to a Code of Conduct hearing. The incident warranted 'termination of his employment contract,' the statement said. The meeting could occur next week. Speaking after church Sunday, Folau said he would not apologize for the Bible-centric social media posts on Instagram and Twitter and would be content walking away from rugby. Folau signed a contract in 2015 that paid him nearly \$1.5 million U.S. per year. He signed an undisclosed new deal last year, and made at least one list as the highest-paid rugby player in the world. He plays for the Wallabies Australian national rugby team and the New South Wales Waratahs in the Super Rugby League. 'First and foremost,

I live for God now,' Folau told *The Sydney Morning Herald Sunday*. 'Whatever He wants me to do, I believe His plans for me are better than whatever I can think. If that's not to continue on playing, so be it. In saying that, obviously I love playing footy and if it goes down that path I'll definitely miss it. But my faith in Jesus Christ is what comes first.' The controversy started April 10 when Folau--who is known for his Christian faith--posted an image on Instagram that referenced Scripture and read, 'Warning. Drunks, Homosexuals, Adulterers, Liars, Fornicators, Thieves, Atheists, Idolaters. Hell Awaits You. Repent! Only Jesus Saves.' He wrote next to the Instagram picture, 'Those that are living in Sin will end up in Hell unless you repent. Jesus Christ loves you and is giving you time to turn away from your sin and come to him.' He also quoted Galatians 5:19-21: 'Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these, adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revelings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.' The post received 44,000 likes. The same day, he linked on Twitter a story about Tasmania allowing those ages 16 and over to change their birth certificates or to remove gender from the certificates altogether. He wrote: 'The devil has blinded so many people in this world, REPENT and turn away from your evil ways. Turn to Jesus Christ who will set you free.' That post gained 4,000 likes. Raelene Castle, chief executive of Rugby Australia, said

Folau had been warned in the past about his social media posts."

**ISRAEL'S MERMAID COMMUNITY** (Friday Church News Notes, April 26, 2019, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from "A Tale of Tails," *The Times of Israel*, Apr. 17, 2019: "Last year, Shir Katzenell made a drastic life change, leaving a prestigious job in the Israeli army to pursue a childhood dream: becoming a mermaid. Ever since getting hooked on Disney's 'The Little Mermaid' as a kid, Katzenell confided, she has longed to turn into one. While her friends moved on, Katzenell's enchantment with mermaids endured. She fantasized about swimming underwater alongside fish in a 10-pound tail and sequined bikini. Then she actually gave it a try. Together with a friend and fellow mermaid-fan, Michelle Koretsky, she started an unlikely social scene: a group of aspiring mermaids in Israel, which has grown on Facebook to nearly 1,000 members. It's the Israeli pocket of a worldwide community that she claims is gaining prominence. ... Now, as a 34-year-old 'full-time mermaid,' she sells brightly-colored tails, some with dizzying \$800 price tags, and teaches people the skill of swimming in them. The tail-clad group convenes regularly to romp in public pools across the country and



participate in demonstrations to raise awareness about ocean preservation. ... One of the clan's few mer-men, Yuval Avrami, marveled at how his fabric fin flitted in the water, describing it as a 'dream come true.' He said he learned about the trend through transgender friends and became fascinated by 'the transition from one species to another, the ability to inhabit a new, magical identity.'" (See also [Fantasy Dangers](#), a free eBook available from [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org).)

**CBD-INFUSED AND THC-INFUSED** (Friday Church News Notes, April 26, 2019, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143)



- With the onslaught of the legalization of recreational marijuana, it is important to understand the difference between CBD-infused products and THC-infused. Both CBD (cannabidiol) and THC (tetrahydrocannabinol) are products of cannabis plants (e.g., marijuana and hemp). Both are therefore called *cannabinoids*, but there is a major difference. THC is intoxicating, whereas CBD is not. CBD will not create euphoria or a state of "high." CBD also does not have the negative side effects of THC, such as addiction, psychosis, long-term effects on learning, cognition, and personality, "amotivational syndrome" (lethargy

and loss of interest in achievement), bronchitis and respiratory infections, and increased risk of cardiovascular disease. Many medical benefits are claimed for CBD, but the only CBD product to receive approval by the Food and Drug Administration so far (June 2018) is *Epidiolex*, which is used to treat forms of epilepsy. The marketing of CBD-infused food, which is just beginning, will doubtless be a bridge for some to THC. For example, the creator of *Jelly Belly* jelly beans is marketing a CBD-infused edition. *ABC News* reported on this with the opening line, "Jelly bean aficionados will now be able to experience something stronger than a sugar rush" ("Creator of Jelly Belly released cannabis-infused jelly beans," *ABC News*, Mar. 20, 2019). Also, Carl's Jr. is testing a CBD-infused sandwich in Denver which is named Rocky Mountain High Cheese Burger Delight. The very name seems to promise an intoxicating effect. The way these products are marketed gives the false idea that they are a bit intoxicating, and it is probable that some customers who fail to get an expected "buzz" will be tempted to obtain the "real thing." The legalization of recreational marijuana will have major, far-reaching negative societal ramifications.

**BAPTIST CHURCHES NOT PREACHING ON THE SECOND COMING** (Friday Church News Notes, April 26, 2019, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143)

- The following is from a reader: "About three years ago I was speaking with another fundamental Baptist pastor here in the area. I mentioned that I truly believed the Lord was coming soon. He said, 'You know, everybody was preaching on

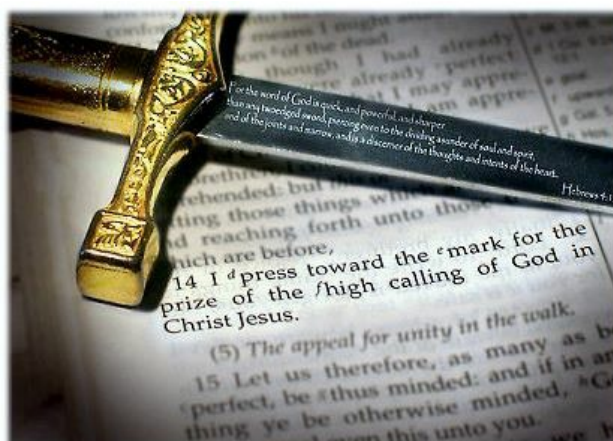


this back in the 70's, 80's and 90's and thought surely Christ would come before 2000. I really don't preach that much any more.' I about fell on the floor and responded to him, 'If Christ did not come by then, how much closer now?' I said, 'I preach His coming regularly trying to wake people up to holiness and living for Christ so that they won't be ashamed at His coming.' Speaking to a missionary friend who spoke at our church recently, I mentioned this story. His words were, 'I have heard more from you today about the second coming than I have for months in other fundamental Baptist churches. This is from a man from a large missions ministry who preaches regularly across the country. Our people live in denial of this truth and unfortunately our preachers are also.' Another reader sent the following comment: "Fundamental Baptist preachers seem very reluctant to delve into prophecy. ... I don't think I have ever heard a really solid message from an IFB preacher from the mountain of Old Testament prophecies with momentous future fulfillment." The imminent return of Jesus Christ is a major New Testament doctrine, and the preaching and teaching of it is essential for holy living. Preachers who neglect it are rebels against God's Word and are not qualified for the ministry. The mindset of always looking for Christ's return was

modeled by the church at Thessalonica, which “turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God; and to wait for his Son from heaven...” (1 Th. 1:9-10).

## YOUNG PREACHER GETTING BAD COUNSEL FROM BACKSLIDDEN PASTORS WHO ARE ON THE CONTEMPORARY SLIPPERY SLOPE (Friday

Church News Notes, April 26, 2019, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143) - Note from Bro. Cloud: I received the following testimony from a young preacher recently. It describes what is happening widely in Independent Baptist churches. It describes what has become the majority thinking over the past 15 years. I pray that this young man will stand fast in the “strictness” of God’s Word and not follow a multitude to do wrong. “Dear Brother Cloud, I have been GREATLY encouraged by your writings because I had been struggling with the idea of holding to and preaching Christian standards when so many of the ‘good’



independent Baptist churches and pastors no longer do. I was getting to the place where I felt alone in desiring to preach and teach holiness from the pulpit, for I had asked many (at least 10) preachers if adapting CCM was ok and if we should preach hard on modesty and music and they ALL told me that if we love people and show them the love of the Lord they will eventually come around to creating their own standards. I was so discouraged because I had been convicted about the music/dress that I was listening to and allowing in my own life and family and was desiring to find a man who would say, ‘YES! TAKE A STAND!’ So thank you for doing right no matter the cost. I have

been the youth pastor at an independent Baptist church, but I have been asked to leave by the pastor because he feels I am ‘too conservative/fundamental’ for his ministry (our church is adapting CCM praise music and giving up modesty for the sake of ‘keeping the unsaved in church’). I am in the process of seeking God's face and will for where He wants us to go and

what He wants us to do. The main purpose of this email is to let you know that as I seek to serve the Lord, my goal is to be what you laid out in your ‘O Timothy’ magazine. My desire is to be one of the 1,000 preachers that will not give up the faith and hold to sound doctrine and Biblical standards. I do not expect a response, but I wanted you to know that your sound Biblical teaching has given me the Biblical foundation I had been praying for/ searching for so that I could respond (both to others and in my own heart) with the Bible as to why I DO believe that holding Bible standards on music, dress, television, technology, etc., is VITAL to Christianity today.”

## Aim of O Timothy Magazine

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





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