

O Timothy

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

A Monthly Newsletter for Spiritual Protection and Edification

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



CHARLES SPURGEON AND A REGENERATE CHURCH MEMBERSHIP ~ By David Cloud

Charles Spurgeon began pastoring the Metropolitan Tabernacle of London, England, in 1853 at age 19, and was the senior pastor until his death in 1892. His superlative preaching drew massive crowds, and the church grew from two to three hundred to a membership of over 5,300.

Spurgeon believed in a regenerate church membership and was very careful in this regard.

He didn't give invitations to come forward after his sermons. Instead, he invited seekers to meet with him at his office on Monday morning. He wanted to deal with seekers carefully and properly.

Prospective candidates for baptism and membership went through a multi-step process.

Charles Spurgeon and a Regenerate CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

By David Cloud



1. The enquirer met with one of the elders or deacons to share his or her testimony.

Following is an account of this from *Wonders of Grace: Original testimonies of converts during Spurgeon's early years* (compiled by Hannah Wyncoll, copyright 2016 by Wakeman Trust).

"On a weeknight evening each week church elders would see enquirers at the Tabernacle. For each one they would write an account of their spiritual journey. Often the discernment they exercised can be seen in the advice given, and in further visits over weeks or months until they were sure that the enquirer was truly saved. The core of the testimony would need to show that the person was relying only on the blood of Christ for salvation. They would also be asked if they understood the need for the imputed righteousness of Christ. They would talk about the doctrines of grace and whether they would-be member was looking only to Christ rather than their own merit. If the applicant was not quite clear on some things, the elders might give further questions to be answered, Bible passages to be read and prayed over, or as one elder put it, he 'prescribed her some pills of precious promise with a little draught of sympathetic experience to wash them down.' They might be given the *Baptist Confession of Faith* to study, or be directed to attend one of the Bible classes to help them further. ... *The Sword and the Trowel* of 1865 says that elders look for four things: Tenderness of conscience, attachment to

the means of grace, desire to come out of the world, and deep interest in the unconverted."

2. If the elder or deacon was satisfied with the testimony, the enquirer was recommended to meet with Spurgeon.

"If satisfied, an interviewing elder would give a card, with the number matching the report, for the enquirer to see C.H. Spurgeon" (*Wonders of Grace*).

3. If Spurgeon was satisfied, he nominated someone to visit the candidate "to enquire as to the moral character and repute."

"Spurgeon would spend several hours every Tuesday afternoon seeing many such people, taking a brief interval to compare notes with his elders. He would then appoint an elder or deacon to visit to ensure the applicant was living a consistent, godly life at home.

Attendance at as many meetings as possible on Sundays and during the week was seen as a sign of true Christian life. Many were in service and had very little free time away from their work, but their new Christian instinct should be seen--to assembly together whenever possible. ...

[A] theme which shines out distinctly in the vast majority of records is the forsaking of worldliness at conversion. All is changed for the convert. Worldly pleasures are given up and the life devoted to Christ and his people from that time on. Pursuits such as the penny theater, public houses, music parties, the use of popular songs, and gambling are spoken of repeatedly as holding no pleasure for the new believer.

The markedly different life of believers is often mentioned as instrumental in bringing others to enquire into Christian things. The change was not limited to church attendance, but extended to all areas of life" (*Wonders of Grace*).

4. If the home visitor was satisfied, he invited the candidate to attend a special congregation meeting to appear before the church family.

There the candidates would again give their testimonies and answer any questions from church members. These meetings were not rushed and could last several hours, beginning at 2pm and sometimes "lasting till a late hour at night."

5. The church then voted whether to receive the candidate as a member.

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6. If approved by the vote of the church, the candidate was baptized and received into membership and participated in the next communion service.

This process began during the earliest days of Spurgeon's pastorate at Metropolitan.

During the first six and a half years, there were 1,442 new members, most by baptism. "That's 1,442 membership interviews by a deacon, 1,442 meetings with Spurgeon, 1,442 membership visitations, 1,442 testimonies before the congregation, and 1,442 approvals by the congregation (not to mention over a thousand baptisms, as most of these were new converts)" (*Meaningful Membership at Spurgeon's Metropolitan Tabernacle*," The Spurgeon Center, Feb. 8, 2018).

To maintain church membership required faithfulness to the Lord's Supper. "Upon joining the church, members were given a communion card, divided by perforation into twelve numbered parts, one of which was to be delivered every month at the communion. These tickets would be checked by the elders and if any member was

"absent more than three months. This enabled the church to work towards meaningful membership by providing better care and discipleship, or by removing those members from the membership" (*Meaningful Membership at Spurgeon's Metropolitan Tabernacle*).

Spurgeon preached against the practice of puffing up the church's membership roles with people who are not present and active.

"Let us not keep names on our books when they are only names. Certain of the good old people like to keep them there, and cannot bear to have them removed; but when you do not know where individuals are, nor what they are, how can you count them? They are gone to America, or Australia, or to heaven, but as far as your roll is concerned they are with you still. Is this a right thing?

It may not be possible to be absolutely accurate, but let us aim at it... Keep your church real and effective, or make no report. A merely nominal church is a lie. Let it be what it professes to be" (Spurgeon's final message to the Pastors' College, cited from *Meaningful Membership at Spurgeon's Metropolitan Tabernacle*).

FORCING MATTER TO STICK (Friday Church News Notes, June 21, 2019, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is from *Creation Moments*, May 16, 2019: "Why doesn't an atom fly apart? It really ought to do so. School children are taught that atoms basically contain three types of particles--protons, neutrons and electrons. The protons and neutrons are in the atomic nucleus. They are roughly the same mass, but neutrons are neutral, whereas protons have a positive electrical charge. Tiny electrons, with a negative charge, whizz around the parent atom at great speed. If you rub a balloon on your hair, you know that you can probably make it stick to a wall. The balloon will pick up a negative electrical charge. Suppose you charge two balloons, each with a string attached. Hold them hanging from your hands, and bring them close. They repel because they have the same charge. The protons in the atomic nucleus have the same positive charge. They should repel. The fact that they do not do so suggests that there is a stronger force present keeping the protons together, even though the electric charge wants to push them apart. This strong force does not



have a large sphere of influence. It only seems to operate when objects are 10-15m apart. At such a small distance, the strong force seems to be 137 times stronger than the electrical force. Outside this distance, the electromagnetic force is stronger, so the protons would push each other away. God has balanced these forces exactly. If the strong force were a little weaker, then large atoms would easily fall apart. If a little stronger, then no chemical reactions would occur. Ref: Britannica.com/science/strong-force."

LIBERAL BAPTIST DENOMINATIONS

By David Cloud



The Baptist World Alliance (BWA) is an ecumenical alliance founded in 1905 and currently consisting of 223 Baptist denominations in 120 countries, comprising 42 million members in 177,000 congregations. It is divided into six regional fellowships: North American Baptist Fellowship, Asia Pacific Baptist Federation, All-Africa Baptist Fellowship, Caribbean Baptist Fellowship, Union of Baptists in Latin America, and European Baptist Federation.

Members of the BWA include American Baptist Churches USA, Baptist Union of Great Britain, Baptist Union of New Zealand, Convention of Philippine Baptist Churches, General Baptist Church of the Philippines, Luzon Convention of Southern Baptist Churches, Singapore Baptist Convention, Thailand Baptist Convention, Evangelical Baptist Union of Italy, Jamaica Baptist Union, Myanmar Baptist Convention, National Baptist Convention of America, National Baptist Convention USA, Progressive National Baptist Convention, Baptist Union of Australia, Assam Baptist Convention, Baptist Church of Mizoram, Baptist Union of North India, Council of Baptist Churches in Northern India, Evangelical Baptist Convention of India, India Association of General Baptists, Nagaland Baptist Church Council, Manipur Baptist Convention, Japan Baptist Convention, Japan Baptist Conference, Japan Baptist Union, Korea Baptist Convention, Malaysia Baptist Convention, and the Nepal Baptist Church Council.

The BWA promotes the heresy that unity is more important than doctrinal truth. Its first stated goal is “to unite Baptists worldwide.”

The unscriptural ecumenical philosophy is illustrated by that of BWA member body, the American Baptist

Church. An ABC publication entitled “Oneness in Christ: American Baptists Are Ecumenical” leaves no doubt about their position. This publication was compiled and edited by the “Reverend” Martha Barr, former Assistant General Secretary and Ecumenical Officer of the ABC.

“We American Baptists run the whole theological range—fundamentalists, conservative orthodox, liberal ... Maybe it is partly because American Baptists are so inclusive that we affirm that we are ecumenical. ... We do not have creedal statements. We can worship and work with Episcopalian and Pentecostal, with Roman Catholic and Orthodox.”

The Bible forbids this type of unity. God’s people are commanded to earnestly contend for the faith once delivered to the saints (Jude 3) and to mark and avoid those who teach heresy.

“Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them” (Romans 16:17).

“Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away” (2 Timothy 3:5).

In decades past, the BWA was strongly influenced by communists, and it supports new age one-world organizations such as the United Nations (UN). The Baptist World Alliance is affiliated with the exceedingly liberal World Council of Churches (WCC). Twenty-five of the BWA’s member denominations are members of the WCC. (See [The World Council of Churches](#), a free eBook available at www.wayoflife.org.)

The Baptist World Alliance maintains ecumenical relations with Rome through its affiliation with the

Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity. Formal dialogue was held between 1984 and 1988, moderated by David T. Shannon, former president of Andover Newton Theological School, and Bede Heather, Catholic bishop of Parramatta, and between 2006 and 2010, moderated by Paul Fiddes, professor of systematic theology at the University of Oxford, and Arthur Serratelli, Catholic bishop of Paterson.

Upon the election of Pope Francis in March 2013, Baptist World Alliance President John Upton said, "The BWA celebrates with the Catholic Church the announcement" ("BWA to Attend Papal Inauguration," Associated Baptist Press, Mar. 15, 2013). Upton plans to represent the BWA at the papal inauguration. BWA General Secretary Neville Callam said the new pope "will be accompanied by the prayers of the members of the world Baptist family, who also anticipate the pope's positive contribution to the realization of the vision of the church reflected in the High Priestly prayer of our Lord."

As far back as the 1930s, the Baptist World Alliance was a hotbed of theological modernism. When Dr. J. Frank Norris led Temple Baptist Church of Detroit, Michigan, to withdraw from the BWA in 1935, he cited its "modernistic dominated leadership" as a reason (*The F. Frank Norris I Have Known for 34 Years*, p. 311).

Prior to that, fundamentalist leader A.C. Dixon had tried to have a resolution passed in the Baptist World Alliance affirming "five fundamental verities of the faith" -- the verbal inspiration of Scripture, the virgin birth of Christ, the Deity of Christ, the blood atonement, and the resurrection of Christ. An apostate majority of the BWA representatives voted down this simple resolution.

Things have only gotten worse in the years since then.

At the 15th Baptist World Alliance meeting in 1985, the BWA commended the United Nations, a hotbed of New Age and Humanistic confusion, and challenged Baptists "to make a new commitment of prayer for the UN, promote interest and support for its programmes, and encourage world-wide rededication to the principles and purposes of its charter" ("8000 Attend 15th Baptist Congress," Ecumenical Press Service, July 11-20, 1985).

Desmond Tutu spoke at a Baptist World Alliance meeting in 1988. Anglican archbishop Tutu is a rank liberal who

in February 1996 called for the ordination of homosexual priests. Consider the following quotes that expose Tutu's unbelieving heart:

"Some people thought there was something odd about Jesus' birth... It may be that Jesus was an illegitimate son" (Desmond Tutu, *Cape Times*, October 24, 1980).

"The Holy Spirit is not limited to the Christian Church. For example, Mahatma Gandhi, who is a Hindu ... The Holy Spirit shines through him" (Desmond Tutu, St. Alban's Cathedral, Pretoria, South Africa, November 23, 1978).

Those who associate with the Baptist World Alliance, associate with heretics like Desmond Tutu, and the Bible warns severely against such fellowship: "If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds" (2 John 10, 11).

In September 2000, the Baptist World Alliance opened official dialogue with the Anglican Consultative Council to "foster common understanding between the two religious groups" and to see if they "could find common ground to work together in various aspects of the ministry." Evangelist Don Jasmin observed: "This is the same Anglican Church which is seeking reunion with the Roman Catholic Church and whose leadership has already agreed to accept the primacy of the Pope" (*Fundamentalist Digest*, March-April 2001, p. 12).

Brutal Marxist dictator Fidel Castro, who has persecuted and restricted the churches of Jesus Christ in Cuba for decades, was a speaker at the Baptist World Alliance meeting in July 2000.

On January 24, 2002, Denton Lotz, general secretary of the Baptist World Alliance, joined hands with Pope John Paul II and the leaders of many other denominations and 11 pagan religions at the third Day of Prayer for World Peace at Assisi, Italy. The ecumenical pagan prayer gathering featured some 200 religious leaders, including representatives of such denominations as Roman Catholic, Orthodox, Anglican, Reformed, Baptist, Lutheran, Mormon, Methodist, Quaker, Pentecostal, Mennonite, as well as representatives of Islam, Judaism, Buddhism, Sikhism, Bahai, Confucianism, Shintoism, Hinduism,

Jainism, Zoroastrianism, Tenrikyo (Japan), and members of African and North American “traditional religions.” The religious leaders traveled to Assisi with the Pope by train from Rome, arriving at the blasphemously named Railway Station of St. Mary of the Angels. The Pope said, “Violence never again! War never again! Terrorism never again! In the name of God, may every religion bring upon the earth justice and peace, forgiveness and life, love!” The Pope’s prayers aren’t answered, and neither are those of the other false religious leaders gathered with him, for the simple reason that they worship false gods and preach false gospels and blatantly disobey God’s Word. That the general secretary of the Baptist World Alliance would participate in such a thing is irrefutable evidence of his apostasy.

In February 2013, the Baptist World Alliance praised Pope Benedict XVI upon his announcement that he was stepping down from the papacy. BWA General Secretary Neville Callam called the pope’s theological works “a rich storehouse of spiritual reflections worthy of detailed study” (BWA Leader Laud Pope Benedict XVI,” *Baptist World Alliance News*, Feb. 14, 2013). BWA president John Upton praised the Pope’s ecumenical vision and his willingness to reach out to Baptists. There was no warning of the Pope’s false gospel and other damnable heresies.

Among the denominations that are united under the BWA umbrella are the American Baptist Church USA and the Baptist Union of Great Britain, both of which are permeated with the most heretical modernism under the sun.

BAPTIST UNION OF GREAT BRITAIN

The Baptist Union (a union of Particular and General Baptists since 1833) was already becoming apostate at the end of the 19th century when Charles Haddon Spurgeon separated from it in protest in 1887. Before separating from the Baptist Union, Spurgeon published articles in *The Sword and the Trowel* that warned of the apostasy. Spurgeon said, “Our warfare is with men who are giving up the atoning sacrifice, denying the inspiration of Holy Scripture, and casting slurs upon justification by faith.” Spurgeon called this the “New Theology” and said that “if it were preached for a thousand years by all the most earnest men of the school, it would never renew a soul, nor overcome pride in a

single human heart.” Spurgeon said, “Believers in Christ’s atonement are now in declared union with those who make light of it; believers in Holy Scripture are in confederacy with those who deny plenary inspiration; those who hold evangelical doctrine are in open alliance with those who call the fall a fable, who deny the personality of the Holy Ghost, who call justification by faith immoral, and hold that there is another probation after death... It is our solemn conviction that there should be no pretence of fellowship. Fellowship with known and vital error is participation in sin” (*The Sword and the Trowel*, Aug. 1887).

The apostasy that began in Spurgeon’s day has continued unabated.

Sadly, after Spurgeon’s death, his Pastors’ College, which was renamed Spurgeon’s College, reunited with the Baptist Union. Eleven graduates have become presidents of the Union.

In the 1920s, 30s, and 40s, H. Wheeler Robinson, pastor of Baptist Union churches and principal of Regents Park College, denied the infallibility of Scripture, considered the Old Testament a product of religious evolution, denied the historicity of Adam and original sin. He blasphemously claimed that Jesus was not right in everything He taught. “[T]he language and the thought of a particular generation [are] stamped upon His [Christ’s] sayings” (Robinson, *Ancient and English Versions of the Bible*, p. 287).

Between 1961 and 1977, Spurgeon’s College, then a part of the Baptist Union, was led by George Beasley-Murray from 1961-1977. He claimed that Jesus was wrong about the timing of His Second Coming, that John’s Gospel was not written by John but by a community of John’s followers, and taught that salvation is not complete without baptism. Beasley-Murray participated in the World Council of Churches and praised its “general theology” and “deep spirituality” (“The Rise and Fall of Spurgeon’s College,” *Standing on Shoulders*, Jan. 19, 2010). The theology of the WCC includes every type of heresy and blasphemy, including universalism, and its “spirituality” includes idolatrous Hindu dances, mindless Buddhist chants, and North American Indian spirit sacrifices. (See the free eBook [World Council of Churches](http://www.wayoflife.org), available at www.wayoflife.org.)

In 1971, Michael Taylor, principal of the Baptist Union’s Northern Baptist College, addressed the London Baptist

Assembly on the theme, “How much of a man was Jesus?” He denied that Jesus Christ is God. Though many protested the man’s heresy, the Baptist Union refused to discipline him or remove him from office.

In 1986, the *Australian Beacon* made the following observation about the Baptist Union: “It is a Union which harbours apostates and succors infidels while ostracizing faithful servants of Christ. It is a friend of Rome, a bed-fellow of idolaters and spiritists in its membership of the World Council of Churches. No true man of God could remain within it in good conscience” (*Australian Beacon*, No. 240, July 1986).

In 1989, the Baptist Union yoked together with the Roman Catholic Church in the newly formed ecumenical union in Britain.

In 1995, the *New South Wales Baptist*, the official paper of the Baptist Union of NSW, endorsed the Laughing Revival, otherwise known as the Toronto Blessing. The article was written by David Coffey, General Secretary of the Baptist Union. Many Baptist Union congregations have welcomed the Laughing Revival. These include Randwick Baptist Church. Secular newspapers printed photos of Randwick Baptist church members lying on the floor and acting like drunks. Coffey begins his article with the statement, “We have now had the opportunity to receive reports from a wide range of opinions across the country and there is no doubt in our minds that God has been at work” (David Coffey, “When the Spirit Comes, a British Baptist Prospective,” *The New South Wales Baptist*, Autumn 1995). What blindness.

In November 1997, the Baptist Union of Great Britain appointed a woman as area superintendent for London. A Baptist Union spokeswoman said area superintendents are “pastors to the pastors” and their families, promote the union and represent Baptists ecumenically (Ecumenical News International, November 18, 1997). The woman, Pat Took, is also a pastor at the Can Hall Baptist Church in Leytonstone, London.

In May 1998, Roman Catholic Cardinal Basil Hume was invited to participate in the Baptist Union’s assembly. He “led their spiritual reflections and was present when newly-accredited ministers met the Baptist Union president” (*Australian Beacon*, August 1998). The Union’s General Secretary, David Coffey, praised the

cardinal and said the Union recognizes “the deep spirituality which undergirds his ministry.”

Today Spurgeon’s College, affiliated with the Baptist Union, trains female pastors. Lynn Green, the first female president of the Baptist Union, in 2013, was a graduate of the college. She received a standing ovation for her inaugural message. She proclaimed, “I believe that our union is ready for generational change ... It is time to ... embrace a new way of being for the 21st century.” This is the philosophy of the emerging church.

AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCH

The American Baptist Churches USA (ABCUSA) is also permeated with theological liberalism and deep spiritual compromise. (It was known as the Northern Baptist Convention until 1950 and the American Baptist Convention until 1972.)

“Even before the turn of the twentieth century, the five Baptist seminaries in the North were showing signs of liberalism” (Beale, *In Pursuit of Purity*, p. 175).

In 1910, Baptist leader William B. Riley testified that the denomination had been “surrendered into the hands of the Higher Critics” (George Dollar, *A History of Fundamentalism*).

Henry Vedder is an example. He taught Baptist history at Crozer Theological Seminary from 1894-1926 and published 27 books on church history and theology, including *A Short History of the Baptists*. This book has been very influential and has been called “a classic in the field.” “Vedder vigorously attacked Christ’s substitutionary atonement. He considered ‘the idea of sacrificial expiation made by the innocent for the guilty’ as ‘especially repugnant to our best ethics.’ He called the Old Testament sacrificial system ‘too revolting, too stupidly absurd, to be worthy of serious refutation’ and a gross, impudent, insulting slander against God” (Beale, *In Pursuit of Purity*, p. 178).

Nels F.S. Ferré is another example. He taught theology at Andover Newton Theological School (1937-1950, 1957-1960) and denied practically every doctrine of the Christian faith, including the virgin birth, miracles, vicarious atonement, and bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ. In *The Christian Understanding of God*, Ferré

wrote, “We have no way of knowing, even, that Jesus was sinless” (p. 186). On page 191 of that book he blasphemously claimed that Mary was probably impregnated by a Roman soldier. In *The Sun and the Umbrella*, Ferré said, “Jesus never was nor became God” (p. 112) and “The use of the Bible as the final authority for Christian truth is idolatry” (p. 39) and “Hinduism is good and wise” (p. 117).

Another example of liberalism in the Northern Baptist Convention was Harry Emerson Fosdick, who pastored Park Avenue Baptist Church in New York City. This was where John D. Rockefeller, Jr., had membership. Fosdick denied every fundamental doctrine of the faith, including Christ’s virgin birth and substitutionary atonement. In his 1918 book *The Manhood of the Master*, he denied that Jesus is God. In 1926, after a debate lasting almost five hours, the Northern Baptist Convention voted by a margin of about three to one *not* to evict Fosdick’s church for its modernism. In 1930, Rockefeller spent \$10 million to build the Riverside Church in Manhattan for Fosdick, and it has ever since been one of the most liberal of churches. Pastor John Straton of Calvary Baptist Church in New York City rightly called Fosdick “a religious outlaw--the Jesse James of the theological world.”

In the first three decades of the twentieth century, a group of fundamentalist pastors attempted to root the modernism out of the convention. By the 1930s, it was clear that this was a vain endeavor. In 1932, the General Association of Regular Baptist Churches was founded as a separate fellowship. In 1947, the Conservative Baptist Association of America was formed by other pastors who departed from the Northern Baptist Convention.

The leaven of theological heresy has since permeated the ABC. The schools and pulpits of are filled with men who deny the infallible inspiration of Holy Scripture and who question or deny Christ’s virgin birth, Godhead, vicarious atonement, and bodily resurrection. The American Baptist Church has produced some of the most notorious, blasphemous heretics of the 20th century.

In the 1960s, Professor William Hamilton of Colgate Rochester Divinity School (American Baptist) taught that God is dead. Hamilton was defended in 1966 by Colgate president Gene Bartlett who refused to remove Hamilton from the faculty because he “was within the allowable measure of dissent.”

In 1968 the American Baptist Convention stated that abortion “should be a matter of responsible personal decision.”

In the early 1970s Dr. L. McBain, former president of the American Baptist Convention and president of the American Baptist Seminary of the West, argued that Jesus Christ is not referred to as God in the Scriptures (*F.E.A. News & Views*, Fundamental Evangelistic Association, Nov-Dec. 1976).

In an article in the December 1979 issue of the *American Baptist* magazine, Dr. L. Howard McBain, president of the American Baptist Seminary of the West, stated that the Bible does not teach that Jesus was God.

In 1980, American Baptist Dr. Ralph Wendell Burhoe received the Templeton Prize for Progress in Religion for his “revolutionary hypothesis that finds religion central to the evolutionary emergence of civilized humanity” (*EP News Service*, May 31, 1980).

The American Baptist Biennial Convention in 1981 featured Rosemary Radford Reuther, a Roman Catholic feminist whose “language often sounds more like it belongs in the gutter than in the church” (*Foundation*, Fundamental Evangelistic Association, January-February 1981, p. 18).

American Baptist (Harvard) professor Harvey Cox is a notorious modernist. In his book *The Secular City* he claimed that “the world, not the church, is the proper focus of Christian life” and “the world of politics is a primary sphere of God’s liberating work today” (Richard Quebedeaux, *The Worldly Evangelicals*, Harper and Row, 1978, p. 19). In his book *The Feast of Fools*, Cox refers to Jesus Christ as a harlequin and a clown. Cox does not believe that followers of pagan religions are on their way to Hell. He was a speaker at the World Congress for the Synthesis of Science and Religion in India in 1986. The conference was organized by a Hindu organization.

The June 1991 issue of *WATCHword*, a women’s ministry paper of the American Baptist Convention, stated: “What I have come to love about Scripture is the fact that IT IS NOT INERRANT. That IT IS NOT PERFECT. That it is not complete. That it does contradict itself...”

Former American Baptist president James Scott stated in the March 1992 issue of *American Baptist* magazine that the issue of homosexuality should be re-examined and that there might be various legitimate points of view about it other than the traditional biblical one that it is an abomination before God.

In August 1993, American Baptist deputy general secretary for cooperative Christianity, Joan S. Parrott, sat with 386 cardinals and bishops surrounding Pope John Paul II at the Roman Catholic Church's World Youth Day in Denver. She was part of a nine-member ecumenical team including Protestant and Jewish leaders who were given a special banquet before the prayer vigil and met with the pope after his sermon. She had lavish praise for the ecumenical event (*Calvary Contender*, Jan. 1, 1994).

The American Baptist Convention sent representatives to the Re-imagining conference in Minneapolis, in November 1993. Speakers included Chung Hyung Kyung, a Korean "theologian" who equates the Holy Spirit with ancient Asian deities and who prays to trees and deceased spirits. At the conference, Delores Williams said: "I don't think we need a theory of atonement at all. ... I don't think we need folks hanging on crosses and blood dripping and weird stuff." Virginia Mollenkott said that Jesus was "first born only in the sense that he was the first to show us that it is possible to live in oneness with the divine source while we are here on this planet." Chung Hyung Kyung said: "My bowel is Buddhist bowel, my heart is Buddhist heart, my right brain is Confucian brain, and my left brain is Christian brain." During the conference, a group of roughly 100 "lesbian, bi-sexual, and transsexual women" gathered on the platform and were given a standing ovation by many in the crowd. They were "celebrating the miracle of being lesbian, out, and Christian." In a workshop called 'Prophetic Voices of Lesbians in the Church,' Nadean Bishop, the first 'out' lesbian minister called pastor an American Baptist congregation, claimed that Mary and Martha were not sisters, but lesbian lovers.

COOPERATIVE BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP

The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF) was accepted into the Baptist World Alliance in 2003. The CBF is a very liberal organization that was formed in 1991 by Southern Baptists discontented with the SBC's more

conservative direction in recent decades. The CBF's liberalism can be demonstrated with many examples.

For example, at the annual CBF conference in June 2002, the book "The Wisdom of Daughters" was sold. This book advocates lesbianism, abortion, worship of a female Sophia goddess, and the practice of Wicca. One essay in this book described the doctrine of Christ's substitutionary death for man's sin as an example of "divine child abuse." This perverted book was commended in materials distributed at the conference by Baptist Women in Ministry, a partner to the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

The Baptist Theological Seminary in Richmond is an example of the theological modernism that permeates the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. John Ippolito, who was a student at seminary for more than a year before transferring to a more conservative school, documented the rank modernism in a journal that was published by the *Baptist Banner* in April 2001. He observed: "The professors here, as well as many of the students, continually question the authenticity of the Bible. They close their minds to classical, traditional interpretation, under the guise of theology, but they do not realize that they are pulling away from the Lord." Instead of learning to believe and rightly interpret the Bible, he "learned to dismantle the Bible." He said that one of his professors taught that there is no revelation of Jesus Christ in the Old Testament. The Bible is viewed through the lenses of the modernistic documentary theories that claim the Old Testament is a mixture of myth and history. Homosexuality and feminism were openly promoted by some of the students. Ippolito's testimony was confirmed by others who have attended the seminary.

Wake Forest University Divinity is also affiliated with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. The School, which is on the Campus of Wake Forest University, had 24 full-time students for its opening in 1999. The students came from various backgrounds, including Catholic, Lutheran, and Episcopalian. The faculty included a Catholic Benedictine priest and a feminist theologian who calls God "our motherly father" (*Calvary Contender*, Sept. 15, 1999; Oct. 1, 1999).

Wake Forest Baptist Church meets in the school's chapel. Its pastor Richard Groves, in a sermon preached November 15, 1998, said the prophet Isaiah DID NOT write Isaiah 65. He said:

“OK, I know his name wasn’t Isaiah. He was an unknown contemporary of Haggai, whose work we considered last week, a prophet who was called to speak a word from God to the people after they returned from their fifty year exile in Babylon. And it was his misfortune to get a real sloppy editor who somehow tacked his book on to the end of another book, one that we associate with the great prophet Isaiah of Jerusalem, who lived a couple of centuries earlier. The result is that the author who wrote some of the most important passages in the Hebrew Bible, so far as a Christian understanding of Jesus is concerned (the suffering servant image, for example), is now completely unknown to us” (Richard Groves, “Living Toward the Future: Isaiah 65:17-25,” Wake Forest Baptist Church, Nov. 15, 1998).

The book of Isaiah itself professes to be the product of the historical prophet Isaiah. If Isaiah did not write the book, it is a deception and the Jews who promoted it as the writing of Isaiah were strangely deceived about their own history. Further, to claim that the prophet Isaiah did not write the book of Isaiah is to make Jesus Christ and the apostles into liars. Jesus often quoted from the book and said it was written by Isaiah--not by some unknown group of men (Jn. 12:38-41).

In John 12:38-41 Christ quoted from both major sections of the book and said both were written by the same Isaiah. Every time Christ and the apostles quoted from Isaiah, they did so with the understanding that the book was written by the historical prophet (Mt. 3:3; 4:14; 8:17; 12:17; 13:14; 15:7; Mk. 7:6; Lk. 3:4; 4:17; Jn. 1:23; 12:38, 39,41; Acts 8:28, 30; 28:25; Rom. 9:27,29; 10:16, 20; 15:12). This completely destroys the modernistic myth that Isaiah was the product of more than one writer. The choice is obvious: Will we believe the Lord Jesus Christ and His apostles, or will we believe the modern critic?

The pastor of Wake Forest Baptist Church also claimed that Isaiah’s prophecy was merely a dream after the fashion of those dreamed by the United Nations.

“It’s a dream, you say. The world isn’t like that, never has been like that, and never will be like that. Of course, it’s a dream. Isaiah dreamed as inspired people in every age dream. In her poem ‘A Brave and Startling Truth,’ which she read on the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations, Maya Angelou also dreamed of a future. ... Of

course, it’s a dream, but we are shaped by our dreams of the future, and we shape the future according to the way we dream it will be” (Richard Groves, *ibid.*).

This Baptist pastor thinks the Bible is “inspired” merely like the dreams of pagan United Nations world planners. What wickedness.

Consider Mercer University, which was founded in 1833 and named for Jesse Mercer, a prominent Bible-believing Baptist leader. Mercer was aligned with the Southern Baptist Convention until 2006. Today Mercer’s McAfee School of Theology is “partnered” with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

Mercer’s longstanding liberalism is illustrated by the views of R. Kirby Godsey, who was president from 1979-2006. In a book entitled *When We Talk about God ... Let’s Be Honest* (Smyth & Helwys, 1996) Godsey brashly denied, reinterpreted, or questioned practically every doctrine of the Christian faith. Godsey claimed “the notion that God is the all powerful, the high and mighty principal of heaven and earth should be laid aside.”

Consider a few other excerpts:

“Similarly, Christians do not approach the coming of Jesus Christ in terms of historical data. The data of history about Jesus is interesting but not conclusive” (*When We Talk about God*, p. 45).

“In all likelihood, the authority for our faith should not rest upon the Bible alone, or even primarily. For the Christian faith, the Bible is not the center of faith. ... The simple identification of the Word of God with the Bible is a grave mistake. ... The Bible, then, should not be viewed as a boundary of belief. ... Christian revelation does not offer us a statement of faith to be endorsed, but a way of life to be embraced. ... Our confidence in the Bible as Holy Scripture should not rest upon believing the book to be a miraculous, divine dictation where its writers simply serve as God’s recorders. ... To ascribe infallibility to the written words of the Bible is wrong. ... Jesus often tried to bring his followers beyond the pages of Jewish Scriptures. No human words are sufficient to contain God. ... Turning the Bible into a rule book distorts the power of the gospel and misappropriates the teaching of Scripture. ... The notion of the Bible’s infal-

libility, instead of giving honor to the Bible, actually leads to a treacherous idolatry of the Bible. ... If the Bible is beyond all criticism and analysis, it becomes absolute itself instead of pointing to God who is Absolute. ... Regarding the Bible as inerrant and holding fast to its inerrancy as the sine qua non test of faith exposes the human sin of trying to possess God. ... While not being an absolute authority, the Bible is indispensable to a full understanding of our life of faith. ... Therefore, while wanting to avoid a mindless and idolatrous worship of the Bible, we can hardly overestimate the significance of the Bible in our own searching for God's will" (*When We Talk about God*, pp. 50, 51, 52, 53).

"The story of Adam will be misconstrued entirely if we read it like a source book for human genealogy. The point of Genesis is not to trace human history back to Adam" (*When We Talk about God*, p. 81).

"At the wellspring of their life, people are good even when they do evil. When people's actions are evil, they are acting against their essential nature and their deepest purpose for being here" (*When We Talk about God*, p. 83).

"The figure of Satan serves as a powerful and dramatic symbol of the presence of pain and temptation in all our experiences" (*When We Talk about God*, p. 103).

"The compelling confession of our faith is not that God will love us or forgive us if we will repent our sin. The truth of the Christian gospel is that God loves us and forgives us already--no conditions" (*When We Talk about God*, p. 115).

"The Virgin Birth is more truth than fact. Facts are historical and mundane. Truth transcends the ages. ... Its status as an actual historical fact is unimportant. Clearly, there are many records of so-called 'virgin births' in history. It was certainly not a novel image to denote an extraordinary event. The preoccupation with this virgin birth as a doctrine based in 'flesh and blood' distracts us from the truth of the Incarnation" (*When We Talk about God*, pp. 120, 121).

"Christians seem to become remarkably troubled about whether Jesus is humankind's only savior. Is Jesus God's only word? The simple answer is 'Of course not.' ... I can only say that, for me, Jesus is the central event

of history, I cannot speak for another. ... The unique place of Jesus in my own life is clear to me, but my belief should not compel others to come to make my confession. ... The arrogant assertion that all other religious affirmations are pagan confuses our viewpoint with God's. We have no basis for such absolute judgment, and our judgments are unseemly" (*When We Talk about God*, pp. 133, 136).

"Theories of atonement are treacherous mostly because they divert us from the power and simplicity of grace. ... Closer to our own era, we have become far more consumed by what is known as the 'substitutionary theory of atonement.' It's simple. If you don't believe it, you are not a Christian. In fact, this doctrine is cited as one of the five beliefs that fundamentalism requires in order to meet its criteria of being Christian. ... This theory, again, gives us a picture of God that looks more like a judgmental tyrant. It winds up making God responsible for Jesus' death" (*When We Talk about God*, pp. 140, 141).

"The New Testament does not give an almanac of the end of time. Just as we should not look to Genesis for a scientific rendering of creation, we should not look to Revelation for a scientific account of the end of the world. ... Chasing after a literal rendering of these passages and transcribing them into the complicated theories of the millennium is a mistake. ... Speaking plainly, heaven and hell are not places in space. Heaven and hell describe our relationships with God. ... Neither should the term body be construed as material. ... The form of the resurrection is not at all clear in any literal sense" (*When We Talk about God*, pp. 199, 205).

"The image of God meting out rewards and penalties of heaven and hell leaves us with a view of God that is very different from the vision of God embodied in the work and life of Jesus" (*When We Talk about God*, p. 200).

"Death is not a boundary. Hell is not a boundary. Whenever a person chooses to accept God's forgiveness, the power of forgiveness becomes effective in his life. ... God will never close the door. ... The 'day of judgment' is not some certain date in the future on which history will close and each person will be brought before God for evaluation. ... The time of judgment may be endless, but it is not eternal" (*When We Talk about God*, pp. 202, 204).

In spite of these rank heresies, the trustees of Mercer voted unanimously in December 1996 to support Godsey's presidency under the banner of "academic freedom."

In regard to homosexuality, the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship talks out of both sides of its mouth. At its governing board meeting on October 13, 2000, its position was described as "welcoming but not affirming." That is a meaningless statement, in practice. While every church should welcome all sinners to hear the gospel, they also must require that sinners repent and be converted, and this is not acceptable to homosexual activists today who pretend that homosexuality is not a sin.

CBF Coordinator Daniel Vestal admitted that the statement on homosexuality, as weak as it is, is meaningless in practice, saying: "I have no interest whatever in excluding or demeaning or minimizing any in this Fellowship who share a different perspective than this document." He told the press that there are congregations that support the CBF who ordain homosexuals, and that he does not want anyone to leave over this issue ("CBF 'welcoming but not affirming' of homosexuals," Associated Baptist Press, Oct. 23, 2000).

CBF council member Dixie Lee Petrey said, "I don't think we should limit the Spirit of God in the way that it moves. Do we really want to sit here and say God's Spirit cannot call a homosexual to follow God's call?" CBF council member Bob Setzer added, "We're not saying that God cannot call a homosexual, even a practicing homosexual."

The CBF supports liberal schools that affirm homosexuality. These include Wake Forest Divinity School, Texas Christian University, Duke University, and Emory University, all of which allow admission for homosexuals.

Wake Forest University Divinity School admitted a lesbian to its student body when it opened in 1999. Bill Leonard, dean of the school, defended the decision in a meeting of "moderate Baptists" in April 2000. Leonard compared the issue of homosexuality to civil rights for black people. When asked if he considers homosexuality a sin, he replied: "Is homosexuality a sin? That's for everyone to sort out individually" ("Leonard defends admitting gays to divinity school," *Biblical Record*,

journal of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, May 12, 2000). He is wrong. God "sorted that out" long ago. The standard for morality is not what every man thinks, but what the Bible says; and the Bible plainly condemns homosexuality and calls homosexuals to repentance.

Wake Forest Baptist Church, which meets in the school's chapel, voted in November 1998 to "petition God to bless all loving, committed, and exclusive relationships between two people." The church's pastors, Richard Groves and female preacher Lynn Rhoades, told the press they believe that decision gives them the right to officiate at homosexual "ceremonies" ("SBC Congregation Asks God to Bless Homosexual Unions," Fundamental Baptist Information Service, November 18, 1998). A lesbian student at Wake Forest Divinity School and her female partner were among those who had a "blessing ceremony" at the church.

In March 2013, a study committee of the Richmond Baptist Association, affiliated with the CBF, recommended that its congregations "continue to embrace Ginter Park Baptist Church as a sister church" even though it ordained a homosexual to the ministry ("Association may retain gay-friendly church," Associated Baptist Press, March 5, 2013).

Some churches associated with the CBF are dually aligned with the Southern Baptist Convention.



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?



BETH MOORE SAYS CHRISTIAN MEN REFUSE FEMALE LEADERSHIP BECAUSE OF SINFUL PRIDE

(Friday Church News Notes, May 31, 2019, www.wayoflife.org,

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

- The following is excerpted from "Beth Moore Challenges Theologian," ChristianHeadlines.com, May 14, 2019: "Prominent Southern Baptist Bible teacher Beth Moore has ignited a firestorm on Twitter after challenging a theologian who singled her out in a blog post for encouraging women to preach. Owen Strachan, associate professor of Christian theology at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Missouri, said in the May 7 post he was surprised that both Moore and SBC President J. D. Greear support 'a woman teaching and preaching to the corporate body.' He followed that up on Twitter the next day, saying, 'One thing we [complementarians] have massive agreement on: women do not preach on Sunday to the church. Doing so is functional egalitarianism. We will not capitulate here.' Complementarians embrace the Scriptural view that the role of men and women is distinct and complements one another within the home and church ... Moore responded to Strachan with a series of tweets. 'Owen, I am going to say this with as much respect & as much self-restraint as I can possibly muster. I would be

terrified to be a woman you'd approve of. And I would have wasted 40 years of my life encouraging women to come to know and love Jesus through the study of Scripture. I am compelled to my bones by the Holy Spirit—I don't want to be but I am—to draw attention to the sexism & misogyny that is rampant in segments of the SBC, cloaked by piety & bearing the stench of hypocrisy....' She wrote, 'I had the eye opening experience of my life in 2016. A fog cleared for me that was the most disturbing, terrifying thing I'd ever seen. All these years I'd given the benefit of the doubt that these men were the way they were because they were trying to be obedient to Scripture. ... Then I realized it was not over Scripture at all. It was over sin. It was over power. It was over misogyny. Sexism. It was about arrogance. About protecting systems. It involved covering abuses & misuses of power. Shepherds guarding other shepherds instead of guarding the sheep.' For Strachan and other complementarians, though, that path to serving is clearly defined in Scripture and is not negotiable. 'For a woman to teach and preach to adult men is to defy God's Word and God's design,' Strachan wrote in his blog post. 'Elders must not allow such a sinful practice; to do so is to bring the church body into disobedience against God.'"

BETH MOORE'S PROMOTION OF CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER

(Friday Church News Notes, May 31, 2019, www.wayoflife.org,

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

- Beth Moore's contemplative prayer probably explains the "revelation" she describes in the previous report: that in 2016 her eyes were opened to see that men who refuse women preachers are sinfully proud. While it's probably

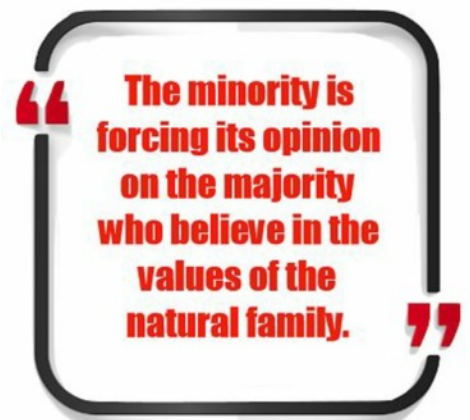


true that some men who are opposed to women preachers are proud, the rejection of women preachers and women church leaders is clearly taught in God's Word and is therefore a doctrine of the Holy Spirit, the Bible's Author. "Let the woman learn in silence with all subjection. But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence. For Adam was first formed, then Eve. And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression" (1 Timothy 2:11-14). In rejecting this doctrine and attributing it to sin, Moore is communing with devils. Moore, a Southern Baptist who is influential with a broad spectrum of evangelical women, is very much on the contemplative bandwagon. She joined Richard Foster, Dallas Willard, and other contemplatives on the *Be Still* DVD, which was published in April 2008 by Fox Home Entertainment. Lighthouse Trails issued the following discerning warning: "In the DVD, there are countless enticements, references and comments that clearly show its affinity with contemplative spirituality. For instance, Richard Foster says that anyone can practice contemplative prayer and become a 'portable sanctuary' for God. This panentheistic view of God is very typical for contemplatives. ... The underlying theme of the *Be Still* DVD is that we cannot truly know God or be intimate with Him without

contemplative prayer and the state of silence that it produces. While the DVD is vague and lacking in actual instruction on word or phrase repetition (which lies at the heart of contemplative prayer), it is really quite misleading. What they don't tell you in the DVD is that this state of stillness or silence is, for the most part, achieved through some method such as mantra-like meditation. THE PURPOSE OF THE DVD, IN ESSENCE, IS NOT TO INSTRUCT YOU IN CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER BUT RATHER TO MAKE YOU AND YOUR FAMILY HUNGRY FOR IT. The DVD even promises that practicing the silence will heal your family problems. ... THIS PROJECT IS AN INFOMERCIAL FOR CONTEMPLATIVE PRACTICE, and because of the huge advertising campaign that Fox Home Entertainment has launched, contemplative prayer could be potentially introduced into millions of homes around the world. [On the DVD Moore says], '... if we are not still before Him [God], we will never truly know to the depths of the marrow of our bones that He is God. There's got to be a stillness'" ("Beth Moore Gives Thumbs Up," lighthouse trailsresearch.com). In her book *When Godly People Do Ungodly Things* (2002), Moore recommends contemplative Roman Catholics Brother Lawrence and Brennan Manning. Of Manning she says that his contribution to our generation "may be a gift without parallel" (p. 72) and calls Manning's *Ragamuffin Gospel* "one of the most remarkable books" (p. 290). She does not warn her readers that Manning never gives a clear testimony of salvation or a clear gospel in his writings, that he attended Catholic

Mass regularly, that he believed it is wrong for churches to require that homosexuals repent before they can be members, that he promoted the use of mantras to create a thoughtless state of silent meditation, that he spent six months in isolation in a cave and spends eight days each year in silent retreat under the direction of a Dominican nun, that he promoted the dangerous practice of visualization, that he quoted approvingly from New Agers such as Beatrice Bruteau (who says, "We have realized ourselves as the Self that says only I AM ... unlimited, absolute I AM") and Matthew Fox (who says all religions lead to the same God), and that he believes in universal salvation, that everyone including Hitler will go to heaven. (For documentation see "A Biographical Catalog of Contemplative Mystics" in the book *Contemplative Mysticism: A Powerful Ecumenical Bond*, available from www.wayoflife.org.) Beth Moore is the blind leading the blind, and her vast popularity is clear evidence of the apostasy of the Southern Baptist Convention.

WOMEN'S GROUP CALLS ON IDF TO REINSTATE "MOTHER" AND "FATHER" TO FORMS (Friday Church News Notes, May 31, 2019, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)



- The following is excerpted from "Women's Movement," *Arutz Sheva*, May 21, 2019: "The Shovrot Shivyon (Breaking Equality) women's movement on Tuesday called on the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] 'to return *Father* and *Mother* to the induction forms and immediately remove the categories of *Parent 1* and *Parent 2*, recently instituted by the IDF. The new categories were instituted in response to continuous pressure from LGBT groups and in order to avoid embarrassment during the recruitment process. According to Shovrot Shivyon, 'Identity politics have penetrated the IDF. The minority is forcing its opinion on the majority who believe in the values of the natural family. The IDF Spokesperson stated that the goal was to prevent embarrassment during induction stages. The silent and conservative majority was the one who felt embarrassed by such a form. Progressive values are assimilated by left-extreme groups without any public discussion, with the other side being silenced and modernized. As women and mothers, we call on the army to return to a consensus and avoid political disagreements that shape society at the expense of our children.'"

METALWORKING BEFORE THE FLOOD (Friday Church News Notes, May 31, 2019, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is from *Creation Moments*, Apr. 29, 2019: "The first metalworker recorded in history was Tubal-Cain. He is mentioned in Genesis chapter 4, where it says: 'And Zillah, she also bare Tubalcain, an instructor of every artificer in brass and iron.' Neither bronze nor iron is found naturally, so this shows that



Tubal-Cain must have developed technologies to extract the metals from their ores. Since we are referring to a time before the Flood, we must also assume that the ores containing these metals were placed in the crust during the Creation Week as part of the original bedrock of the Earth. We refer to such rocks as Plutonic Rocks. At first sight, we would imagine that two metals were being worked. In fact, there must have been at least three because bronze is an alloy of copper and tin. Copper and tin are relatively easy to extract from their ores just by heating with a source of carbon, such as charcoal. Iron is a little more sophisticated because it requires a blast furnace, heated extra hot by blowing air into the furnace, with the ore and carbon, probably by bellows. The use of a forge suggests that Tubal-Cain was able to work these metals, perhaps by working the alloys and also by molding the molten metal and beating the solid metal. That this sort of advanced technology existed before the Flood shows that an evolutionary view of human progress is not correct. It also explains how such technologies could be quickly reproduced by early civilizations after the Flood."

MY INFIDELITY AND WHAT BECAME OF IT (Friday Church News Notes, May 31, 2019, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

Baptist preacher, professor, and commentary writer B.H. Carroll, speaking of his empty profession of faith at age 13: "I did not believe, in any true sense, in the divinity or vicarious sufferings of Jesus. I had no confidence in professed conversion and regeneration. I had not felt lost, nor did I feel saved. There was no perceptible, radical change in my disposition or affections. What I once loved, I still loved. What I once hated, I still hated" (*My Infidelity and What Became of It*). "Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new" (2 Corinthians 5:17).

PRESIDENT TRUMP VISITS SBC CHURCH UNANNOUNCED FOR PRAYER

(Friday Church News Notes, June 7, 2019, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - On Sunday morning, June 2, U.S. President Donald Trump made an unscheduled visit to the McClean Bible Church in Vienna, Virginia. Franklin Graham had called for a special day of prayer for the President on that day, saying, "If his enemies are allowed to destroy him, and pull down the presidency, it will hurt our entire nation." Trump had tweeted about this multiple times. The church learned of the visit at the end of the morning service when they were told that the President was stopping by for prayer ("Pastor explains sudden



decision to pray for Trump,” *USA Today*, June 3, 2019). The President removed his hat and stood respectfully onstage with his head bowed while Pastor David Platt prayed as follows: “Oh God, we praise you as the one universal King over all. You are our leader and our Lord and we worship you. There’s one God and one Savior and it’s you, and your name is Jesus and we exalt you, Jesus. And we know we need your mercy, we need your grace, we need your help, we need your wisdom in our country. And so we stand right now on behalf of our president and we pray for your grace and your mercy and your wisdom upon him. God, we pray that he would know how much you love him, so much that you sent Jesus to die for his sins, our sins. So we pray that he would look to you and he would trust in you, he would lean on you, that he would govern and make decisions in ways that are good for justice and good for righteousness and good for equity--every good path. Lord we pray, we pray that you would give him all of the grace that he needs to govern in ways that we just saw in 1 Timothy 2 that lead to peaceful and quiet lives, godly and dignified in every way. God, we pray for your blessing in that way upon his family. We pray that you give him strength, we pray that you give him clarity, wisdom, wisdom. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. Fools despise wisdom and instruction. Please, oh God, give him wisdom and help him to lead our country. Alongside other leaders we pray today for leaders in Congress pray for leaders in courts, we pray for leaders in national and state levels” (“Trump Surprises Evangelical Church with Visit,” *Christian Headlines*, June 3, 2019). It was a prayer with glaring omissions

(e.g., no mention of Christ’s blood atonement; no confession of sin; no mention of repentance), in a very cool, rock & roll, “let’s not judge” SBC church, and it is sad that the President spent most of his Sunday morning on the golf course. But we are glad that the President desires prayer, and we do believe in praying for him. While we don’t join hands with “live after their own lusts” rock & rollers (2 Ti. 4:3-4) and ecumenists and “tongues” speakers, because God forbids us to do so, we do pray without ceasing for our president and our government leaders in obedience to 1 Timothy 2, and we believe God for the answer even in dark times.

200 EX-LGBT MEN, WOMEN RALLY TO SHOW FREEDOM THEY’VE FOUND IN JESUS

(Friday Church News Notes, June 7, 2019, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from “200 ex-LGBT,” LifeSiteNews.com, May 28, 2019: “Ex-homosexual and ex-transgender men and women from around the country descended upon the Nation’s Capital this weekend for the Second Annual ‘Freedom March’ where they proclaimed the freedom they’ve found in abandoning homosexual and transgender practices. ‘Look at this! This is Amazing! They say we don’t exist!’ declared author and documentary producer M.J. Nixon, a march co-founder, as many gathered for a



group picture. About 200 participated this year—a threefold increase over last year. Former transwoman Jeffrey McCall kicked off the rally on the grounds of the Washington Monument, explaining that nobody here was forced to change. ‘It was the power of the Holy Spirit and the grace of Jesus Christ that fell on all of us.’ One testimony after another from the racially diverse group of mostly millennials spoke about their personal conversion to Jesus and the freedom they have found from lives dominated by active homosexuality or gender dysphoria. A second Pulse Nightclub survivor [the mass shooting in Orlando, Florida, three years ago], Luis Ruiz, said that like many of the people participating in the March the reason why he was there is ultimately because he had a ‘mother and a father that never compromised the Gospel. They prayed and prayed and believed not in my situation, but in my destiny, my identity found in Christ Jesus.’ ‘It wasn’t a gay to straight thing,’ said Ruiz, ‘It was a lost to saved thing. We were all born into sin, baby. Even though I might be tempted every day, I choose Jesus. He’s the only man in my life. I chose *Him over him.*’”

COLORADO BECOMES 18TH STATE TO BAN “GAY CONVERSION THERAPY,” AN ATTACK UPON FREEDOM OF RELIGION AND SPEECH

(Friday Church News Notes, June 7, 2019, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - In a brazen attack upon the U.S. Constitution’s guarantee of freedom of religion and freedom of speech, Colorado has become America’s 18th state to ban “gay conversion therapy.” It was signed into law by Gov. Jared Polis, the first openly homosexual



governor in America's history. This is another example of how that "homosexual rights" trump and thus destroy the freedoms guaranteed by the United States Constitution. The fact that these laws are not being quickly overturned by the judicial branch is evidence that the judges in question are unethical activists who are not upholding the Constitution they have sworn to uphold.

THE SLAVE MARKETS OF UGANDA (Friday Church News Notes, June 7, 2019, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from "Modern-day Slavery," msn.com, June 2, 2019: "When Christine Nambereke left for Oman last September, she was hopeful she was on her way to helping her family--including her husband, James Obed, and seven children--fight crippling poverty. An agent had promised the 31-year-old Nambereke, from eastern Uganda's Bumbo village, a job as a housemaid with a monthly pay of 600,000 shillings (\$168). But when she reached Muscat, she was sold as a slave. When she returned to Uganda in early May, she was dead. ... These women--all of whom died unnatural deaths after complaining of abuse--are just the most extreme examples of a growing epidemic of an increasingly open, modern slave trade that starts in Uganda's eastern region and culminates in closed

rooms in Gulf nations. Migrant workers from across Africa, South Asia and Southeast Asia have for several years complained of abuse in the Middle East. But over the past year, eastern Uganda has emerged as the theater of a double-barreled racket. At fast-spreading weekly markets, some women are promised jobs in the Gulf only to be sold once they get there, while others--many of them girls between the ages of 10 and 18--are directly and publicly 'bought' as slaves and then resold in the Middle East, according to Ugandan authorities, Interpol, independent experts, legislators, and victims and their families. The public sale of women started at Arapai, eastern Uganda's second-largest market located 180 miles northeast of the capital Kampala, in January 2018, says Edina Nagudi, the local government's officer in charge of the region's markets. ... The practice quickly spread to other regional markets such as Chapi and Sire. At Arapai alone, up to 50 girls are now auctioned in a day, says Nagudi. Overall, more than 9,000 girls and young women are estimated to have been bought at these eastern Uganda markets since last year--for as little as 50,000 shillings (\$14), according to Betty Atim, a Ugandan member of Parliament. ... And for some, even death doesn't bring closure. After 22-year-old Shivan Kihembo died in Oman in October--months after she had been sold there--



--her father, Patrick Mugume, was asked by his daughter's 'owners' for money if he wanted her body back. 'I sold my land ... and sent it to her boss in Oman before the body was released,' he says. ... Uganda has a per capita income of \$604, so Nambereke was promised three times what the average Ugandan earns. ... Some, like Stella Namazzi, who escaped from her masters in Jordan, return with tales of horror. 'We were lined up in a big room,' she recalls. 'Those who wanted to buy us came and pointed out who they wanted to buy. We were sold as if we were domestic animals.' For the traffickers, there's big money involved: The women bought for \$14 are sold for as much as \$10,000 in the Middle East, authorities say. When Zubedah Nakitende complained to her Jordanian employers that her hands were aching from work, her boss gave her what she thought was water to wash her hands. It turned out to be an acid that ate up her fingers. Unable to work anymore, she was sent back to Uganda--where she had to have her fingers amputated."

METHODIST CHURCH MORE LIBERAL THAN ALABAMA'S PUBLIC TELEVISION NETWORK (Friday Church News Notes, June 7, 2019, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - First United Methodist Church in Birmingham, Alabama, screened an episode of the children's show *Arthur* depicting a "same-sex wedding." The same show was rejected by Alabama Public Television ("Alabama Methodist church to screen shunned 'Arthur' episode," AP, June 3, 2019). The mainstream Protestant denominations (e.g., Episcopal, United Methodist, Presbyterian



Church USA, Evangelical Lutheran Church of America) have been permeated with wicked theological liberalism since the turn of the twentieth century. The so-called “evangelicals” who remain in these denominations are openly and brazenly disobedient to God’s Word, which says, “Be not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? ... Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, and will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty” (2 Corinthians 6:14, 17, 18), and, “Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away” (2 Timothy 3:5).

COOKSTOVE APOSTASY (Friday Church News Notes, June 7, 2019, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from “Cookstove Apostasy,” *The Gospel*



Advocate, May 30, 1935: “Today, the supper room has taken place of the upper room, play has taken the place of prayer, and feasting the place of fasting. There are more full stomachs than there are bended knees and broken hearts. There is more fire in the range in the kitchen than there is in the pulpit. ... Oh, I would like the cooking squad put out and the praying band let in, less ham and sham and more heaven, less pie and more piety, less use for the cook book, and more use for the Old Book. Put out the fire in the kitchen and build up the fire in the pulpit.”

JERUSALEM’S GAY PRIDE PARADE (Friday Church News Notes, June 14, 2019, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Jerusalem’s annual gay pride parade was held on June 6, with an estimated 10,000-15,000 in attendance. To counter ultra-Orthodox protests, the police had a massive presence, posting officers every 10 to 20 meters along the parade route and stationing helicopters and drones overhead. Israel’s first homosexual justice minister, Amir Ohana, appointed hours earlier by Benjamin Netanyahu, joined the parade. The city government refused chief rabbi Aryeh Stern’s request to remove rainbow flags, instead ordering the removal of protest posters that read, “Father and Mother = Family. The courage to be normal.” No wonder the Bible calls Jerusalem “Sodom” in Revelation 11:8. Meanwhile, over in Israel’s second largest city, Tel Aviv’s 21st annual pride parade is scheduled for today, June 14, in the midst of a month long homosexual festival that is one of the biggest in the world. Some 200,000 are expected to march in the parade. Tel



Aviv’s Hilton Beach was recently voted “one of the best gay beaches in the world” (“Pride Comes to Tel Aviv for the 21st Time,” *Jerusalem Post*, June 5, 2019). The city’s LGBTQ community center is funded by the government with workers receiving city salaries. It is obvious that the present return of Israel to her land is not the fulfillment of the prophecies of the New Covenant. For “then shall ye remember your own evil ways, and your doings that were not good, and shall loathe yourselves in your own sight for your iniquities and for your abominations” (Ezekiel 36:24-31). The present return is for the purpose of preparing for the fulfillment of Daniel’s 70th Week (Daniel 9:27), when Israel will rebuild the temple and make a covenant with the Antichrist which will lead to the return of Israel’s true Christ, Jesus, and the establishment of His kingdom.

A BOOK DOCUMENTING RAMPANT HOMOSEXUALITY IN THE VATICAN (Friday Church News Notes, June 14, 2019, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from “Bombshell book alleges,” CBSNews, Feb. 15, 2019: “A gay French writer has lifted the lid on what he calls one of the world’s largest gay communities, the Vatican, estimating that most of its prelates are homosexually inclined and attributing much of the current crisis in the



Catholic Church to an internal struggle. In the explosive book, *In the Closet of the Vatican*, author Frederic Martel describes a gay subculture at the Vatican and calls out the hypocrisy of Catholic bishops and cardinals who in public denounce homosexuality but in private lead double lives. Aside from the subject matter, the book is astonishing for the access Martel had to the inner sanctum of the Holy See. Martel writes that he spent four years researching it in 30 countries, including weeks at a time living inside the Vatican walls. He says the doors were opened by a key Vatican gatekeeper and friend of Pope Francis who was the subject of the pontiff's famous remark about gay priests, 'Who am I to judge?' ... Martel says he conducted nearly 1,500 in-person interviews with 41 cardinals, 52 bishops or monsignors, and 45 Vatican and foreign ambassadors, many of whom are quoted at length and in on-the-record interviews that he says were recorded. Martel said he was assisted by 80 researchers, translators, fixers and local journalists, as well as a team of 15 lawyers. The 555-page book is being published simultaneously in eight languages in 20 countries, many bearing the title 'Sodom.'

**TRUMP THE FIRST
REPUBLICAN PRESIDENT TO
PROMOTE LGBT PRIDE
MONTH** (Friday Church News

Notes, June 14, 2019, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from "Trump Becomes First," *Christian Headlines*, June 5, 2019: "President Trump ruffled feathers on both sides of the political aisle when he tweeted his support for LGBT Pride Month. On Friday afternoon, the president tweeted, 'As we celebrate LGBT Pride Month and recognize the outstanding contributions LGBT people have made to our great Nation, let us also stand in solidarity with the many LGBT people who live in dozens of countries worldwide that punish, imprison, or even execute individuals on the basis of their sexual orientation. My administration



has launched a global campaign to decriminalize homosexuality and invite all nations to join us in this effort!' ... President Trump pledged on the campaign trail to focus on LGBT issues, showing himself to be the most friendly towards LGBT issues of any of the Republican candidates. In February, he appointed Ric Grenell, the US Ambassador to Germany, to lead the Administration's efforts to encourage other countries to decriminalize homosexuality. ... American Family Association President Tim Wildmon said, 'Homosexuality is not something the president should celebrate. It's unnatural, unhealthy and immoral behavior. We hope he will continue to stand firm against the

so-called Equality Act (H.R. 5) and any legislation that threatens religious freedom. Such legislation will use the full force of the federal government to punish Americans who don't embrace the LGBT political agenda.'"

CHINA'S SOCIAL CREDIT SYSTEM BANNED 13 MILLION PEOPLE; VENEZUELA TO USE IT TO RESTRICT ACCESS TO FOOD AND MEDICINE (Friday Church News Notes, June 14, 2019, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from "China: Social Credit System," Breitbart, May 14, 2019: "China's state-run newspaper *Global Times* revealed in a column defending the nation's authoritarian 'social credit system' Monday that the communist regime had blacklisted 13.49 million Chinese citizens for being 'untrustworthy.' The article did not specify what these individuals did to find themselves on the list, though the regime has revealed the system assigns a numerical score to every Chinese citizen based on how much the Communist Party approves of his or her behavior. Anything from jaywalking and walking a dog without a leash to criticizing the government on the internet to more serious, violent, and corrupt crimes can hurt a person's score. The consequences of a low credit score



vary, but most commonly appear to be travel restrictions at the moment. China is set to complete the implementation of the system in the country in 2020. As the date approaches, the government's propaganda arms have escalated its promotion as necessary to live in a civilized society. ... 'As of March, 13.49 million individuals have been classified as untrustworthy and rejected access to 20.47 million plane tickets and 5.71 million high-speed train tickets for being dishonest,' the *Global Times* reported, citing the government's National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC). Among the new examples the newspaper highlights as dishonest behavior are failing to pay municipal parking fees, 'eating on the train,' and changing jobs with 'malicious intent.' ... In addition to limited access to travel, another punishment the Chinese government rolled out in March was the use of an embarrassing ringtone to alert individuals of a low-credit person in their midst. The ringtone would tell those around a person with low credit to be 'careful in their business dealings' with them. In the system, all public behavior, the *Global Times* explained Monday, will be divided into 'administrative affairs, commercial activities, social behavior, and the judicial system' once the system is complete. No action will be too small to impact the score. ... Using the nominally private corporation ZTE, China sold a version of its credit system to socialist dictator Nicolás Maduro in Venezuela. The system would reportedly work through the already established 'Fatherland Card, a ration card used to distribute food and medicine to Maduro's supporters. **Anyone who indicated opposition**

to the regime put their food supply at risk. With ZTE technology, the 'Fatherland Card' can track the purchases and real-time locations of any Venezuelan."

DRAMATIC DROP IN CHURCH MEMBERSHIP IN THE U.S.

(Friday Church News Notes, June 14, 2019, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)



- The following is excerpted from "Poll: Church Membership Dropped," *Brown's Newsletter*, April 2019: "Church membership has plummeted in the last two decades by nearly twenty percent. Across the United States, now, only fifty percent of U.S. adults belong to a church and or a religious institution. Further, demographically, the drop was recorded highest among Democrats and Hispanics. Throughout the twentieth century, church and/or religious membership hovered around seventy percent, with the last recording of such in 1999. Meanwhile, the number of persons with no religious affiliation jumped from eight percent to nineteen percent. The new Gallup findings underscore [a] generational dynamic. Among Americans 65 and older, church membership in 2016-2018 averaged 64% percent, compared to 41% among those aged 18-29."

CHRIST IS KING OF AIONS

(Friday Church News Notes, June 14, 2019, www.wayoflife.org,

fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - "Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen" (1 Ti. 1:17). The context is Christ. Christ is mentioned in verses 12, 14, 15, and 16. Therefore, verse 17 is a doxology of Christ. It is a doxology of God with the focus on Christ. The word "eternal" is the Greek *aion*, which refers to ages both of space and of time. The world system, the universe, was made as the sphere for the working out of God's eternal purposes. Christ created the *aions* (Heb. 1:2), and He sits as King over them (1 Ti. 1:17). *Aion* is often translated "world," but it is also translated "age" (Eph. 2:7; Col. 1:26) and "forever" (most often referring to God and Christ) (Joh. 12:34; 14:16; Ro. 9:5; 11:36; 16:27; 2 Co. 11:31; Ga. 1:5; Php. 4:20; 1 Ti. 1:17; 2 Ti. 4:18; Heb. 1:8; 5:6; 7:24; 13:8; 1 Pe. 5:11; 2 Pe. 3:18; Jude 1:25; Re. 1:6, 18; 4:9, 10; 5:14; 7:12; 10:6; 15:7). The eternal *aions* also refer to the Word of God. In 1 Pe. 1:23, 25, we are told that the Word of God "liveth and abideth for ever" and "endureth for ever." This is *eis aion*, or *into the ages*. The eternal torment of the unsaved is said to be *eis aion aion* (Re. 14:11; 20:10), a most fearful concept. In the following verses, *aion* seems to have the dual meaning of world (physical) and of age (Ac. 15:18; 1 Co. 2:7-8; 3:18; Eph. 4:4; Ga. 1:4; Eph. 1:21; 3:9; 1 Ti. 6:17; 2 Ti. 4:12; Tit. 2:12). The ultimate goal of the *aions* is described in Ephesians 1:10, "That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; *even* in him." The word "time" here is the same concept as "age." Note in Ephesians 1:10 that there are "times," plural. There are

past *aions* (Col. 1:26), the present *aion*, and *aions* to come (Eph. 1:21; 2:7; Heb. 6:5). In Eph. 3:21, “world without end” is *aion aion*. In brief, *aion* refers both to the physical universe and to the time universe. *Aion* refers to worlds of matter and to the worlds of time. The physical universe is the realm or sphere in which God’s plan for the *aions* take places. The present heaven and earth is the sphere of the past and present ages, while the new heaven and new earth will be the sphere of the ages to come. Christ is King of the *aions*.

I WAS ABUSED IN THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION (Friday Church News Notes, June 21, 2019, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The 2019 annual Southern Baptist Convention was held in Birmingham, Alabama, June 11-12. There were 8,183 messengers from associated churches (meaning churches that contribute to the SBC Cooperation Program). “Southern Baptists acted in support of sexual abuse survivors, embraced ethnic and gender diversity and rallied around the Great Commission” (“Wrap-up: SBC supports survivors, embraced diversity,” Baptist Press, June 13, 2019). An amendment was approved stating that sexual abuse is grounds for a church to be deemed “not in friendly cooperation” with the convention. Recent reports have



found evidence of cover ups of sexual abuse in Southern Baptist congregations, and the Convention is trying to deal with it. But they are dealing with it in a typically ineffectual denominational way which fails to address the root causes, which are rampant unregeneracy, terrible worldliness, lack of courageous pastoral leadership, lack of serious discipleship, frightful biblical ignorance, and near nonexistence of church discipline. Sexual abuse aside, thinking back on my childhood and youth in Southern Baptist churches, it is clear that I was terribly abused. I was abused by pastors who didn’t preach the whole counsel of God, who didn’t rebuke sin forthrightly and didn’t warn of error plainly, seemingly fearing man more than God, who didn’t exercise discipline, who received people into the membership who had absolutely no intention of being faithful disciples of Christ, therefore polluting and weakening the spiritual atmosphere of the assembly, who let the deacons and their wives run the church, who didn’t deal with me wisely and carefully about being born again, instead, accepting a flimsy profession as salvation and receiving me into church membership when there was zero evidence that I had been converted, who didn’t teach me how to be a serious Bible student and failed, therefore, to introduce me into the unspeakable beauty of God’s infinite Word (the Bible seemed, rather, to be a bunch of old stories that were irrelevant to my life), who depended on weak denominational literature instead of teaching the pure Word of God and all of the Word of God, who never supported a real foreign missionary and never even introduced us to one, leaving that business to a faceless denomination,

who didn’t preach separation from the world, who allowed worldliness to run rampant among the youth--the youth who attended Sunday services but spent Saturday nights at rock & roll dances and drinking parties. This is wretched abuse. While I can’t blame my foolishness and rebellion on a church, there can be no doubt that a more biblical kind of church could have had a great influence on me for good.

WORLDLY, DRUNK ON ROCK & ROLL SOUTHERN BAPTIST LEADERS

(Friday Church News Notes, June 21, 2019, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - At the 2019 Southern Baptist Convention in Birmingham, Alabama, top denominational leaders donned long-haired wigs and performed Lynyrd Skynyrd’s “Sweet Home Alabama” for the pleasure of the thousands of SBC pastors in attendance. The Lynyrd Skynyrd wannabes were Kevin Ezell, president of the SBC mission board, Ronnie Floyd, former SBC president and current president of the SBC Executive Committee, Paul Chitwood, president of the International Mission Board, Jamie Dew, president of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, and Adam Greenway, president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. There is nothing godly or morally innocent about Lynyrd





Skynyrd. Since their debut album in 1973, they have stood for rebellion and moral license. The main message is “live as you please,” which is to shake one’s fist at Almighty God and His holy laws. The band was named to mock a former gym teacher, Leonard Skinner, who had talked to the band members about their long hair and rebellious attitudes. The nearly meaningless song “Sweet Home Alabama” uses the name of the Lord in vain multiple times. Not to be outdone, SBC President J.D. Greear danced onstage with two other men to Whitney Houston’s filthy “I Wanna Dance with Somebody” during a youth event. The crowd “laughed and cheered” to this wicked performance. One viewer described it as follows: “Much of the dancing is sexualized, and one of the males portrays an effeminate male kneeling and dancing in submission to JD [Greear] while singing ‘when the night falls loneliness calls; oh! I wanna dance with somebody. I want to feel the heat with somebody.’ Seriously, why would two ministers be doing this?” Why? 2 Timothy 4:3-4 answers that, “For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but AFTER THEIR OWN LUSTS shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; and they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.”

SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION STILL DYING (Friday Church News Notes, June 21, 2019, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- In spite of a supreme effort on the part of denominational leaders to pump the machine up by hook or crook and the introduction of marvelous new programs at each annual gathering, the Southern Baptist Convention is still dying. Spiritually, it died sometime in my childhood, if not before, but we are talking here about numbers. Between 2006 and 2018, the Southern Baptist Convention lost 1.5 million members (LifeWay Communications, 2018 Southern Baptist Convention Statistical Summary). The average weekly worship attendance was 5.3 million, but a majority of those are “Sunday morning only” Christians, and a Sunday morning only Christian, when measured biblically, is no Christian at all. (The evidence for this is a simple comparison of Sunday morning Christianity with Acts 2:41-42 Christianity.) Yet, at the very time when the SBC is in terminal decline by any biblical standard, giving is at an all-time high,



totaling \$11.8 BILLION for 2018! If that is not a modern Laodicea, there is no such thing. “So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spew thee out of my mouth. Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods...” (Revelation 3:16-17).

ARSON TERROR IN ISRAEL (Friday Church News Notes, June 21, 2019, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The following is excerpted from “ISIS Behind Fires Ravaging Israel,” *Israel Today*, June 11, 2019: “Pyro-terrorism is a weapon Israel’s enemies used since the end of 2016 when the first wave of huge fires rocked the Jewish state destroying most of the Carmel Forest near Haifa. The new trend continued when Hamas started the ‘Great March of Return’ in March 2018 and introduced the incendiary balloons and kites which were used to terrorize Israel’s southern regions. The latest wave of blazes which plagued the Jewish state in May and destroyed the Jewish village Mevo Modiin and has now spread to Samaria and Judea was for a large part the work of arsonists as well. The fire in Mevo Modiin left 50 families without a home and possessions, while police and the Israeli fire brigade later determined the blaze was caused by arson. Arson-terrorism has now also reached Samaria and Judea. A huge blaze in the Jewish village of Carmei Tzur in central Judea which raged on Wednesday last week and reached the outskirts of the embattled community, started after Palestinian Arab arsonists threw firebombs across the security fence, a member of the local security team told this reporter. The source said that Palestinian Arabs routinely throw firebombs across the fence near the Hamas hotbed Beit Umar, but this time they targeted the southwestern part of Carmei Tzur where there is no fence and where most people live in caravans. The huge blaze in Carmei Tzur coincided with a large fire near the Jewish village of Itamar in central Samaria. Residents of Itamar claimed

that the fire was the fourth attempt in as many days to destroy their community. 'This is the fourth fire to break out in four days, endangering residents and families, destroying years'



fires, said that there's no doubt about what caused the bulk of the blazes. 'Yes. We've faced arson terror. There is no dilemma or doubt about it. All the villages that were burned were Jewish and all

worth of work by farmers. The heart breaks,' Iyar Segal a resident of Itamar told Israeli media. The media largely ignored these fires while the major news outlets in Israel blamed the wave of fires on the unprecedented heat wave which hit the Jewish state in May. Only the state-funded broadcaster KAN reported about the real reason for the wave of fires. KAN said, 'hundreds

of the fires in the last weeks in Jerusalem and Beit Shemesh area were a result of arson.' The terror watchdog group Boomerang, furthermore, released a new video documenting the number of fires that firefighters fought since November 2016: a whopping 1,773 (Gaza-belt not included). Firefighter Ron Shlaf, who was a prominent member of the team that investigated the wave of

those arrested or prosecuted were Arabs. And from a thorough investigation we conducted, no one else in the Middle East—including the Palestinians—experienced such an extreme wave of fires like we experienced,' Shlaf told Boomerang. Shlaf's team investigated 80 large fires since 2016 and came to the conclusion that 71 of them were the work of arson terrorists."

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- Exalting the Lord Jesus Christ; His eternal perfect, and preserved Word; and the Gospel of his Grace. (2 Peter 3:1-2, 18)
- Standing for the whole counsel of God. (Acts 20:27; Jude 3)
- Challenging Christian workers to uphold the truth and resist the apostasy of our times. (1 Timothy 6:20-21)
- Exposing the spirit of error and compromise within Christendom (Hosea 4:6a; 2 Tim. 3)
- 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)
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