

O Timothy

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

A Monthly Newsletter for Spiritual Protection and Edification

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"The modest woman...is cautious about where she goes and when she goes and with whom she goes; she avoids going to places where moral temptations lurk; she avoids being alone with men other than her husband and brothers; she avoids situations that could place her in the way of moral harm." **Page 8.**

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



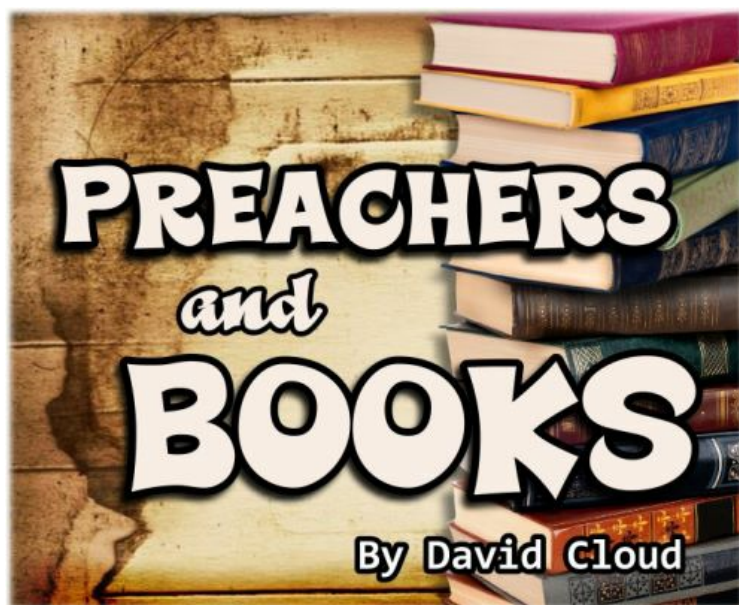
PREACHERS AND BOOKS ~ By David Cloud

"The cloke that I left at Troas with Carpus, when thou comest, bring with thee, and the books, but especially the parchments." (2 Timothy 4:13)

Some preachers seem to disdain books. I once heard a preacher at an independent Baptist meeting say, "We don't need more books; we need more preaching."

That's a statement of ignorance. A good Christian book is simply good preaching and teaching. When God wanted to speak to men, He wrote a Book.

The apostles communicated with the churches and with individual believers through the pen, and we have some of their writings in our New Testament. Had they possessed printing presses, I have no doubt that they would have used them.



The apostle Paul was a student to the end of his life. Even when in prison awaiting his death, he said to Timothy, "The cloke that I left at Troas with Carpus,

when thou comest, bring with thee, and the books, but especially the parchments.” (2 Timothy 4:13).

Bring the books said the stalwart old warrior! Bring the books said the man whom we are told to imitate. “Wherefore I beseech you, be ye followers of me” (1 Cor. 4:16). “Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample” (Philippians 3:17).

It has been said that the man who wants to be a writer must be a reader.

It has been said that “the man who *doesn't* read isn't any better off than the man who *cannot* read.”

It has been said that “five years from now you will be the same person except for the people you meet and the books you read.”

Recently a pastor told me, “Brother Cloud, I am not naturally a good student, but I know that this is a necessary part of the ministry, and I work hard at it.”

Actually this man puts large numbers of Independent Baptist preachers to shame by his studiousness. Not

only is he a diligent Bible student, but he is a student of all things necessary for the ministry. He keeps informed about current events and about dangers facing his people so he can protect them.

Another preacher wrote, “Thanking the Lord for the people of God like yourself who have prayerfully invested in pastors like myself. Taking your advice, I am thankful to the Lord for helping me begin to take reading and studying seriously. I have begun the [*Bible Times and Ancient Kingdoms*](#) and have learnt so much just from the first two lessons. And from the time I left the conference in January 2019 till today, I have finished reading the following books: Holiness by your dear self, The Rise and Fall of Christian Standards, Firm up the Foundation (the book dealing with the compromise of Billy Graham), Successful Fathers, Building an Outreach Sunday School, Tying the Knot Tighter (marriage enrichment for Christians) and some others. These are smaller books as I felt it wiser to start small and begin to grow into thicker books. Please pray for me as I will be planning a clearer schedule on what books I need to read for study and learning. It has sharpen my thinking, challenged by conviction, bolder in my pastoring and clearer in the direction for the Lord's church.”

William Evans, in his course on preaching, said, “Reading good books acts as water poured down a dry pump--it primes and has a reactionary effect. ... To be prolific in thought one must be a faithful reader. Reading makes a wise man. The constant reader will not be at a loss for thoughts. The man who does not read much will not make much of a preacher. One good sermon a day, and one good book a week, at least, ought to be the intellectual diet of every man who would be a good preacher. Not to read is to have nothing to draw from except oneself, and oftentimes one feels himself to be a dry subject indeed. Reading is a tonic; it has a reactionary effect upon the mind” (Evans, *How to Prepare a Sermon*, 1912).

D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones said, “I have known men in the ministry, and men in various other walks of life who stop reading when they finish their training. they think they have acquired all they need; they have their lecture notes, and nothing further is necessary. The

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result is that they vegetate and become quite useless. Keep on reading" (*Preaching and Preachers*, p. 177).

Baptist pastor **John Gill** was a great reader. Gill's formal education ended at age 11, part way through grammar school, because of the government requirement that every student attend services in the Anglican church. His father, a deacon in a Baptist church, refused to compromise his spiritual convictions. But John soon mastered Hebrew using a grammar book and spent so much time at the Kettering Bookshop that he became a local proverb. The people would remark, "That is as sure as John Gill is in the bookseller's shop."

B.H. Carroll (1843-1914) first president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary) read history, all history, ancient, mediaeval, modern, civil, political and religious; biography and autobiography he absolutely devoured. He read all science, all romance, all poetry. For at least sixty of his seventy-one years, he averaged reading 300 pages a day. During his latter years even more than that. Only a little while before his death he was known to average 1,000 pages a day for ten consecutive days. ... He always read history with a map before him, and always kept near him the best and latest of the world's atlases." He told one young preacher, "My boy, you are in great danger. You have no library and do not read" (*Dr. B.H. Carroll: The Colossus of Baptist History*).

Consider **John Broadus** (1827-1895, Baptist pastor and president of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary): "As a result of his severe discipline in independent study, he had, even as a young man, a large fund of general knowledge to draw upon. He not only sought to master his favorite studies, the Bible and ancient and modern languages, but he read widely in history, philosophy, art, literature, and current events. These studies strengthened and elevated the powers of mind and modes of expression and gave him a large mental store upon which to draw in sermon preparation."

Lee Roberson, pastor of Highland Park Baptist Church for 40 years and founder of Tennessee Temple

Bible Schools, was a big reader. He did a lot of his reading in the evenings, though he read whenever he had occasion. He took a satchel of books with him on every trip. He marked the books and took notes from his reading to capture things for his preaching. He particularly loved to read sermons by prominent preachers such as Charles Spurgeon, T.D. Talmage, R.G. Lee, J. Frank Norris, W.B. Riley, T.T. Shields, and George W. Truett.

John Wesley had no sympathy for the preacher who is not a serious student. He said, "Gentlemen, either read or get out of the ministry." Wesley exhorted a preacher friend as follows: "What has exceedingly hurt you in time past, nay, and I fear to this day, is want of reading. I scarce ever knew a preacher read so little. And perhaps by neglecting it you have lost the taste for it. Hence your talent in preaching does not increase. It is just the same as it was seven years ago. It is lively, but not deep: there is little variety; there is no compass of thought. Reading only can supply this, with meditation and daily prayer. You wrong yourself greatly by omitting this. You can never be a deep preacher without it any more than a thorough Christian. O begin! Fix some part of every day for private exercises. You may acquire the taste which you have not; what is tedious at first will afterwards be pleasant. Whether you like it or no; read and pray daily. It is for your life; there is no other way; else you will be a trifler all your days, and a petty, superficial prayer" (John Wesley to John Trembeth, August 1760).

Jerry Reece exalted the power of the printed page as follows: "Benjamin Franklin once said, 'Give me 26 lead soldiers and I will conquer the world.' Our alphabet has 26 characters. When set in lead type, they become Ben Franklin's army. There has never been a more formidable force than this! Their footprints march silently across the theater of human history and leave an indelible mark that meets the gaze of each generation, convincing them of truth and error, molding their philosophies of life and giving them causes for which to live and die. Why has the church been so slow in recognizing the awesome power of the army? Why has she delayed so long and enlisted so few of these faithful and fearless soldiers to the greatest of all causes? ... An eminent missionary

leader has said, 'Christian literature is today's absolute number one priority in all missionary planning.'"

C.H. Mackintosh said, "We observe, with deep concern, a growing distaste for solid reading, specially amongst young Christians. Our reading may be taken, as a rule, as the great indicator of our moral, intellectual and spiritual condition."

Peter Cartwright, circuit riding preacher, said, "Only Heaven will determine which was the most important in my earthly ministry--my preaching or the distributing of books."

Christian statesman **Daniel Webster** said, "If religious books are not widely circulated among the masses in this country, I do not know what is going to become of us as a nation. If truth be not diffused, error will be; if God and His Word are not known and received, the devil and his works will gain the ascendancy; if the evangelical volume does not reach every hamlet, the pages of a corrupt and licentious literature will; if the power of the gospel is not felt throughout the length and breadth of the land, anarchy and misrule, degradation and misery, corruption and darkness, will reign without mitigation or end."

English non-conformist preacher **Thomas Watson** said, "Get books into your houses, when you have not the spring near you, then get water into your cisterns; so when you have not that wholesome preaching that you desire, good books are cisterns that hold the water of life in them to refresh you. ... So when you find a chillness upon your souls, and that your former heat begins to abate, ply yourselves with warm clothes, get those good books that may acquaint you with such truths as may warm and affect your hearts" (1662).

Charles Spurgeon had very little formal education and no formal theological training, but he had a great passion for learning. He was what is called an *autodidact* (self-educator).

He was reading deep theological books by Puritans in his grandfather's library by age 10. He read constantly and widely. It is said that he read six books a week.

Spurgeon advised the preachers in his Bible College, "Sell your shirt and buy books."

Spurgeon said, "A little library, growing larger every year, is an honorable part of a young man's history. It is a man's duty to have books. A library is not a luxury, but one of the necessities of life. ... The influence of books upon man is remarkable; they make the man."

Spurgeon had little patience with preachers who despise commentaries and good study books. He addressed the following statement to his Bible School students:

"Of course, you are not such wiseacres as to think or say that you can expound Scripture without assistance from the works of divines and learned men who have laboured before you in the field of exposition. If you are of that opinion, pray remain so, for you are not worth the trouble of conversion, and like a little coterie who think with you, would resent the attempt as an insult to your infallibility. It seems odd, that certain men who talk so much of what the Holy Spirit reveals to themselves, should think so little of what he has revealed to others. My chat this afternoon is not for these great originals, but for you who are content to learn of holy men, taught of God, and mighty in the Scriptures. It has been the fashion of late years to speak against the use of commentaries. If there were any fear that the expositions of Matthew Henry, Gill, Scott, and others, would be exalted into Christian Targums, we would join the chorus of objectors, but the existence or approach of such a danger we do not suspect.

"The temptations of our times lie rather in empty pretensions to novelty of sentiment, than in a slavish following of accepted guides. A respectable acquaintance with the opinions of the giants of the past, might have saved many an erratic thinker from wild interpretations and outrageous inferences. Usually, we have found the despisers of commentaries to be men who have no sort of acquaintance with them; in their case, it is the opposite of familiarity which has bred contempt" (Spurgeon, [Two Lectures Addressed to the Students of the Pastor's College, Metropolitan Tabernacle](https://archive.org/details/commentpastors00spuruoft/page/n5). <https://archive.org/details/commentpastors00spuruoft/page/n5>.)

Spurgeon advised his Bible students to read the entire multi-volume Matthew Henry commentary set in the twelve months after they graduated from Pastor's College. He said that the revivalist preacher George Whitefield read Matthew Henry through four times during his life. And this is a man who preached an estimated 18,000 sermons in his lifetime, an average of 500 a year or ten a week.

In commenting on 2 Timothy 4:13 in a sermon entitled "Paul: His Cloak and His Books," Spurgeon said:

"Even an apostle must read. ... He is inspired, and yet he wants books! He has been preaching at least for thirty years, and yet he wants books! He had seen the Lord, and yet he wants books! He had had a wider experience than most men, and yet he wants books! He had been caught up into the third heaven, and had heard things which it was unlawful for a man to utter, yet he wants books! He had written the major part of the New Testament, and yet he wants books! The apostle says to Timothy and so he says to every preacher, 'GIVE THYSELF UNTO READING.'

"The man who never reads will never be read; he who never quotes will never be quoted. He who will not use the thoughts of other men's brains, proves that he has no brains of his own.

"Brethren, what is true of ministers is true of all our people. YOU need to read. ... We are quite persuaded that the best way for you to be spending your leisure, is to be either reading or praying. You may get much instruction from books which afterwards you may use as a true weapon in your Lord and Master's service. Paul cries, 'Bring the books' -- join in the cry.

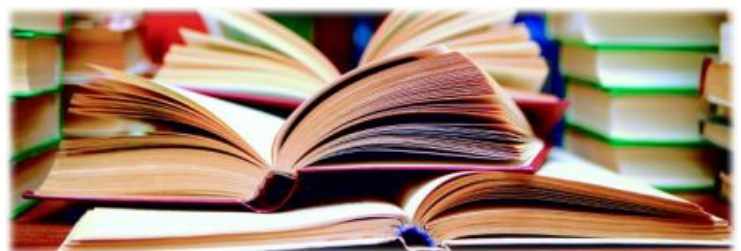
"Our second remark is, that the apostle is not ashamed to confess that he does read. He is writing to his young son Timothy. Now, some old preachers never like to say a thing which will let the young ones into their secrets. They suppose they must put on a very dignified air, and make a mystery of their sermonizing; but all this is alien from the spirit of truthfulness. Paul wants books, and is not ashamed to tell Timothy that he does; and Timothy may go and tell Tychicus and Titus if he likes--Paul does not care.

"Paul herein is a picture of industry. He is in prison; he cannot preach: What will he do? As he cannot preach, he will read. As we read of the fishermen of old and their boats. The fishermen were gone out of them. What were they doing? Mending their nets. So if providence has laid you upon a sick bed, and you cannot teach your class--if you cannot be working for God in public, mend your nets by reading. If one occupation is taken from you, take another, and let the books of the apostle read you a lesson of industry.

"He says, 'but especially the parchments.' I think the books were Latin and Greek works, but that the parchments were Oriental; and possibly they were the parchments of Holy Scripture; or as likely, they were his own parchments, on which were written the originals of his letters which stand in our Bible as the Epistles to the Ephesians, the Philippians, the Colossians, and so on. Now, it must be "Especially the parchments" with all our reading; let it be especially the Bible.

"Do you attach no weight to this advice? This advice is more needed in England now than almost at any other time, for the number of persons who read the Bible, I believe, is becoming smaller every day. Persons read the views of their denominations as set forth in the periodicals; they read the views of their leader as set forth in his sermons or his works, but the Book, the good old Book, the divine fountain-head from which all revelation wells up--this is too often left.

"You may go to human puddles, until you forsake the clear crystal stream which flows from the throne of God. Read the books, by all manner of means, but especially the parchments. Search human literature, if you will, but especially stand fast by that Book which is infallible, the revelation of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ" (Charles Spurgeon, *Metropolitan Tabernacle Pulpit*, volume 9, year 1863).



Hannah's Prayer

By David Cloud



The following is excerpted from [Woman and Her Service for God](#), a training course available from Way of Life Literature.

HANNAH'S PRAYER FOR A SON (1 SA. 1:7-13)

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

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

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

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

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

She prayed by honoring God (1 Sa. 1:11).

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

HANNAH'S PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (1 SA. 2:1-10)

Hannah's intimate personal relationship with God and knowledge of God is evident in her prayer (1 Sa. 2:1-10). This is one of the great prayers of Scripture, and it is the prayer of a woman. Few men have had the wisdom to pray such a prayer. We can compare it to Mary's prayer after the conception of Jesus (Lu. 1:46-55).

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

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

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

She rejoices in God and in His salvation (1 Sa. 2:1).

Her prayer is filled with joy. "Rejoice" is mentioned twice. It is translated from two different Hebrew words.

The first *rejoice* is translated from *Alats*, which means "to jump for joy, to exult." It is translated "triumph" in Psalm 25:2. The second *rejoice* is translated from *Sa-mach*, which means "to brighten up." It is elsewhere translated "glad" (Ex. 4:14), "cheer" (Jg. 9:13), "joyful" (Ezr. 6:22).

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

True “religion” is not the path of sadness and drudgery. It is joyful. “weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning” (Ps. 30:5). God is a joyful God, and He gives joy to His people (“in thy presence is fulness of joy,” Ps. 16:11). The very thought of the wonderful God and His great and eternal salvation brings joy to the believer’s heart.

She speaks of her “horn” (1 Sa. 2:1).

A horn signifies power and authority. The woman is physically weaker than the man and the woman’s authority in this world is limited, but the woman of God is not lacking in power and authority if she walks with and trusts in God. Hannah’s horn was the infinite, almighty God! Women who have power with God have power in this world and the next.

She has great knowledge of the Lord.

She speaks of Jehovah as only Saviour (1 Sa. 2:1), as all holy (1 Sa. 2:2), as the only God (1 Sa. 2:2), as a rock of defense and security (1 Sa. 2:2), as a God of knowledge who knows every word man speaks (1 Sa. 2:3), as every man’s Judge (1 Sa. 2:3), as the God of life and death (1 Sa. 2:6), and as the God of resurrection (1 Sa. 2:6).

The Old Testament saints knew of the bodily resurrection. Compare Job 19:25-27.

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

She speaks of Christ’s coming kingdom (1 Sa. 2:4-5, 8-9).

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

This is the same teaching as Christ gave in Matthew 5:3-12. When Christ comes, the present world system will be overthrown and the righteous will reign. The saved are called the “poor in spirit” and “they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness” and “the pure in heart” (Mt. 5:3, 6, 8). In this present world, they are usually powerless and often poor; they are persecuted; but in Christ’s kingdom they will own everything.

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

The wicked will sit in darkness (1 Sa. 2:9). The wicked who do not repent and submit to Christ will be cast into hell, which is described as a place of darkness (Mt. 22:13; Jude 13). It will be impossible to escape God’s judgment by any human effort or mechanism (“by strength shall no man prevail,” 1 Sa. 2:9). The only way of salvation is by faith in Christ.

She speaks of Gods sovereignty over men’s lives (“the pillars of the earth are the LORD’S,” 1 Sa. 2:6-7).

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

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

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

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

She speaks of God’s preservation of his saints (1 Sa. 2:9).

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

The Hebrew word for *saint* is *chacyd* (khaw-seed) and it is also translated “holy” (De. 33:8). It means to be set apart for God, and that happens when the individual puts his faith in God’s Word. Abraham was justified when he believed God’s Word (Ge. 15:6; Ro. 4:3).

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

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

She speaks of the day of the Lord when God will thunder from heaven and destroy His adversaries throughout the earth (1 Sa. 2:10).

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

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

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

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

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

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

She speaks of the Messiah, who is Jehovah’s *anointed* and Jehovah’s *chosen king* (1 Sa. 2:10).

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

God will give strength unto his king and exalt his horn. Christ has been given all power in heaven and in earth (Mt. 28:19). He has been exalted above “all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come” (Eph. 1:21).

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



PROVERBS 7:7-23

6. For at the window of my house I looked through my casement,
7. And beheld among the simple ones, I discerned among the youths, a young man void of understanding,
8. Passing through the street near her corner; and he went the way to her house,
9. In the twilight, in the evening, in the black and dark night:
10. And, behold, there met him a woman with the attire of an harlot, and subtil of heart.
11. (She is loud and stubborn; her feet abide not in her house:
12. Now is she without, now in the streets, and lieth in wait at every corner.)
13. So she caught him, and kissed him, and with an impudent face said unto him,
14. I have peace offerings with me; this day have I payed my vows.
15. Therefore came I forth to meet thee, diligently to seek thy face, and I have found thee.
16. I have decked my bed with coverings of tapestry, with carved works, with fine linen of Egypt.
17. I have perfumed my bed with myrrh, aloes, and cinnamon.
18. Come, let us take our fill of love until the morning: let us solace ourselves with loves.
19. For the goodman is not at home, he is gone a long journey:
20. He hath taken a bag of money with him, and will come home at the day appointed.

21. With her much fair speech she caused him to yield, with the flattering of her lips she forced him.
22. He goeth after her straightway, as an ox goeth to the slaughter, or as a fool to the correction of the stocks;
23. Till a dart strike through his liver; as a bird hasteth to the snare, and knoweth not that it is for his life.



Consider some of the contrasts between the strange woman described in Proverbs and the modest woman:

They are different in where they go. The strange woman is not afraid of going out “in the black and dark night” (Pr. 7:9). Her “feet abide not in her house; now is she without, now in the streets” (Pr. 7:11-12). The modest woman, on the other hand, is cautious about where she goes and when she goes and with whom she goes; she avoids going to places where moral temptations lurk; she avoids being alone with men other than her husband and brothers; she avoids situations that could place her in the way of moral harm. The modern pop culture would applaud the strange woman as “liberated,” but the liberty to do evil is actually enslavement.

They are different in their attire (Pr. 7:10). The immoral woman has “the attire of an harlot”--skimpy, tight, suggestive--to draw attention to herself sexually and to lure men to her *on that basis*. The modest woman, on the other hand, is clothed in such a way so as NOT to draw men’s attention to her in a sexual manner.

They are different in spirit (Pr. 7:10-11). The immoral woman is “subtil of heart ... loud and stubborn.” The modest woman has “a meek and quiet spirit” (1 Pe. 3:4).

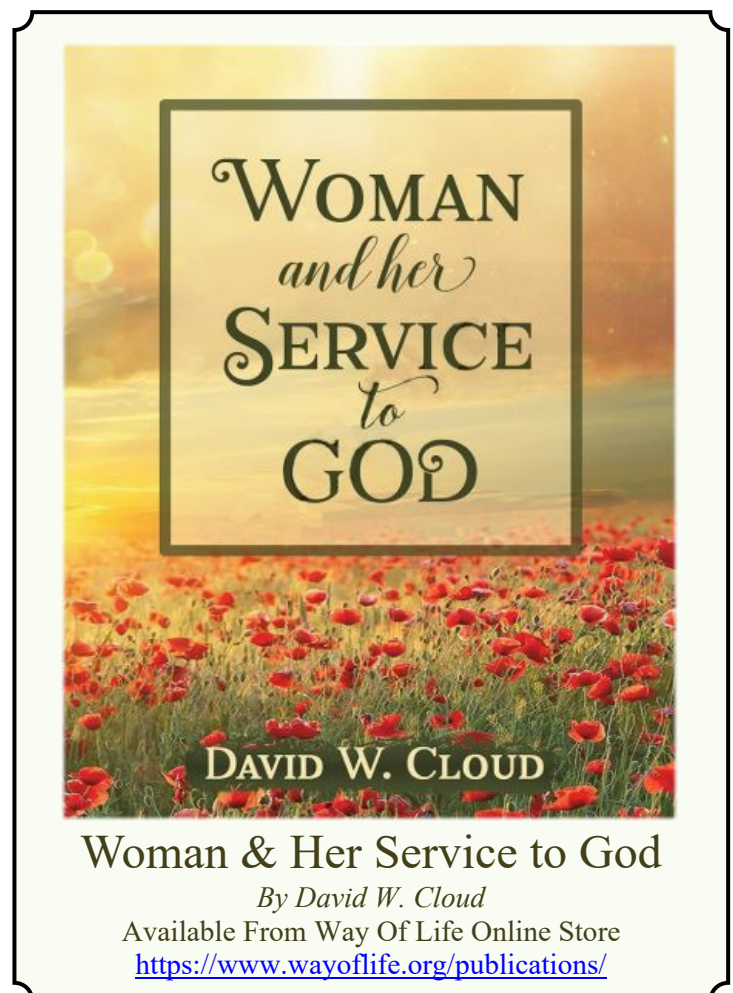
They are different in countenance (Pr. 7:13). The immoral woman has “an impudent face.” The modest woman, on the other hand, is “shamefaced” (1 Ti. 2:9). This is the Greek “aidos,” which “has the idea of down-cast eyes” and means “bashfulness, i.e. (towards men), modesty or (towards God) awe” (Strong). It implies “a shrinking from trespassing the boundaries of propriety” (William Hendrickson, *New Testament Commentary*).

They are different in their religion. The strange woman makes religious offerings and attends to religious duties (Pr. 7:14), but her heart is far from God; she goes to church, but she is a hypocrite; her true and real life is

devoted to evil. The modest woman, on the other hand, serves God from the heart. She is the same person in the dark of night as she is in the light of day.

They are different in their definition of love. The strange woman confuses love with lust, thinking that “love” is mere romance and the fulfillment of sexual desire regardless of one’s marital status (Pr. 7:18). This is the definition of love promoted by Hollywood and rock & roll. The modest woman, on the other hand, knows that genuine love is godly commitment *in* marriage. True love is keeping God’s commandments (1 Jo. 5:3).

They are different in the way they look at life. The strange woman lives only for the moment; she does not look at the end of things but only at the beginning. She does not think about God’s judgment but only about the pleasure of sin (Pr. 7:22-23). The modest woman, on the other hand, knows that sin is pleasurable only for a season and she focuses her attention on the eternal rather than the temporal (Heb. 11:24-26).



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?



ROLLING STONES: "SOMEBODY UP THERE LIKES US" (Friday Church News Notes, June 28, 2019, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Four members of the original 1970s Rolling Stones rock band are still rocking well into their 70s (Ronnie Wood is 72, Mick Jagger and Keith Richards are 75, and Charlie Watts is 78), and they think that this is because "somebody up there likes us." That is what Wood told the press recently, after lead singer Mick Jagger "bounced back" from a noninvasive heart valve replacement ("Rolling Stones' Ronnie Wood reflects on sobriety, Mick Jagger's 'superhuman' recovery," *The Sun*, June 24, 2019). The band is continuing its "No Filter" U.S. tour. Their longevity and worldly success has deceived them into thinking that all is well, but the accounting with the holy Creator is at hand. "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment" (Hebrews 9:27). "For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil" (Ecclesiastes 12:14). The vast influence of the Rolling Stones has been extremely unholy. They helped set the theme for the licentious modern pop culture with their 1965 song, "I'm Free." Thumbing their

noses at God, they sang, "I'm free to do what I want any old time ... I'm free to choose what I please any old time." They have mocked holy matrimony. Jagger has had eight children by five women. The Stones have exalted Lucifer in albums such as *Their Satanic Majesty's Request* and *Beggars Banquet* and the song "Sympathy for the Devil." Jagger dressed up as the devil for their 1969 tour, including for the concert at Altamont Speedway in which at least four died and hundreds were injured. The Hells Angels murdered a young black man named Meredith Hunter right in front of the stage as Jagger was prancing around in his Satan routine. In *Hellhounds on the Trail*, Gary Patterson gives many other details of the Rolling Stones' occultic involvement. Many of their songs and stage antics are so filthy that neither the titles, the lyrics, nor the descriptions can be printed. Yet Wood says, "Somebody up there likes us." He is right, but not in the way that he thinks. God loves the members of the Rolling Stones and would save them from their sin through the redemption that Christ purchased at Calvary (John 3:16), but there is no salvation without true repentance and faith. Jesus said, "I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish" (Luke 13:3). And perish doesn't mean cease to exist.



GOOGLE INSIDER SAYS THE COMPANY IS TRAINING ITS ALGORITHMS TO PREVENT TRUMP REELECTION (Friday Church News Notes, June 28, 2019, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from “YouTube Pulls Project Veritas Video on Google Bias,” DailyWire.com, June 25, 2019: “A new Project Veritas video that includes testimony from a whistleblower, leaked internal documents, and undercover footage of a Google employee discussing how the company is working to prevent ‘the next Trump situation’ has been pulled by YouTube, a platform owned by Google, ‘due to a privacy claim by a third party.’ This is the second Project Veritas Big Tech exposé video taken down by the platform in two weeks. The video features clips of Project Veritas undercover reporters’ secretly recorded discussion with Jen Gennai--head of Google’s ‘Responsible Innovation’ team, which monitors the responsible implementation of A.I. technologies — in a restaurant in San Francisco. ... Another clip shows her discussing Google’s attempt to ‘prevent’ another 2016. ‘Elizabeth Warren is saying we should break up Google,’ she says. ‘And like, I love her but she’s very misguided, like that will not make it better it will make it worse, because all these smaller companies who don’t have the same resources that we do will be charged with preventing the

next Trump situation, it’s like a small company cannot do that. We all got screwed over in 2016, again it wasn’t just us, it was--the people got screwed over, the news media got screwed over, like, everybody got screwed over--so we’re rapidly been like, what happened there and how do we prevent it from happening again,’ she says in another clip. ‘We’re also training our algorithms, like, if 2016 happened again, would we have, would the outcome be different?’ ... Two weeks ago, YouTube pulled another Big Tech exposé video published by Project Veritas, likewise citing a privacy complaint. That video focused on alleged anti-conservative bias within Pinterest. ‘The established media and technology are so afraid of investigative journalism they need to censor it,’ O’Keefe tweeted in response.”

THE GETTY’S BIG TENT CHRISTIANITY (Friday Church News Notes, June 28, 2019, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The Gettys are probably the most influential contemporary worship musicians among fundamentalist and Independent Baptist churches. The Gettys are promoted by Bob Jones University, Majesty Music, Crown College of Powell, Tennessee, and West Coast Baptist College, among a great many others. At least 8 Getty songs are in the latest Majesty Music hymnal *Rejoice Hymns*, and 29 are in *Hymns Modern and Ancient*, compiled by Fred Coleman, head of BJU’s church music department and published by Steve Pettit, BJU’s president. But the Gettys are “conservative” only by the corrupted standard of this hour. They are clearly and irrefutably a bridge to the

one-world “church” with its endless variety of heresies. This is because of their syncretistic music, their big-tent philosophy, and their ecumenical associations. The Gettys “fuse the music of their Irish heritage with the sounds of Nashville, their newly adopted home.” They list the Beatles as a major musical influence. Consider the Getty’s Sing 2019 conference in Nashville. The video advertisement features out-and-out rock and roll, women worship leaders, female musicians dancing in incredibly tight and immodest clothing, and heresy-laden speakers. What is “conservative” about this? Sing 2019 conference speakers include **John Piper** (inventor of the heresy of Christian Hedonism, disciple of the heretic C.S. Lewis, and promoter of “Christian” hip hop), **D.A. Carson** (who supports inclusive language Bible translation and holds the heresy of redaction criticism of the Gospels, claiming that we have only the *ipissima vox Jesu*, the authentic VOICE of Jesus, rather than *imissima verba Jesus*, the authentic WORDS of Jesus, *An Introduction to the New Testament*, 1992, p. 44), **John MacArthur** (who teaches that a sinner must be born again before he can believe and who promotes “Christian” hip hop and Christian



rock music at his youth conferences), **Anne Graham Lotz** (Billy Graham's female preacher daughter who attended the enthronement of Pope Benedict VI, said she thinks Pope John Paul II is in heaven, and applauded that pope's efforts "to bridge the gaps between Protestants and Catholics and Jews and Catholics," CNN, Apr. 8, 2005), **Stuart Townend** (charismatic in theology and practice, supporting such heresies as spirit slaying, holy laughter, and gibberish "tongues," and participating in the radically ecumenical Alpha program with strong ties to Catholicism), and **John Lennox** (theistic evolutionist). Missing from the lineup are the Getty's Roman Catholic friends Matt Maher and Máire, but though Roman Catholics aren't scheduled to participate at Sing 2019, they are most definitely part of the Getty's big tent. Instead of promoting the Gettys and pretending that they are "conservative," Bible-believing Christian leaders should be exposing them and educating their people of the great dangers inherent in the entire realm of contemporary worship. Instead of building bridges to this world, they should be clearly and determinedly separating. "Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners" (1 Corinthians 15:33).

SIX INFECTIOUS DISEASES YOU WON'T GET THANKS TO VACCINES (Friday Church News Notes, June 28, 2019, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from "Six Infectious Diseases," *Business Insider*, June 14, 2019: "From the introduction of the smallpox vaccine in the 19th century to the mass



availability of flu shots today, vaccines have helped millions of people develop immunity to some of the world's deadliest illnesses. Thanks to vaccines, many infectious diseases--like smallpox and polio--no longer exist outside of laboratories in the US. Their lasting elimination has spurred researchers to work to develop new types of immunizations that could help people avoid other life-altering diseases. Here are six once-common diseases that you no longer have to worry about thanks to vaccines. **SMALLPOX** used to wipe out populations by the thousands. ... the virus attacks the immune system, causing rapid death. When European colonizers brought smallpox to the Americas in the 17th century, it became an epidemic, killing three out of every 10 people who got it. In 1796, physician Edward Jenner discovered that people could become immune to smallpox if they received an injection of a similar, less invasive strain of the virus. Jenner's experiments led to the development of the world's first vaccine. Over the next century, vaccinations became a routine practice in developed countries. In 1972, the US declared smallpox eradicated. ... **POLIO** is a viral infection that lives inside a person's throat and intestines. One in four people who catch the disease develop flu-like symptoms that go

away, but a smaller percentage suffer severe effects, including paralysis and respiratory failure. Some infected children would spend weeks inside giant machines called iron lungs, since polio made them unable to breathe on their own. According to NPR, 3,000 US children died from polio in the year 1952 alone. Polio deaths were so common, in fact, that companies sold polio insurance to the parents of newborns. ... But once a vaccine was introduced in 1955, polio rates declined rapidly. In 1979, the disease was considered eliminated from the US. ... **DIPHTHERIA** infections affected more than 200,000 people in 1921 and caused approximately 15,520 deaths that year, according to the CDC. ... The diphtheria vaccine was introduced in the 1920s, so natural outbreaks haven't been an issue for nearly a century in the US. ... **MUMPS** is a respiratory disease caused by the paramyxovirus. ... Prior to the advent of the mumps vaccine, roughly 186,000 people in the US contracted the virus every year. ... Mumps cases in the US declined by 99 percent after the introduction of the vaccine in 1967, and there are now only a few hundred cases per year. ... **MEASLES** (also known as rubeola) attacks the respiratory system and other organs. ... If the infection is severe, it can cause serious

complications like blindness, brain damage, and even death. An estimated 3 million people contracted the disease every year in the late 1950s, before the vaccine was available. ... The CDC announced measles was eliminated from the US in the year 2000. ... **RUBELLA** leads to brain damage and birth defects in infants. ... Vaccinations for rubella became available in the late 1960s. The *New York Times* reported in 2015 that rubella had been eliminated from the Western hemisphere.”



might be in heaven. She applauded the Pope's efforts “to bridge the gaps between Protestants and Catholics and Jews and Catholics” (CNN.com, transcripts). She said, “The wonderful thing, in Rome I've heard people say the Holy Father is in heaven and everybody is so confident that the Pope is in heaven. And I think it's because he was such a good man.” This is in spite of the fact that the spiritually-blind pope held to a false gospel of salvation through Rome's sacraments, beginning with baptismal regeneration, and devoted himself 100% to Mary. Anne represented her father at that Pope's funeral. How could a true Bible believer praise the Pope? It is great confusion. It has been said of Billy Graham that he is “Mr. Facing Both Ways,” and the same can be said of the entire Graham family, yea, pretty much the entire world of “evangelicalism.” This is because they have renounced “separatism” and they believe in a “big tent” of fellowship and ministry which requires a tremendous amount of compromise. In 2005, Anne preached at a conference in Russia sponsored by the extremely modernistic Baptist World Alliance (BWA) (“Baptists Unveil New Strategy for Evangelism,” *Assist News Service*, Aug. 3, 2005). Denton Lotz, General Secretary of the BWA, is Anne's brother-in-law. In 2007, she joined with Samuel Kobia, president of the wretchedly apostate World Council of Churches, in a conference in India.

Kobia doesn't preach the redemption of the soul through the blood of Christ; he preaches the false gospel of redemption of society through socio-political work (“WCC Head Calls for Change in Famed Ecumenical Motto,” *Christian Post*, April 28, 2007). Like other conservative evangelicals, Anne Graham Lotz is acceptable to many Bible believers, even while subtly drawing them into fellowship with the one-world church. In truth, these are very dangerous people. Anyone who genuinely loves the truth will demonstrate the Psalmist's hatred of error, but we don't see this even in the most conservative of evangelicals. “Therefore I esteem all thy precepts concerning all things to be right; and I hate every false way” (Psalm 119:128). (For more documentation on these subjects see the report “[Liberal Baptist Denominations](#)” and the free eBooks [Billy Graham and Rome](#), [Billy Graham's Sad Disobedience](#), and [The World Council of Churches](#), at www.wayoflife.org.)

PINTEREST CENSORING PRO-LIFE, CONSERVATIVE ORGANIZATIONS, BIBLE VERSES (Friday Church News Notes, July 5, 2019, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from “Tech Insider Blows Whistle,” *ProjectVeritas.com*, June 11, 2019: “Project Veritas has received and published documents from an insider at Pinterest. The documents, which include product code, Slack messages, and internal policies, reveal terms and websites that Pinterest apparently censors. In an interview, **the Pinterest insider who leaked the documents explains how the company censors pro-life and Christian content on the website.**”



Said Project Veritas founder James O’Keefe: ‘The documents we obtained raise questions about whether or not these tech companies really operate like neutral platforms, as opposed to publishers with editorial agendas.’ Pinterest is a publicly-traded social media company headquartered in San Francisco that has nearly 300 million active monthly users. In the past, Project Veritas released undercover footage of Twitter employees discussing ‘shadow-banning,’ and also published leaked documents from Facebook which revealed plans to target and demote conservative commentary. ‘I was pretty surprised,’ said the Pinterest insider in an interview, when s/he discovered that pro-life group LiveAction.org was added to a ‘porn domain block list.’ The insider explained that the ‘block list’ was intended to be a collection of pornographic websites that Pinterest uses in order to ensure that pornography cannot be posted. LiveAction.org is not a pornographic website; it is the web domain of a prominent pro-life advocacy group. The insider explained that websites on a ‘domain block list’ cannot be linked in posts made by users. While investigating, Project Veritas tried to post the LiveAction.org link on Pinterest and failed to do so, receiving an error message that read, ‘Sorry! Your request could not be completed.’ ... Lila Rose, the founder and president of LiveAction claims that her organization has been censored in

the past, and believes that pro-life organizations are unfairly targeted by social media companies: ‘Pinterest says that their mission is to “help empower people to discover things that they love,” but despite the fact that millions of people love babies and the pro-life cause, they are secretly censoring our life-affirming messages. Pinterest users deserve to know the truth and our messages deserve to be treated fairly.’ ... Project Veritas reviewed the ‘Sensitive Terms List’ and discovered that Christianity-related terms like ‘christian easter’ and ‘bible verses’ were marked as ‘brand unsafe.’ ... The insider explained to Project Veritas that in addition to removing content it wants to censor, Pinterest also ‘hides’ materials from users on their home screens and search results. The insider added that there is also ‘silent removing,’ which means the content is removed but there is no notice to the account who posted the material that it was removed.”

CHRISTIAN FATHER/MOTHER IMPRISONED BY CUBAN GOVERNMENT FOR HOMESCHOOLING

(Friday Church News Notes, July 5, 2019, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from “Christian Father,” *Breitbart*, May 20, 2019: “A Cuban Evangelical pastor sentenced to two years in prison for homeschooling his children says his family has endured ‘psychological pressure and a war on behalf of authorities’ for refusing to allow the Castro regime to indoctrinate his children into communist ideology. His remarks form part of a petition to the Organization of American States (OAS) for a precautionary measure

protecting Rigal and his wife, Ayda Expósito--who was sentenced to 1.5 years in prison for the same crime of ‘acts contrary to the normal development of a minor.’ Homeschooling is illegal in Cuba and legal schools are of notoriously low quality, prioritizing the development of submissive citizens over life and professional skills. ... The Home School Legal Defense Association (HSLDA), a nonprofit advocacy group defending the right to home school, and the Global Liberty Alliance, a legal defense fund dedicated to defending the defenders and advancing justice in places such as Communist Cuba, filed the petition for a precautionary measure on behalf of the Rigal family. ... ‘There are no guarantees of due process or a state of rights in Cuba and, therefore, there are no legal or other avenues that allow for denouncing [crimes] ... because the courts, as well as the police and all other authorities are under the control of the Communist Party of Cuba (PCC),’ the application reads. ... the couple’s two children, Ruth and Joel, have been forced to matriculate at their local government school in Guantánamo. ... Cuba, a nominally Marxist atheist state, has consistently moved to repress the religious rights of its citizens. According to the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF), which publishes an annual global report on religious persecution, Cubans regularly face ‘harassment campaigns targeting religious leaders



and activists who advocated for stronger religious freedom protections. While it is difficult to track these cases, one organization reported that 194 individuals were imprisoned or detained because of their religious beliefs and activities between July 2017 and April 2018,' its annual report for 2019 read."

THE HOLY SPIRIT IS READY (Friday Church News Notes, July 5, 2019, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)



- "Every time you go into a home, every time you talk to a man on the street car, or in the shops, or factories, you have the absolute assurance that there is another One also witnessing. And that is God Himself in the Person of the Holy Spirit! ... Everywhere Barnabas and Saul went the Holy Spirit was there waiting for them. ... The same Divine Spirit that called and separated Barnabas and Saul was by the river and opened the heart of Lydia while Paul witnessed to her-- 'whose heart the Lord opened ... that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul' (Acts 16:14). There you have the whole thing in a nutshell. God's side of the witnessing and man's side. Therefore, every time you go forth on your personal visitation for Jesus Christ, to tell of His salvation, you have the absolute assurance that the Holy Spirit precedes you, goes with you, talks with you, walks with you, and opens the hearts of all you talk to. ... This

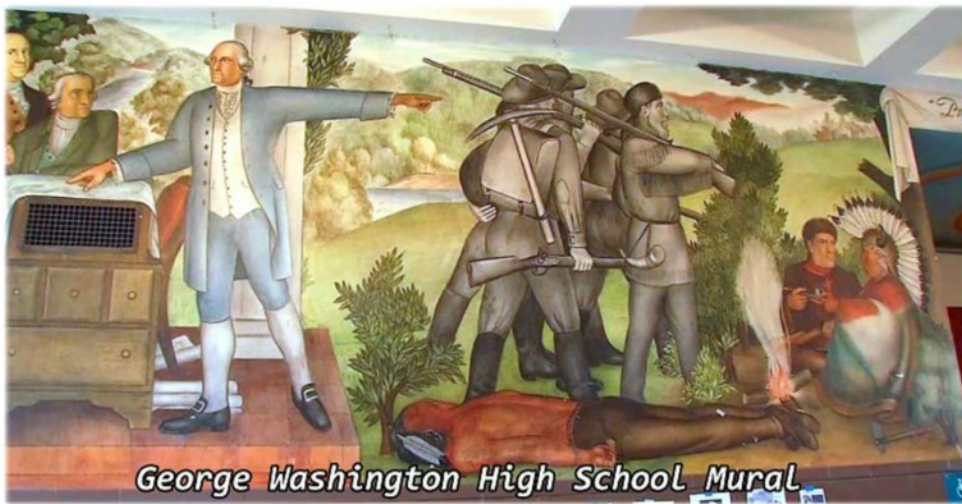
was the greatest truth that ever came into my life next to my salvation. Do you want a holy boldness in your testimony? then go forth and testify of Christ. Suppose you don't feel like it. Go anyway. The Word does not say that God gives the Holy Spirit to them that feel like it. But He gives the Holy Spirit to them that 'obey Him' (Acts 5:32)" (J. Frank Norris, *The Inside Story of First Baptist Church*).

PUTTING FEELING IN FAITH'S STEAD (Friday Church News Notes, July 5, 2019, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - "If ever a soul rested its hopes on shifting sands, he does who puts feeling in faith's stead. Nothing is less stable; nothing so subject to every wind that blows as a man's emotions. Until they are steadied by faith they have no more stability than the mercury in thermometers. I want to tell you, beloved, there is something better than that for the Christian. God never meant to have His children lead a spiritual fever and ague existence, shivering one day and scorching the next. ... There is no soul-health in that. It is Satan's scheme to settle you on such sand hills. God offers you the eternal Rock. God has laid for you a sure foundation in His eternal Word. Build on that, and the waves of unbelief will beat themselves into harmless foam at your feet, and you can stand in unshaken assurance, proving the 'things not seen'" (William Bell Riley, commenting on Hebrews 11).

TRASHING AMERICA'S FOUNDING FATHERS (Friday Church News Notes, July 12, 2019, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - A large percentage of Americans have been brainwashed to hate the

nation's Founding Fathers. The latest evidence is the decision by the San Francisco Board of Education to paint over a 13-panel mural of scenes from George Washington's life at George Washington High School, because of the "violent" and "degrading" imagery ("San Francisco school board votes to paint over," *Washington Post*, June 28, 2019). One panel shows frontiersmen standing by the dead body of a Native American, while another shows Washington at Mount Vernon among his slaves. The painting simply depicts the reality of America in the 18th century, which was far from perfect but also *far more* committed to human rights than any other nation at that time! The Leftist elites and their pop culture minions who are trashing the Founding Fathers are ignorant of history, as well as hateful of the Bible upon which America was founded, which is the fundamental issue. America's Founding Fathers were not perfect. There was only one Perfect Man in human history. But the Founding Fathers were groundbreaking pioneers in human rights. What other nation in the 18th century did better? What other nation produced a Bill of Rights like





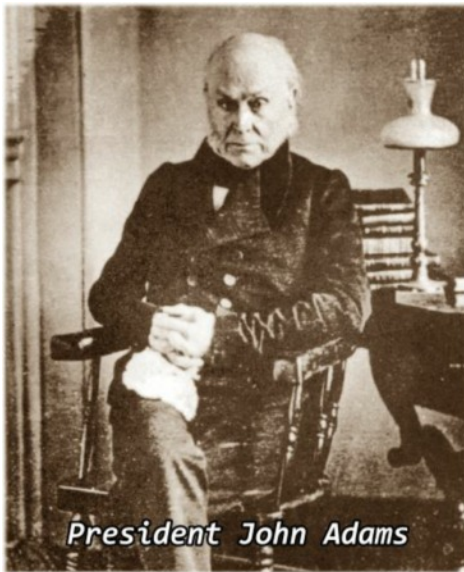
America's? What other nation fought a terrible Civil War to finally bring those rights to all citizens? There was widespread opposition to slavery from the time of the founding of the American colonies, and many of the Founding Fathers were opponents, but abolition became a groundswell movement during the Second Great Awakening, both in America and England. It was the Bible that taught the British and the Americans to renounce slavery. The culmination in America was the Civil War of 1860-65. The Democratic Party was the party of Southern slavery. The Republican Party was founded in 1856 as a coalition of political groups opposing slavery, and Abraham Lincoln, elected in 1860, was the first Republican Party president. Eleven Democrat-controlled states seceded from the Union following his election. It was a Republican president who issued the Emancipation Proclamation of 1863, and it was a Republican-controlled Congress that passed the 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution abolishing slavery in 1865. What great nation have the Leftist elites built? What great nation has Atheism built? What great nation has Darwinian evolution built? What great nation have pop stars, Hollywood entertainers, and professional football players built?

They build nothing; they only tear down; and even little children can destroy what wise men build.

GEORGE WASHINGTON AND SLAVERY (Friday Church News Notes, July 12, 2019, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - George Washington, Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army and America's first President, inherited slaves and would have freed them, but he was forbidden by Virginia law to do so. At great personal cost, he vowed that he would not sell any of his slaves even though he could have benefited financially from doing so. At a time when he was struggling financially, the sale of just one slave would have brought him enough income to pay his estate taxes for two years, but he refused. He also refused to hire out his slaves, because he did not want to break up their families. He said, "To sell the overplus I cannot, because I am principled against this kind of traffic in the human species. To hire them out is almost as bad because they could not be disposed of in families to any advantage, and to disperse [break up] the families I have an aversion" (Washington letter to Robert Lewis, Aug. 18, 1799, *Washington's Writings*, 1980, Vol. 37, p. 338).

Washington was instrumental in having a federal law passed in the first year of his presidency (1789) prohibiting slavery in the new American territories. As a result, the new states of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin all prohibited slavery. Daniel Webster described Washington's efforts to abolish slavery in America: "Soon after the adoption of the Constitution, it was declared by George Washington to be 'among his first wishes to see some plan adopted by which slavery might be abolished by law'; and in various forms in public and private communications, he avowed his anxious desire that 'a spirit of humanity,' prompting to 'the emancipation of the slaves,' 'might diffuse itself generally into the minds of the people;' and he gave the assurance, that 'so far as his own suffrage would go,' his influence should not be wanting to accomplish this result" (Webster, "Address to the People of the United States, ... to Lift Our Public Sentiment to a New Platform of Anti-slavery," Jan. 29, 1845). Washington liberated his slaves upon his death, and in his will he required that young ones be educated to read and write and taught a useful occupation.

JOHN QUINCY ADAMS AND SLAVERY (Friday Church News Notes, July 12, 2019, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - John Quincy Adams, sixth President of the United States and son of John Adams, second President of the U.S., was called the "Hell Hound of Abolition" for his persistent efforts to end slavery. In 1837, he said that the nation's founders were opposed to slavery. "The inconsistency of the institution of domestic slavery with the principles of the *Declaration of*



President John Adams

Independence was seen and lamented by all the southern patriots of the Revolution; by no one with deeper and more unalterable conviction than by the author of the Declaration himself [Thomas Jefferson]. No charge of insincerity or hypocrisy can be fairly laid to their charge. Never from their lips was heard one syllable of attempt to justify the institution of slavery. They universally considered it as a reproach fastened upon them by the unnatural step-mother country [Great Britain] and they saw that before the principles of the *Declaration of Independence*, slavery--in common with every other mode of oppression--was destined sooner or later to be banished from the earth" ("An Oration Delivered Before the Inhabitants of the Town of Newburyport, at Their request, on the Sixty-first Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence," July 4, 1837).

OTHER FOUNDING FATHERS AND SLAVERY (Friday Church News Notes, July 12, 2019, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - **BENJAMIN FRANKLIN** owned slaves, but he became an abolitionist later in life and liberated his slaves.

He was the president of the Society for Promoting the Abolition of Slavery and the Relief of Negroes Unlawfully Held in Bondage. He promoted the idea of educating former slaves and helping them find employment so they could fend for themselves. **JOHN DICKINSON** was a member of the First and Second Continental Congress and worked with Thomas Jefferson in writing the *Declaration of Independence*. He was an officer during the War of Independence. He was a delegate to the Constitutional Convention of 1787 and was elected President of Delaware and President of Pennsylvania. Dickinson is the author of "The Liberty Song" (1768). The original chorus said, "Then join hand in hand, brave Americans all, By uniting we stand, by dividing we fall; In so righteous a cause let us hope to succeed, For heaven approves of each generous deed." Dickinson became an abolitionist and freed his slaves in 1776. He devoted his final years to the cause of abolition and donated a considerable amount of his wealth "to the relief of the unhappy." **BENJAMIN RUSH**, signer of the *Declaration of Independence*, denounced slavery in his tract *On Slave Keeping* (1773). He called it a "vice which degrades human nature." He called on Americans to oppose it. "Remember the eyes of all Europe are fixed upon you, to preserve an asylum for freedom in this country after the last pillars of it are fallen in every other quarter of the globe." John Jay, first Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court (1789-95), author of five of the *Federalist Papers*, and Governor of New York, was a leading opponent of slavery. "His first two attempts to end slavery in New York in 1777 and 1785 failed, but a third in 1799 succeeded." All slaves in New York were

emancipated before his death in 1829. **NOAH WEBSTER**, who had a major influence on the U.S. Constitution through his 1787 essay *An Examination into the Leading Principles of the Federal Constitution*, called for slavery to be abolished in the United States. He founded an antislavery group called the Connecticut Society for the Promotion of Freedom. His influential *Blue-Back Speller* included an essay by Thomas Day calling for the abolition of slavery. Day argued that this was in accordance with the nation's *Declaration of Independence*. He warned Americans that consistency required that they either acknowledge the rights of the Negroes or surrender their own rights.

A QUESTION FOR NON-HYPER CALVINISTS (Friday Church News Notes, July 19, 2019, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Calvinism is on the march, but there are many varieties of Calvinism. Every Calvinist believes he has the liberty to decide what kind of Calvinist he will be. One list names nine types: total hyper-Calvinist, partial hyper-Calvinist, ultra-high Calvinist, regular high Calvinist, moderate Calvinist, lower moderate Calvinist, lower Calvinist, lowest Calvinist, and Amyraldism (4 point Calvinist). (To understand the difference, you must understand compatibilism, lapsarianism,



ON ORCHIDS AND BEES (Friday Church News Notes, July 12, 2019, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is from *Creation Moments*, July 1, 2019: “*Coryanthes macrantha*, commonly known as the bucket orchid, grows in Mexico and Central and South America. The pretty, but unassuming, flowers form a little receptacle or bucket, into which the flower drips a strongly scented fluid. This scent attracts the flower’s only pollinator--the beautiful, green, male orchid bee. On entering the flower, the bee falls into the bucket trap. But it is not the orchid’s purpose to kill the bee. The bee soon finds a little step, and an escape hatch. However, the flower grips the bee and glues two pollen sacks to its back. When the glue is dry, the flower releases the unharmed bee, which makes its escape. The pollen sacks and the scent are essential to the bee’s own courtship ritual with female bees. It is the orchid’s scent which is attractive to the female. If a male bee which already has pollen sacks on its back enters the bucket orchid, then the flower simply snatches the sacks off the back of the bee and releases it immediately, thus completing the flower’s rather complicated pollination process. Most articles about the orchid and the bee refer to their co-evolution, which has left them totally dependent on each other. Yet, no partially evolved orchid could survive. An orchid whose escape hatch was too big would release the bee



without the pollen, while too small a hatch would trap the bee until it died. Either way, a partially evolved orchid could not pollinate. So-called co-evolution is clearly impossible. Ref: ‘Bucket Orchid,’ *Encyclopedia Britannica*.”

supralapsarianism, infralapsarianism, active reprobation, common grace, non-salvific love, single and double predestination, and soft forms of double predestination.) The book *Spurgeon vs. the Hyper Calvinists: The Battle for Gospel Preaching* by Iain Murray contrasts Charles Spurgeon’s Calvinism with the Calvinism of his predecessor John Gill and others of Gill’s persuasion. Spurgeon was the type of Calvinist who believed in preaching the gospel to all sinners, telling them that God loves them and wants to save them, and calling upon them to believe and receive Christ. All of that is well and good, of course, because it is commanded by God. But I would

make the observation that every type of Calvinist believes in *sovereign* election, meaning there is nothing in man, including his faith, that is the basis of election. Every type of Calvinist rejects the idea that election incorporates God’s knowledge of who will and will not believe the gospel. So any Calvinist who seeks to preach the gospel to all sinners, as Spurgeon did, is only looking for the elect, in practice. To get to the heart of the issue I would ask the non-hyper Calvinist this question: “Do you believe that any sinner can be saved? Can you discuss the fearful and amazing Book of Life with a sinner and tell him for sure that his name can be written there?” No one

who believes in *sovereign* election can answer these questions in the affirmative in an unequivocal way, yet the Bible plainly says, “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved” (John 3:16-17). For this reason, I have chosen to be *no kind of* Calvinist, and no kind of Arminian, too. I am under no divine obligation to make a choice between Calvinism and Arminianism. I only have to believe the Bible. While I can’t answer every question about the wonderful doctrine of election, one

thing I know for sure, because of the clear teaching of Scripture, is that election is *not* “sovereign” after *any* Calvinist definition. I have met many Calvinists that I believe are saved and know Christ and I, therefore, love them in Christ, because I love the saints, but I emphatically reject their Calvinism. I also emphatically reject the Quick Prayerism program of evangelism whereby a sinner can pray “a sinner’s prayer” and be pronounced saved and given assurance when there is no clear evidence of repentance and regeneration. For the same Bible that says “whosoever believeth in him should not perish,” also says, “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are come new” (2 Corinthians 5:17), and, “He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him” (1 John 2:4).

HAMAS LEADER CALLS ON PALESTINIANS TO KILL JEWS IN ALL THE WORLD (Friday Church News Notes, July 19, 2019, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from “*Hamas Backtracks*,” *Arutz Sheva*, Jul. 15, 2019: “A senior member of Gaza’s Islamist rulers Hamas has encouraged Palestinians across the globe to kill Jews, drawing outrage from both Israeli and Palestinian officials as well as a UN envoy. In



video from a speech to participants of weekly protests on Friday, Fathi Hamad, a member of the movement’s top political body, can be seen calling on Palestinian Arabs across the globe to carry out attacks. ‘If this siege is not undone, we will explode in the face of our enemies, with God’s permission. The explosion is not only going to be in Gaza but also in the West Bank and abroad, God willing. ... Seven million Palestinians outside, enough warming up, you have Jews with you in every place. You should attack every Jew possible in all the world and kill them.’ ... Hamas is considered a terrorist organisation by the United States, European Union and others. Ofir Gendelman, a spokesman for Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, said on Twitter, ‘Now you know why we protect the border with Gaza from Hamas.’ ... In a statement Monday afternoon, Hamas distanced itself from Hamad’s words. ... The Hamas charter refers numerous times to the Muslims’ struggle against the Jews.”

HILLSONG ONLINE CAMPUS - GRAB A COOKIE AND A JUICE AND TAKE THE LORD’S SUPPER (Friday Church News Notes, July 19, 2019, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Last month, Hillsong Online Campus (Hillsong Sydney) encouraged the “online congregation” to take communion with them. Via the online campus Facebook page, the minister said, “We are excited because this weekend is communion weekend. So grab a cookie, grab a juice, whatever it is that is most convenient for you. We’d love to celebrate communion together.” This is the ultimate in me-centered Christianity. I can even have the Lord’s Supper “my way.” I



don’t need a church; I just need Facebook. I don’t need to judge myself; that would be a very old-school, guilt trip thing. I don’t need unleavened bread to signify Christ’s sinless body; I can have my favorite cookie. I don’t need the fruit of the vine; I can have my favorite fruit juice or a smoothie or whatever suits my fancy. “This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves ... 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 their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables” (2 Timothy 3:1-2; 4:3-4).

ANDERSONITE PREACHER RELIEVED FROM HIS POLICE JOB IN KNOXVILLE (Friday Church News Notes, July 19, 2019, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Knox County Sheriff’s detective Grayson Fritts, who is also a pastor, has been put on sick leave because of sermons calling for the arrest and death of homosexuals. Earlier this year he applied for a voluntary early retirement, which apparently has been granted. He is the pastor of All Scripture Baptist Church (“KJV-Soul Winning”), a small storefront work in Knoxville. And in a sermon on June 2, he called for the government to send a riot team to the local Gay Pride parade, to arrest LGBT people



Grayson Fritts

(lesbian, gay, bisexual, transsexual), try them, and if convicted, execute them. The church's web site says, "God said homosexuality should be punished with the death penalty, as set forth in Leviticus 20:13." Not surprisingly, there is an influence from Steven Anderson, the pastor of Faithful Word Baptist Church of Tempe, Arizona, who preached at Fritts' church on April 26. Anderson, too, preaches that Leviticus 20:13 should be enforced in America. "Because if you executed the homos, like God recommends, you wouldn't have all this AIDS running rampant" ("Pastor Calls for Killing Gays," *USA Today*, Dec. 6, 2014). Anderson says, "I do hate homosexuals and if hating homosexuals makes our church a hate group then that's what we are" (cited from Schlatter, SPLC). Of the 2016 Orlando nightclub shooting Anderson said, "The good news is that there's 50 less pedophiles in this world, because these homosexuals are just a bunch of disgusting perverts and pedophiles" ("Gay Hating Preacher," *Sunday Express*, Sept. 16, 2016). Anderson preached "Why I Hate Barack Obama" and said he prayed for the president's death. Anderson is a deeply confused individual who should not be in the ministry. When James and John wanted to call down fire upon those who rejected the Lord, Christ rebuked them and said they were of the wrong spirit (Luke 9:54-56). To try to put a Gentile nation under the law of Moses is

dispensational confusion. Anderson denies the Holocaust, holds to Replacement Theology, believes that God is finished with Israel, rejects biblical repentance, believes that salvation doesn't have evidence, and denies the imminency of the Rapture. All of this is documented in [*What about Steven Anderson?*](#) a free eBook available at www.wayoflife.org.

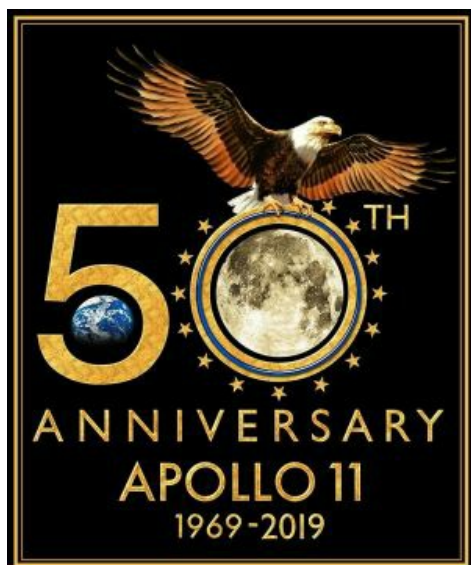
YE MUST BE BORN AGAIN (Friday Church News Notes, July 19, 2019, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - "Our message is that every man 'must be born again,' and that whatever may happen to him short of that is of no value whatsoever from the standpoint of his relationship to God. The New Testament teaching is that the unbeliever is all wrong. It is not merely his ideas of art or drama that are wrong; everything about him is wrong. His particular views are wrong because his whole view is wrong, because he himself is wrong" (D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones, *Preaching and Preachers*, p. 141).

SCIENTISTS IMPROVING GAS TURBINES BY STUDYING A BEETLE (Friday Church News Notes, July 19, 2019, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from "Biomimicry: God's Designs and Man's Imitations," *Creation Worldview*: "Various species of



Bombardier Beetle are found around the world. They are about one-half inch long. Inside their bodies they have chambers and they produce various chemicals along with both reactant inhibitors and accelerants. When these beetles are attacked they initiate a chemical reaction that takes place just outside their bodies. The beetle has produced hydroquinones and hydrogen peroxide which is mixed to produce a series of violent explosions. The temperature reaches 212 degrees Fahrenheit (100 degrees Celsius) which turns the water left over from the reaction into steam; then at up to 500 times per second; and speeds that range from eight up to 43 m.p.h. (13 to 69 k.p.h.); through a twin set of spray nozzles whose direction can be controlled; these beetles spray hot toxic chemicals onto their attacker. The attackers have learned the hard way to stay away from the scalding irritating defense system. In essence, the Bombardier Beetle has a small rocket engine built into its body. The design of its internal chambers and defense mechanism has been used to improve the ignition systems of gas turbines and the inflation systems for automobile air bags."

THE APOLLO PROGRAM AND THE FLAT EARTHERS (Friday Church News Notes, July 26, 2019, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Flat earthers must be in tizzy-fit mode these days with the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of Apollo 11, the first moon landing, which occurred on July 20, 1969. America's Apollo program was one of the most amazing achievements of human history, if not the most. Noah built a massive ship to save mankind and the animal kingdom from the global flood, and he did it without the help



of tens of thousands of engineers, but Apollo took men off of the face of this earth and transported them to the moon. Men walked on the moon! There is no doubt. They photographed our globe. The Blue Marble photo taken on December 7, 1972, by the crew of Apollo 17 is not a myth. There were 500 eyewitnesses of Christ's resurrection, which is evidence that would stand up in any honest court. There were 400,000 participants in Apollo. I was a personal friend with one of them. Since Apollo, the earth as a globe has been photographed countless times by space machines, not only American, but Russian, European, Indian, Chinese, and Israeli, not only satellites circling the earth, but satellites traveling to far-flung realms of our galaxy. A photo of our globe was taken by Elon Musk's SpaceX solar orbit spacecraft (a cherry red Tesla roadster "driven" by the dummy Starman) in February and another by Israel's Beresheet moon spacecraft in March. Other than confirming the fact that the earth is a globe, which ancient men already knew, what does the modern space program mean? It means that man is made in the image of God and is distinct from the animal kingdom just

as the book of Genesis says. Though man looks a bit like the apes, in fact, he is really nothing like the apes. Apes can figure out how to use sticks to hit one another, but they aren't very good at rocket science. The modern space program also means that Daniel's prophecy of the end times is true that says, "many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased" (Da. 12:4). Finally, the modern space program means that "the coming of the Lord draweth nigh" (James 5:8)! Though we know not the day nor the hour, we can see the day approaching (Hebrews 10:25). By God's grace, we will continue to watch and serve.

NEIL ARMSTRONG WAS THRILLED TO WALK WHERE JESUS WALKED

(Friday Church News Notes, July 26, 2019, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Neil Armstrong, the first man to walk on the moon, died in 2012 at age 82. An astronaut, aerospace engineer, Navy fighter pilot (who flew 78 combat missions over North Korea), and university professor, Armstrong was famous as a man of few words, yet he uttered some of history's most memorable ones. When he first stepped on the moon, he exclaimed, "This is one small step for [a] man, one giant leap for mankind." He said something else that was memorable, and I am reminded of it on every trip to Israel. Not long after the Apollo 11 moon landing, Armstrong visited



Jerusalem and was guided by archaeologist Meir Ben-Dov, one of the excavators of the southern Temple Mount. Armstrong asked him to point out a place where Jesus would have walked, and Ben-Dov took him to the Huldah Gates and showed him the recently excavated southern steps. Armstrong asked if these were the original steps, and Ben-Dov replied, "Yes." Armstrong said, "So Jesus stepped right here?" and Ben-Dov again confirmed it. To this, Armstrong said, "I have to tell you. I am more excited stepping on these stones than I was stepping on the moon." This account is part of Israel's official two-year training program for guides, and it also appears in *From Beirut to Jerusalem* by Thomas Friedman.

JUDGE SHOULD BE TRIED FOR MURDER

(Friday Church News Notes, July 26, 2019, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Last week, 77-year-old Albert Flick was convicted of the murder of Kimberly Dobbie in 2018. It took the jury all of 40 minutes to convict the man. He should not have been free. In 1979, he was convicted of murdering his wife by stabbing her more than a dozen times in front of her daughter, but he was sentenced to only 25 years. In 2010, he was convicted of assaulting another woman, but the judge ignored the wise recommendation of the prosecutor for a long sentence because of his murderous history and proven character. The judge reasoned that the man wouldn't be a threat because of his age, which would be 72 at the time of his release, and it didn't make sense to keep him in prison. The old coot was out of prison again in 2014, and four years later he stabbed 48-year-old Kimberly to



death because she would not accept his romantic overtures. She was trying to leave town. The homeless mother, who sadly had no man to protect her, was stabbed at least 11 times in front her 11-year-old twin sons. These judges should be charged with a crime for releasing a vile murderer to the public. If the previous judge had listened to the Son of God, who is incarnate infinite wisdom, he would have understood that murder is not an age issue; it is a heart issue. Of course, they don't teach that in American law schools any more. Age does not quench evil thoughts. Only the blood of Christ can purify the heart (Acts 15:9; 1 Peter 1:22). "For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: All these evil things come from within, and defile the man" (Mark 7:20-23).

BEAUTY QUEEN LOSES CROWN AT THE HANDS OF THE SPEECH MAFIA FOR HER CONSERVATIVE VIEWS (Friday Church News Notes, July 26, 2019, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The *Daily Wire* reports, "Twenty-year-old conservative activist and prominent Trump supporter Kathy Zhu was reportedly stripped of her

Miss Michigan crown from the Miss World America Organization over past 'insensitive' social media posts and her refusal to try on a hijab at a college event in 2018. Zhu is a Chinese immigrant who moved to the United States at age five; she became popular in conservative circles for her support for Donald Trump during the 2016 election and for fighting off students attempting to get her expelled from the University of Central Florida for refusing to try on a hijab ... Zhu was named as an Indiana and Michigan 2019 national finalist earlier this week in a bid to move on to the Miss Teen World America preliminary and finals set for October. ... However, the student was soon informed by the organization via email that she would have to turn in her sash and crown and disassociate with the group over past 'offensive, insensitive, and inappropriate' social media posts. 'Miss World America's State/National/Chief Director accused me of being racist, Islamophobic, and insensitive,' Zhu wrote in a post via Twitter, captioning screenshots of an email exchange between her and Miss World America. 'They stripped me of my Miss Michigan title due to my refusal to try on a hijab in 2018, my tweet about black on black gun violence, and 'insensitive' statistical tweets.' ... Responding to Laurie DeJack, [Miss World America Michigan State Director] Zhu wrote via text, 'How is that racist? It's statistics. Didn't know statistics were racist'" ("Miss World America Strips Trump Supporter of Title," *Daily Wire*, July 19, 2019). **POSTSCRIPT:** In the midst of the wholesale assault on freedom of religion and speech, we keep our focus on Jesus Christ and His business. While we don't support

modern beauty contests because of the immodest attire, among other things, the Kathy Zhu story reminds us of the All Persia Beauty Contest about 2,500 years ago in one of the largest, most powerful empires of history. In fact, it seemed invincible until Alexander the Great came blazing in from the west. But one hundred thirty years before Alexander's birth, history's greatest beauty contest was held. It was the search for the emperor's new queen. Here was the plan: "Then said the king's servants that ministered unto him, Let there be fair young virgins sought for the king: And let the king appoint officers in all the provinces of his kingdom, that they may gather together all the fair young virgins unto Shushan the palace, to the house of the women, unto the custody of Hege the king's chamberlain, keeper of the women; and let their things for purification be given *them*: And let the maiden which pleaseth the king be queen instead of Vashti. And the thing pleased the king; and he did so" (Esther 2:2-4). The efficient royal messengers fanned out across the kingdom on horses, donkeys, mules, and camels, from the Indus Valley to Ionia, from the Caucasian Mountains to Egypt and northern Africa. They searched among the Lycians, the Lydians, the Phrygians, the Thracians, the Syrians, the Cilicians, the Phoenicians, the Mesopotamians, the Medians, the Caspians, the Bactrians, the Armenians, the Parthians, the Sogdians, the



Ethiopians, and others. The young Jewish woman Esther won the contest and the king's heart because she was God's chosen instrument in saving the Jews at that time and place. The same God who was in control of events then, yet is not even mentioned in the book of Esther, is still in control today, and His people are still in His hands.

BEE COLOGNE (Friday Church News Notes, July 26, 2019, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is from *Creation Moments*, July 2, 2019: "Imagine being in a party that's all packed into one room and everyone is talking. Under these conditions it's often difficult to hear, or at least, understand what others around you are saying. Now imagine that all of these people look nearly identical. None has any noticeable



distinguishing features that make him different from anyone else in the room. Now, to make matters worse, you have been informed that you are to find the person in the room who was not invited to the party. That's the impossible situation that honeybees constantly face. However, the noisy room I have just described is noisy in two ways. Bees not only communicate through sound. They also use scents to communicate. And

the hive is full of scents. Yet honeybees are constantly alert to bees who are not members of the hive. Invaders are killed. How can bees so successfully protect the hive? Entomologists have discovered that members of a hive all carry the same chemical password. The scent must be very distinctive because the hive is filled with smells. It also seems that all honeybees may use a specific combination and subtle variations of only two chemicals. Yet each hive can instantly tell whether another bee carries the specific chemical password. The complexity of this avenue of beehive defense shows not only a wise and powerful Creator. It also shows us that He cares for what He has created. He cares for *you*, too. Learn more about the specific details of His love for you in the Bible. Ref. Pennisi. E. 'Bees use Chemical Passwords to Show Kinship,' *Science News*, July 4, 1992."

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- Standing for the whole counsel of God. (Acts 20:27; Jude 3)
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