

# O Timothy

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

A Monthly Newsletter for Spiritual Protection and Edification

Volume 36 - Issue 10 - October 2019



*"Good fundamental Baptists and others that refuse the teachings of the charismatic crowd concerning tongues, signs, miracles, and so forth are now singing their music in our churches and preparing our people for the world, the flesh and the devil." (Sears, Baptist Bible Tribune, 1981). Page 6.*

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



## MY JOURNEY FROM CONTEMPLATIVE TO THE KJV

The following is published by permission of the author, Marybeth Lane:

I became a Christian when I was a teenager through a para-church organization, and I always had a love for God's word. I was adopted into a family that attended the local Methodist church sporadically. My grandmother gave me a Bible when I was in second grade. I treasured my time alone in God's word, and that craving to know the scriptures grew throughout my life. The primary version that I used during my formative years was the NIV '84, which I assumed was sound.

When I was in college, I started to lead Bible studies for high school girls. I truly loved teaching God's word. It wasn't until I was married that I began to develop an interest in other versions of the Bible. In my thirties, I was leading several groups of women and teenagers.



Ed & Marybeth Lane

The main question that I kept hearing from these women had to do with which version of the Bible was the most accurate. I kept hearing from other leaders that the NASB

was the most accurate version. So, I would simply regurgitate that answer to others...until about ten years ago.

At that point in my life, I decided I was going to read a new version of the Bible every six months. I read the majority of the popular Bible versions over the next few years.

It was interesting to see how my views on God would change with each version. For instance, when I read the The Message version I found myself becoming very mystical in my response to God...sound doctrine was slowly replaced with pseudo-spiritual experiences. (\*\*For more information regarding those contemplative experiences, please see a brief summary at the end of this article.)

While reading the NKJV, I was struck by the word “slave” that was used instead of the word “servant.” I adopted this kind of slave-like position towards God, which was very unbiblical. Finally, after reading through many versions, I was faced with the fact that the only well-known version that I had left to read was the dreaded King James Version!!

I thought the KJV was going to be very difficult to read, but after doing some research on the reason behind some

of the language that is used, I began to appreciate the “ye” and the “thou.”

The most shocking verse for me to read was Acts 8:37. I couldn’t believe that the other versions that I had been reading did not include this extremely important passage on believer’s baptism. Consequently, I started to research what else was missing, and I was flabbergasted to find all of the changes that had taken place. (\*\*For more information on the changes, please see the link below.)

I had always believed that the Bible was the infallible word of God, but how could all of these versions be right when they didn’t agree? Now I felt it was more important than ever to figure out what was going on. My husband would come home from work to find me sitting for weeks on end on our king size bed with books spread out everywhere as I was desperately trying to unlock the reason behind the changes. Brother Cloud’s writings on the subject were especially helpful to me during this season.

My husband, Ed, was supportive of my research yet extremely skeptical of my discoveries. Also, Ed had many whole passages of the NIV ‘84 memorized. The thought of changing to the KJV felt totally overwhelming to him. Ed had been an attorney for over 20 years and was trained in law school to search for evidence, no matter the cost. Ed started digging into the research that I presented him, and within six months he became convinced of the authenticity and reliability of the King James Version of the Bible to the exclusion of all other English versions. It was a blessing that Ed and I could share this common love for God’s written word.

The greatest testimony to me regarding the truth of the King James Bible was far more than simply the facts that I uncovered, but it was the unexpected fruit that began to manifest in my life, my husband’s life, and in our marriage. This word truly was quick and powerful, and sharper than a two-edged sword. Nothing in the KJV was watered down.

While I am far from perfect, I did start to notice the things of this world having less and less power over me. My husband was led to give up his full time law practice to become a street evangelist, while at the same time God was leading me to keep my place in the home. The powerful words of the KJV Bible gave me the grace and power to walk out this new calling of ours without me

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back page of the magazine

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trying to take over God's role of being our financial provider. Our Father truly knows what we need, and we have never been without.

I also noticed I had a deeper desire to please the Lord with the way that I lived my life. The fruit in my life was the greatest convincing factor that I was reading the perfect, infallible word of God. No other version of the Bible yielded the kind of fruit that Ed and I were experiencing.

Due to my exposure to the Message Bible, along with reading *The Pursuit of God* by A.W. Tozer (and other similar books), I found myself studying Roman Catholic contemplative mystics. This ultimately led me into a full-blown contemplative prayer life. The frightening thing is that I strongly believed that Tozer, who is highly respected in evangelical circles, was a doctrinally sound teacher.

There are many "bridge" authors who teach mostly solid doctrine, but subtly lead people away from the truth of God, and onto the treacherous path of heresy. Tozer praises the Catholic mystic Teresa of Avila (who levitated and had physically painful visions of demonic entities stabbing her) as a godly example to follow. After reading some of her writings, I began studying the works of other authors, such as Henri Nouwen, Dallas Willard, and Richard Foster.

These authors led me further down the path of occultic teaching masquerading as Christianity, to mystics such as Madame Guyon, Francois Fenelon, and Brother Lawrence. I continued down this path until I began studying the writings of Thomas Merton (a Buddhist, Catholic monk) and Thomas Keating. These men were clearly both practicing and teaching interfaithism. I could not go any further. I knew in my heart that if I crossed this line, I would have officially launched myself into complete apostasy.

I am eternally grateful for the KJV Bible, Brother Cloud's teachings on the dangers of the contemplative movement, and for discernment ministries like Lighthouse Trails Research. After a diligent search, my husband and I found a solid King James Bible teaching church. The Lord greatly used His true Word, plus a few sound ministries, to bring the light that I desperately needed to see what it truly meant to follow after the real Jesus of the real Bible.

I repented from and renounced all of the contemplative practices that I had participated in, such as, centering prayer, repetitive prayers, healing prayer, visualization, and spiritual disciplines.

Consequently, I focused on my KJV Bible and a few KJV teachers that I knew I could trust, to grow me by way of sound, biblical doctrine. One of my favorite verses, and one that has proven true in my life, is the last part of Hebrews 11:6, "He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him." The Lord has been so very faithful to lead me out of darkness and into His marvelous light.

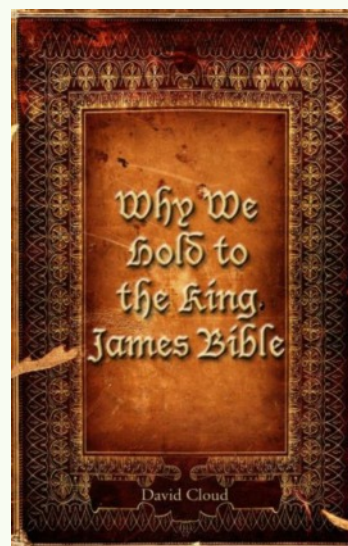
Lastly, I will leave with you a link to my husband's blog on the KJV version. Ed has run far ahead of me on this issue and has a firm grasp on the history of the Greek manuscripts, which underpin all of the Bible versions, along with the other evidence (deletions and additions to the text), which are crucial for understanding exactly what has happened to God's eternal written word over the last 150 years.

For more information on this topic, please click the link below.

<http://followingjesuschrist3.com/2015/10/24/the-bible-version-controversy-a-brief-history/>

## Why We Hold To The King James Bible

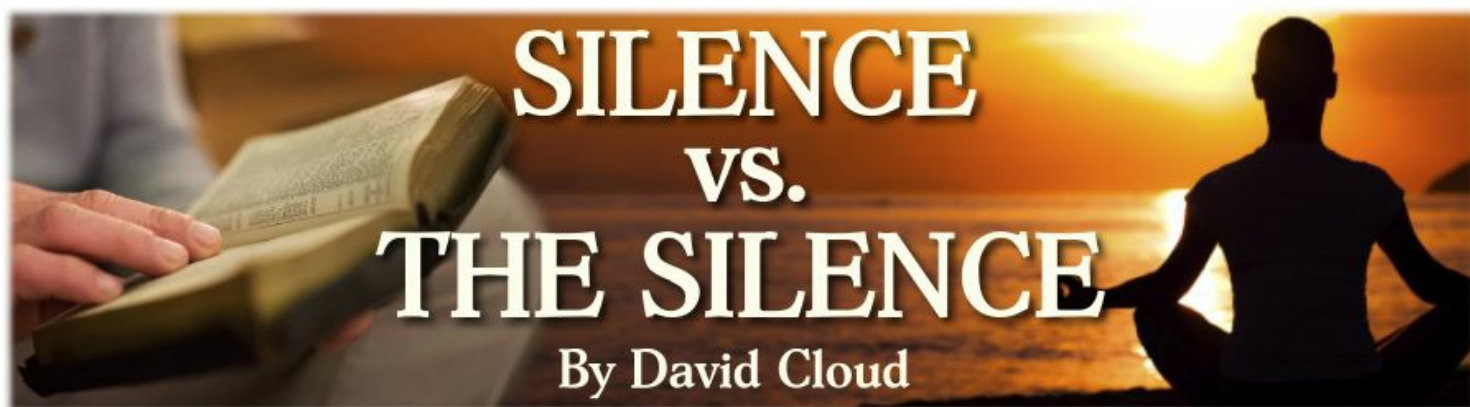
By David Cloud



The book contains an exposition of the doctrine of Bible preservation, documentation of the apostasy that enveloped the 19th century as modern textual criticism was devised, and documentation of the role played by Unitarians in the development of modern textual criticism.

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There is a vast difference between biblical contemplation and the contemplative prayer that is sweeping through evangelicalism. It is the difference between “silence” and “the silence.”

In biblical contemplation, silence refers simply to a quiet place in which the soul can effectively seek the Lord. In Scripture it is called seeking the Lord (Psalm 105:3; Isaiah 55:6), waiting on the Lord (Psalm 69:6), meditating on the Lord (Psalm 104:34), meditating on God’s Word (Psalm 1:2).

In these times, when most of us use computers and smart phones and our waking hours are filled to the brim with distracting busyness, it is important to have daily periods of silence for spiritual devotion. During these times we don’t sit with an EMPTY MIND and DO NOTHING; rather we open the Bible and read and meditate on its teaching, and we pray IN WORDS to God the Father through Jesus Christ by the wisdom and direction of the Holy Spirit.

On the other hand, “the silence” of contemplative prayer refers to pursuing God beyond the Bible, beyond thinking. It refers to putting aside thoughts through mechanisms such as mantras.

It has been popularized by contemplative gurus such as Richard Foster and Dallas Willard and is promoted by many evangelical leaders today, including Rick Warren, Bill Hybels, Chuck Swindoll, David Jeremiah, Beth Moore, Mark Driscoll, Max Lucado, Ed Young, Sr., Gary Thomas, Philip Yancy, Lee Strobel, and Charles Stanley. (See “Evangelicals Turning to Roman Catholic Contemplative Spirituality” at the Way of Life web site.)

Harry Plantinga, director of Christian Classics Ethereal Library, describes contemplative prayer as follows: “As

I was growing up, my church experience seemed somewhat heady to me--concerned more about correct belief than about actually loving God. Whether or not that was a correct perception, I wanted more. I wanted not just to know about God, I wanted to know God ... Christian mysticism addresses that longing of the heart. ... Webster defines mysticism as ‘the doctrine that it is possible to achieve communion with God through contemplation and love WITHOUT THE MEDIUM OF HUMAN REASON.’ That definition captures what I have in mind by the term” (*CCEL Times*, April 1, 2008).

In his pursuit of contemplative mysticism, Plantinga promotes Roman Catholic mystic writings such as *The Cloud of Unknowing*. This book, which came out of the darkness of Roman Catholic monasticism, encourages the use of a mantra to drive away conscious thoughts with the objective of entering into an experiential communion with God in “the nothingness.”

*The Cloud of Unknowing* says: “... DISMISS EVERY CLEVER OR SUBTLE THOUGHT no matter how holy or valuable. Cover it over with a thick cloud of forgetting because in this life only love can touch God as he is in himself, never knowledge” (chapter 8, pp. 59, 60).

“Focus your attention on a simple word such as sin or God ... and WITHOUT THE INTERVENTION OF ANALYTICAL THOUGHT allow yourself to experience directly the reality it signifies” (chapter 36, p. 94).

“For in this darkness we experience an intuitive understanding of everything material and spiritual WITHOUT GIVING SPECIAL ATTENTION TO ANYTHING IN PARTICULAR” (chapter 68).

Richard Foster, one of the most prominent gurus of contemplative mysticism, says repetitious contemplative

prayers such as breath prayers “BIND THE MIND” (*Prayer: Finding the Heart’s True Home*, p. 124).

This is not biblical meditation; it is a dangerous recipe for demonic delusion.

We must seek God through faith, and faith comes only by God’s Word.

Hebrews 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

Romans 10:17 So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

If we try to know and “experience” God beyond the pages of Scripture, beyond the teaching of the Bible, we are walking in disobedience and unbelief and are setting ourselves up for spiritual deception from the hands of the one who appears as an angel of light (2 Corinthians 11:14).

The Scriptures instructs the child of God to be “sober” and “vigilant” (1 Peter 5:8), which means to be in control of one’s mind and heart in order to protect oneself from spiritual error. Sober-mindedness is the opposite of the empty-mindedness of contemplative prayer.

The late Roman Catholic Buddhist Thomas Merton, one of the most influential contemplative writers, described his own delusion in these frightful words: “In the end the contemplative suffers the anguish of realizing that he no longer knows what God is” (Merton, *The New Seeds of Contemplation*).

Merton’s contemplative mysticism at a Cistercian monastery in Kentucky led him to Buddhism. He traveled to Sri Lanka to meditate before Buddhist images before traveling to Thailand to participate in an interfaith dialogue. There he died of electrocution.

Contemplative practices, such as the Jesus Prayer, visualizing prayer, and centering prayer are exceedingly dangerous. Many who practice these things end up believing in a pagan concept of God such as pantheism (God is everything) and panentheism (God is in everything). Through these practices, people typically become increasingly ecumenical and interfaith in thinking.

One does not have to choose between knowing *about* God and knowing God personally. GOD IS KNOWN IN CHRIST THROUGH HIS WORD. The study of the Bible is not an end in itself and should never be a mere dry intellectual exercise; it is the means whereby we know God, and this is something we can grow in year by year.

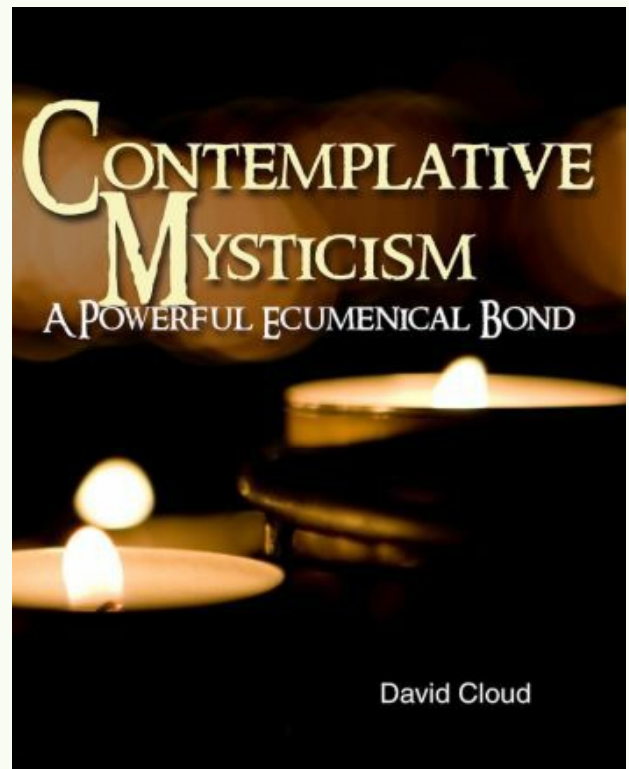
“But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night” (Psalm 1:2).

“Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust” (2 Peter 1:4).

For more on this see the book [CONTEMPLATIVE MYSTICISM](#), which is available in print and eBook editions from Way of Life Literature.

## Contemplative Mysticism

By David Cloud



Available in print and eBook editions from:  
Way of Life Literature

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# CCM Weakens The Biblicist Stance

By David Cloud

The following is excerpted from [Baptist Music Wars](#) (slightly enlarged), available for free reading and downloading from [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org).

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

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

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

Dr. Frank Garlock of Majesty Music warned,

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

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

"Perhaps nothing precipitates a slide toward New Evangelicalism more than the introduction of Contemporary Christian Music. This inevitably leads toward a gradual slide in other areas as well until the

entire church is infiltrated by ideas and programs alien to the original position of the church" (Pickering, *The Tragedy of Compromise: The Origin and Impact of the New Evangelicalism*, Bob Jones University Press, 1994).

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

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

In *New Neutralism II: Exposing the Gray of Compromise* (1991), John Ashbrook observed, "As the message declines, so does the music."

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

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

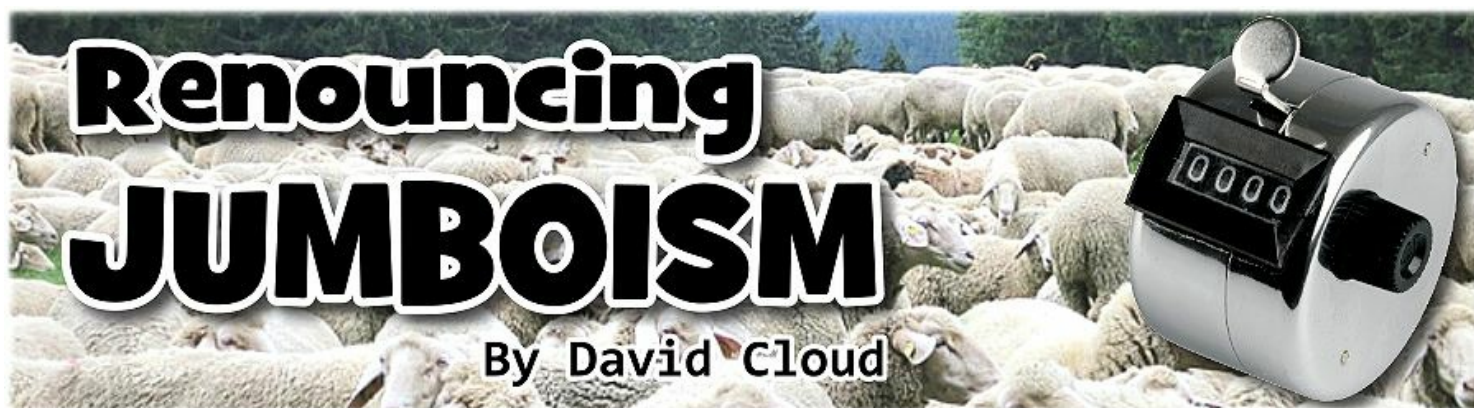
We can see this happening on every hand today.

**The reason is that contemporary worship music is not just music. Even when its lyrics are biblical and its rock rhythm is toned down, it represents a philosophy of Christianity that is opposed to what Biblicist churches stand for. It is a philosophy that is opposed to a staunch, unwavering doctrinal stance, opposed to separation from the world, opposed to ecclesiastical separation.**

The writers of the old hymns, though they were not all Baptist in theology, did not represent a movement that was brashly opposed to old-fashioned Biblicist, separatist Christianity, whereas the contemporary worship crowd most definitely does represent such a movement.

Dan Lucarini, author of *Why I Left the Contemporary Christian Music Movement: Confessions of a Former Worship Leader*, says:

“NO ONE SHOULD DENY THE POWER OF MUSIC TO PROSELYTIZE! Pastors in particular must defend their flocks from false teaching, heresies and ‘ear ticklers’ who bring worldly sensuality into the congregation; you are right to point out how easily this comes into a church through worship music. IT SEEMS WISER TO DECLINE THE USE OF WHAT SEEMS TO BE A PERFECTLY GOOD SONG, RATHER THAN TO GIVE ANY HONOR AND HINT OF ENDORSEMENT TO THE COMPOSER AND HIS/HER MISSION” (e-mail, May 24, 2009).



If pastors want to pursue a stronger biblical course for their churches, they must stop measuring by numbers, whether Sunday School or membership or special meetings or offerings or missionaries supported. Such a test isn't found in Scripture. It is a man-made invention, and the fruit has been terrible. In truth, numbers mean nothing in relation to the true spiritual condition of a church, and to focus on numbers can only puff up or discourage.

In modern times, the numbers philosophy was invented by men such as J. Frank Norris. Chester Tulga called it “jumboism.” There was a constant emphasis on numbers, a constant reporting of numbers, a constant boasting about numbers.

The numbers were published in Norris's paper. In September 1921 it was reported that the Sunday School had 5,263 present. In Sept. 13, 1919, it was reported that

12,000 attended First Baptist of Ft. Worth's three services. The numbers racket increased when Norris pastored Temple Baptist in Detroit and First Baptist in Ft. Worth at the same time. He used every opportunity to brag about the big numbers. In the front of his 1946 *Practical Lectures on Romans*, Norris reported on 11 years of joint pastorate in terms of numbers: 18,200 additions; \$1,900,000 raised; \$2 million in real estate; 15 million copies of the *Fundamentalist* paper distributed; traveled 854,000 miles. He boasted that the two churches had “the two largest Sunday Schools in the world judged by the average attendance.” The combined membership in 1946 was reported to be 25,000. Norris boasted of pastoring the largest church in the world.

The philosophy of “jumboism” was adopted by a great many fundamental Baptists who came after Norris. It seemed to be summarized by “get as many as you can as fast as you can.” It was promoted by the *Sword of the*

*Lord* in John R. Rice's day. I saw it practiced at Highland Park Baptist Church in Chattanooga, Tennessee, when I was a student at Tennessee Temple in the 1970s.

When Lee Roberson became pastor in 1942, the membership was 1,000, the Sunday morning attendance 400, and the mid-week service attendance was about 10, so 60% of the members were nowhere to be found, totally inactive, and only 1% had enough Christianity to attend a mid-week service (James Wigton, *Lee Roberson: Always about His Father's Business*, 2010, p. 22).

That pattern has been typical both for Southern Baptists and for fundamental Baptists, and that pattern never changed at Highland Park even as the numbers exploded. When Dr. Roberson retired in 1982, Highland Park's membership was reported to have been more than 60,000, but Wednesday night attendance was about 3,000.

That is the best measure of active membership (we will ignore the fact that the 3,000 included by Temple students who weren't members of Highland Park), and that would leave 57,000 unaccounted for!

The huge membership numbers got Highland Park listed as the world's largest church in some years, but since the vast majority of those "members" were not active, what did it mean? And the church no longer exists. It didn't even survive one generation beyond Dr. Roberson's pastorate.

By the test of numbers, the "increased with goods" church at Laodicea was preeminent over "little strength" church at Philadelphia (Re. 3:8, 17), but we know that this was not true in Christ's eyes.

The pastors in the early churches are never introduced as "great," and the churches are never called "great," "biggest," "fastest growing," or "most exciting." That is not New Testament language; it is the language of the world.

To seek to be the biggest and the greatest is not the lowliness of mind whereby each esteems others better than themselves (Php. 2:3). It is not being clothed with humility (1 Pe. 5:5).

A church of 50 that is striving to be a pure lump for Christ (1 Co. 5:6-8) and a true spiritual house made up of living stones (1 Pe. 2:5) is far more pleasing to God, has far

more true spiritual potential, than a church of hundreds that is a mixed multitude.

"Your glorying *is* not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump? Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us: Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened *bread* of sincerity and truth" (1 Co. 5:6-8).

Instead of "How many are you running in Sunday School?" or "What's your Sunday morning attendance?" or "What was the attendance of your last special day?" or "How many kids were at your camp this year?" biblical questions would look like the following:

- Are you seeing any life-changing conversions of sinners?
- What percentage of those who have professed Christ have gone on to be baptized and to grow in Christ and serve Him?
- What percentage of your members are true disciples of Christ and real Christian pilgrims?
- What percentage are real Bible students?
- What percentage faithfully, enthusiastically attend prayer meetings?
- Do you have real prayer meetings?
- What percentage of your homes are holy and separated from the world?
- What percentage of your homes are effectually raising their children for Christ?
- What percentage of the husbands are the spiritual leaders of their homes?
- What percentage of the wives are keepers at home?
- What percentage of the youth are on fire for the Lord, meaning surrendered to Christ and separated from the world from the heart and testing their friends, music, and social media by God's Word and being transformed by the renewing of the mind by being serious Bible students and seeking to prove the perfect will of God according to the path of Romans 12?
- What percentage of the members are actively, daily seeking to share the gospel and win people to Christ?
- Is the church holding the line against the world's music?
- Is the church training any men for the ministry?
- Is the church spiritually stronger today than it was 10 years ago?
- How many new churches have you started?

If these are the questions that preachers are asking, they will have different goals, different plans, different programs, different emphases than most churches today.

But they will be laying a foundation to avoid the great collapse that we see on every hand.

When it comes to numbers, God's thoughts are not our thoughts. When Gideon had an impressive army of 32,000, God said, Too many. When 22,000 went home, God still said, Too many. For His own purposes, He cut Gideon's army down to 300. God doesn't want man to get any glory for what He does (Jg. 7:2). When David counted his people to ascertain his greatness, God was far from pleased (2 Sa. 24:1-17).

One day God said to the church at Corinth, in effect, "You have too many members. You must excommunicate one because of his unrepentant sin. Then you will have a pure body and then you have my power." See 1 Corinthians 5. To decrease in numbers by biblical discipline is the path to spiritual blessing. This is God's way of thinking and operating.

There are no "great" men, only faithful or unfaithful ones. The same is true for churches. Jesus taught that when we have done everything that God has commanded, we should say, "We are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do" (Lu. 17:10).

The preacher who takes the Bible seriously in these days and sets out to lead a church that is striving to be a pure lump (1 Co. 5:7-8) and a spiritual house (1 Pe. 2:5), will probably lose people, at least in the short term. It's almost guaranteed, because the foundation wasn't properly laid. But having a truly biblical church that pleases the the Lord is worth any price.

Every shepherd will give account to the Chief Shepherd. There will be no joking and boasting on that occasion, and the judgment of pastors will not be in groups so that there can be support from one's preacher buddies. "So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God" (Ro. 14:12).

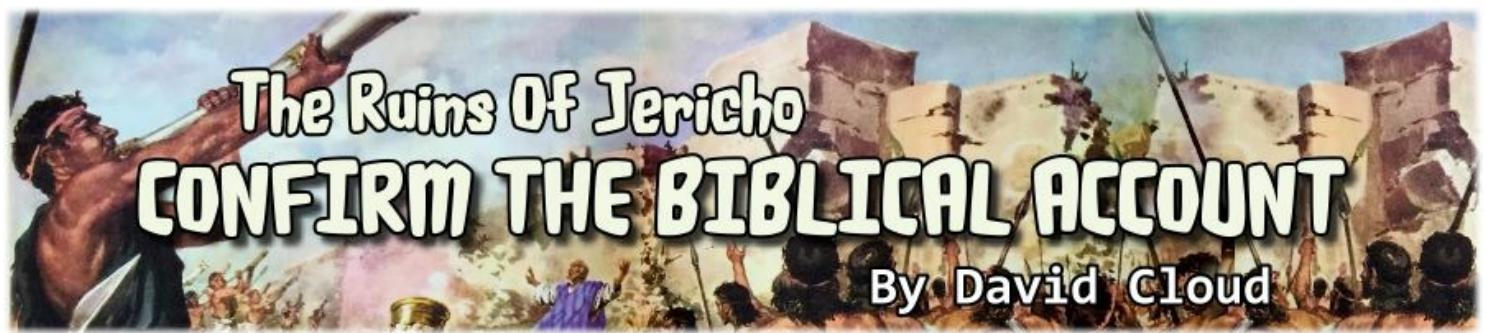
Let me hasten to say that we don't have a goal to make churches small. The goal is to make churches pure. And a pure church has power with God. It will grow, because God is the God of fruit, but it will grow properly in God's will and God's way and God's time, not by human methodology and pragmatism.

It is very sad that men have spoiled God's plan with their worldly thinking.

**IS THE ARCTIC ICE DISAPPEARING?** (Friday Church News Notes, September 13, 2019, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143) - The following is from CreationMoments.com, Aug. 23, 2019: "In 2007, former US Vice-President and Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Al Gore warned that there was a 75% chance that the entire Arctic ice cap would be gone by 2014-16. Yet, the ice still seems to be there! In fact, the famed Northwest Passage does not yet appear to have opened up enough for regular shipping through it. A recent study from Yale University has suggested that the Arctic ice cap is not only under attack from melting at the edges but also in the middle from heat sources at the bottom of the Arctic Ocean. One of the researchers says, 'Presently this heat is trapped below the surface layer. Should it be mixed up to the surface, there is enough heat to entirely melt the sea-ice pack that covers this region for most of the year.' Yet, such warnings have been issued many times before. Britain's Global Warming Policy Foundation--an organization of so-called climate change skeptics--has a compilation of many



doom-laden predictions of an ice-free North Pole--all of which have failed to come to pass. The GWPF shows that there is insufficient data from a mere 40 years of satellite monitoring to make accurate predictions. And there is a natural cycle of warming and cooling, known as the Atlantic Multi-decadal Oscillation. This peaked in 2008 and, therefore, North Atlantic temperatures are on their way down again. Warnings that the Earth's seasons are coming to an end are contradicted by what God said at the end of Genesis 8."



I have stood on the ruins of ancient Jericho three times. It is an amazing experience. From here, you can see the place of a great many biblical events. You can see across the plains of Jordan to ancient Moab, where Moses viewed the land from Mt. Nebo (De. 34:1) and where he died and was buried (De. 34:5-6) and where Israel encamped and prepared for the invasion of Canaan (Jos. 3:16). You can see the place of the Jordan River crossing when God stopped the flow of the water from the north (Jos. 4). You can see the area where Israel camped on the plains east of Jericho at Gilgal and where the men were circumcised as the sign of the Abrahamic covenant (“And the people came up out of Jordan on the tenth day of the first month, and encamped in Gilgal, in the east border of Jericho,” Jos. 4:20). David traveled through here when he was fleeing from Absalom (2 Sa. 17:24). Then he returned through here as the conquering king after having been rejected, a picture of Jesus’ second coming. Elijah fled from Jezebel into the Judean wilderness, and it is possible that the brook Cherith is the brook that flows from Wadi Kelt north of Jericho. It was beyond Jordan that Elijah ascended in a fiery chariot (2 Ki. 2:6-11). John the Baptist baptized on the Jordan (Mt. 3:5-6). Jesus was here when He heard that Lazarus had died and went up to Bethany to heal him (Joh. 10:40-11:3). On His way to Jerusalem before the crucifixion, Jesus passed through here and saved Zacchaeus the tax collector and healed the blind man (Luke 19:1-10, 28-40). Herod built a palace here, where he died, and from here his body was transported to the Herodium to the southwest for burial.

Of all of the biblical events associated with this place, perhaps the most fascinating is the account of the conquering of Jericho itself by Joshua and Israel. And the witness of this account lies at the feet of the modern visitor to the Jericho tel, right in the midst of the modern city.

In the early 20th century it was assumed that the Bible’s account of the conquest of Jericho in the 15th century

BC had been confirmed by the excavations of British archaeologists John and J.B.E. Garstang (1930-36). Their report included photographs of the collapsed walls. They stated that “there is no difficulty now in understanding the note of confident faith which breathes in every line of the Bible narrative.”

In light of the skepticism that permeates the field of archaeology, we would be surprised if such a bold statement were left uncontested. Sure enough, the challenge came a couple of decades later from Kathleen Kenyon who excavated Jericho between 1952-58. She claimed that the city was abandoned at least 150 years before Israel came into the land. Her conclusion was as follows:

“It is a sad fact that of the town walls of the Late Bronze Age, within which period the attack by the Israelites must fall by any dating, not a trace remains ... The excavation of Jericho, therefore, has thrown no light on the walls of Jericho of which the destruction is so vividly described in the Book of Joshua” (Kenyon, *Digging Up Jericho*, 1957, pp. 261-262).

Kenyon’s view prevails. Israel Finkelstein, director of Tel Aviv University’s Institute of Archaeology, is typical in saying that “it’s not a possibility” that Canaan was conquered by Israel as the Bible describes.

John Garstang answered Kenyon and other critics in 1948 in *The Story of Jericho*.

“In this revision he sought to deal with opinions that conflicted with his conclusion that Jericho fell in 1400 BC. Garstang observed that few of these opinions were based on first-hand knowledge of the results of his excavation at Jericho and that many were lacking in logical reasoning or were based on pre-conceptions concerning the date of the Exodus. ... He saw no need to discuss the date of the fall of Jericho ‘as though it were

a matter of debate,’ and said that if there had not been a controversy concerning the date of the Exodus, there probably never would have been any question of the date of Jericho’s fall. He concluded that the date of 1400 BC was plainly indicated by the evidence, which the reader ‘may examine for himself’ (*The Story of Jericho*, p. xiv)” (Joseph Free, *Archaeology and Bible History*, p. 112).

Garstang held to the documentary theory of the Pentateuch, but his archaeological research convinced him that “the historical narrative contained in the Books of Joshua and Judges ... was founded upon fact” (*The Story of Jericho*, p. 341). He spoke of their “remarkable accuracy and fullness of topographical detail.”

Bryant Wood, who has a Ph.D. in Syro-Palestinian archaeology from the University of Toronto and an expert in pottery dating, has also concluded that Kenyon was wrong. In an independent review of the evidence, he found the following: (1) Kenyon ignored evidence, such as certain types of pottery and amulets that would place the date of the destruction at the time of Israel’s entrance into the land. In an earlier excavation in the 1930s, John Garstang had found distinctive pottery decorated with red and black designs that was in use only in the latter part of the 15th century BC, the exact time of Israel’s conquest of the land (“Jericho: Does the Evidence Disprove or Prove the Bible?” *Bible and Spade*, Spring 2003) (2) She ignored the fact that the condition of the ruins perfectly match the Bible’s description of the city’s destruction. She found that the walls had collapsed outward and that the city had been burned. She even noted that the walls were collapsed before the city was burned (Ibid.).

Dr. Wood further examined the excavations of Jericho by an Italian-Palestinian team conducted in the 1990s (Lorenzo Nigro and Nicolo Marchetti under the auspices of the Palestinian Department of Archaeology) and had his picture taken by the retaining wall. The retaining wall held the high walls in place and when the main walls fell the bricks collapsed over the retaining wall to form a ramp for the Israelites to enter the city.

The Italian-Palestinian team brashly stated that they saw no evidence for the biblical account, but men see what we want to see! God’s Word calls the skeptics “willingly ignorant” (2 Pe. 3:3-5). Their skepticism is not based on facts; it is based on the motive to “walk after their own lusts” and not to submit to the God of the Bible.

**When the wrong dating is corrected, the evidence at the Jericho tell fits perfectly with the biblical record, as follows:**

### **1. The city was strongly fortified at the time of Joshua.**

The Canaanite cities were described by Moses as “great and fenced up to heaven” (De. 9:1). In the case of Jericho, there was a double wall. The outer wall consisted of a retaining wall 12-15 feet high, on top of which was a mudbrick wall six feet thick and 20-26 feet high. Inside the outer wall was an embankment that sloped up to the city. On top of this embankment was the inner wall, which was about 12 feet thick and 20-26 feet high. Therefore the top of the inner wall was about five stories above the ground level on which Israel marched around the city.

### **2. The city walls collapsed and formed a ramp, allowing the Israelites to go straight ahead and enter the city.**

“So the people shouted when the priests blew with the trumpets: and it came to pass, when the people heard the sound of the trumpet, and the people shouted with a great shout, that the wall fell down flat, so that the people went up into the city, every man straight before him, and they took the city” (Jos. 6:20).

**3. The city was burned.** “And they burnt the city with fire, and all that *was* therein” (Jos. 6:24). “Once again, the discoveries of archaeology have verified the truth of this record. A portion of the city destroyed by the Israelites was excavated on the east side of the tell.

Wherever the archaeologists reached this level they found a layer of burned ash and debris about one meter (three feet) thick. Kenyon (*Excavations at Jericho*) described the massive devastation as follows. ‘The destruction was complete. Walls and floors were blackened or reddened by fire, and every room was filled with fallen bricks, timbers, and household utensils; in most rooms the fallen debris was heavily burnt, but the collapse of the walls of the eastern rooms seems to have taken place before they were affected by the fire’” (Bryant Wood, “The Walls of Jericho,” *Answers in Genesis*, Mar. 1, 1999).

**4. The walls fell before the city was burned.** Kenyon found “a large deposit of red bricks outside the revetment wall, which formed a sloping incline from the top of this retaining structure to ground level. Both Kenyon and other archaeologists believe these bricks were the remains

of the walls surrounding the city” (Garry Brantley, *Digging for Answers*, p. 62). These bricks were not burned, proving that they fell before the city was burned and not as a result of the burning of the city, just as the Bible says.

**5. Part of the city wall with attached houses was left standing on the north side.** This was probably where Rahab’s house was located. “Then she let them down by a cord through the window: for her house was upon the town wall, and she dwelt upon the wall” (Jos. 2:15).

**6. Containers filled with grain was found in the excavations.** The Bible says the city was taken at the time of harvest (Jos. 3:15). The fact that the grain was found in the ruins of the ancient city, in spite of its great value, fits the biblical account that Joshua forbade the people to take anything from the city for personal use (Jos. 6:17-19). “Both Garstang and Kenyon found many storage jars full of grain that had been caught in the fiery destruction. This is a unique find in the annals of archaeology. Grain was valuable, not only as a source of food, but also as a commodity which could be bartered. Under normal circumstances, valuables such as grain would have been plundered by the conquerors” (Wood).

The containers filled with grain also point to a short siege. In a long siege, the grain would have been consumed by the inhabitants, which doubtless included people from the surrounding towns and villages who were trying to find safety from Israel.

**7. The city was not rebuilt.** It was cursed by Joshua. “And the city shall be accursed, *even* it, and all that *are* therein, to the LORD” (Jos. 6:17). Like Chorazin, Bethsaida, and Capernaum (Mt. 11:20-24), the ruins of ancient Jericho stand today in silent witness to the truth of God’s Word and to the judgment of God on unrepentant sinners.

Dr. Wood concludes as follows: “Jericho was once thought to be a ‘Bible problem’ because of the seeming disagreement between archaeology and the Bible. When the archaeology is correctly interpreted, however, just the opposite is the case. The archaeological evidence supports the historical accuracy of the biblical account in every detail. Every aspect of the story that could possibly be verified by the findings of archaeology is, in fact, verified.”

*Wikipedia’s* article on Bryant Wood says, “He is known for his 1990 proposed redating of the destruction of Jericho to accord with the biblical chronology of c. 1400 B.C. The proposal was later (1995) contradicted by new radiocarbon evidence, and Kathleen Kenyon’s dating of c. 1550 B.C. remains the date accepted in scholarly publications.”

(In my experience, *Wikipedia* should *never* be trusted when it deals with people and topics touching on the defense of the Bible.)

Actually, the radiocarbon evidence is inconclusive (which is typical) but it actually falls *against* Kenyon’s dating and gives support for Wood’s position! See [http://creationwiki.org/Jericho\\_chronology\\_dispute](http://creationwiki.org/Jericho_chronology_dispute)

Further, Wood gives several important reasons why Kenyon’s analysis should be rejected, none of which are mentioned in the *Wikipedia* “hit piece.” Consider the following:

**First**, she only excavated one-third of the territory that her predecessor John Garstang had excavated in the 1930s.

**Second**, she claimed that Cypriot bichrome pottery was absent from the site and that this was evidence that Jericho had ceased to exist by 1400 B.C., but Garstang had published descriptions of a “considerable quantity of pottery decorated with red and black paint which appears to be imported Cypriot bichrome ware, the type of pottery Kenyon was looking for and did not find” (Wood, 1990, 16[2]:52).

**Third**, she ignored evidence that she herself had unearthed that points to a 1400 B.C. destruction of the city. This consisted of bowls, cooking pots, and small dipper juglets “all of which were characteristic of the Late Bronze Age (c. 1550-1400 B.C.)” (Garry Brantley, *Digging for Answers*, p. 61).

Fourth, she ignored the amazing archaeological facts that confirm the Bible’s account of the fall of Jericho, which we have examined in this report. She found the walls of the city and she found that they had fallen down in the manner described in the Bible. She found the massive burning. She found the grain.

## 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?



### IMPORTANT RULING FOR FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND RELIGION BY THE U.S. EIGHTH CIRCUIT COURT

(Friday Church News Notes, August 30, 2019, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143)

- The following is excerpted from David French, "A Federal Court Strikes a Powerful Blow for Freedom of Speech and Religious Freedom," *National Review*, Aug. 24, 2019: "Earlier today, the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals upheld the constitutional order, limited the reach of expansive nondiscrimination laws, and protected a Christian couple from having to choose between their business and their conscience. The facts of the case are simple. The plaintiffs, Carl and Angel Larsen, are videographers who create 'commercials, short films, and live-event productions.' While they work with anyone of any race, sex, sexual orientation, or religion, they will not produce videos that advance viewpoints that violate their Christian beliefs. That includes videos that 'contradict biblical truth; promote sexual immorality; support the destruction of unborn children; promote racism or racial division; incite violence; degrade women; or promote any conception of marriage other than as a lifelong institution between one man and one woman.' The Larsens hoped to begin producing wedding videos, but Minnesota interpreted its human-

rights act to require them to 'produce both opposite-sex- and same-sex-wedding videos, or none at all.' Minnesota would also require them to produce videos that depicted 'same- and opposite-sex weddings in an equally *positive* light.' This raised the possibility that a gay couple who didn't like the subjective quality of a video the Larsens produced for them could seek state sanctions based on alleged sexual-orientation discrimination. With the assistance of my friends and former colleagues at the Alliance Defending Freedom, the Larsens filed suit, claiming that Minnesota's rule would compel them to speak in support of messages they oppose. The trial court ruled in favor of the state, and the Larsens appealed. One of the key constitutional questions of our time is whether the First Amendment will retain its supremacy and potency even as nondiscrimination rules and regulations expand in scope and reach. In this case, the Eighth Circuit answered with an emphatic 'Yes,' and it did so through a majority opinion that provided a clear roadmap for future courts and future controversies. Judge David Stras's majority opinion begins with a simple, obvious, but crucial conclusion. The Larsens's wedding videos are a 'form of speech that is entitled to First Amendment protection.' ... To put it plainly, Minnesota was attempting to engage in one of the most intrusive state actions on the First Amendment. It was attempting to compel the Larsens to deliver a message they opposed. ... Judge Stras understands this reality quite clearly. 'Even antidiscrimination laws, as critically important as they are,' he writes 'must yield to the Constitution. And as compelling as the interest in preventing discriminatory conduct

may be, speech is treated differently under the First Amendment.’ ... We can expect that Minnesota will appeal to the Supreme Court, and if the Court accepts review it will be difficult to see SCOTUS reversing the court of appeals. The case that wedding videos represent protected speech is very strong, and once it’s deemed to be protected speech, the Court would have to contradict key prior precedents to overcome the Larsons’ rights of conscience and compel their speech as a condition of doing business. One should always be cautious when projecting case outcomes, but the Eighth Circuit has laid the judicial foundation for a ruling that should, ultimately, reaffirm the primacy of the Constitution in American law.”

**POOREST 20% OF AMERICANS ARE RICHER ON AVERAGE THAN MOST NATIONS OF EUROPE** (Friday Church News Notes, August 30, 2019, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from James Agresti, “Poorest 20%,” *The Stream*, Aug. 27, 2019: “A groundbreaking study by *Just Facts* has discovered that after accounting for all income, charity, and non-cash welfare benefits like subsidized housing and Food Stamps—the poorest 20% of Americans consume more goods and services than the national averages for *all people* in most affluent countries. This includes the majority of countries in the prestigious Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), including its European members. In other words, if the U.S. ‘poor’ were a nation, it would be one of the world’s richest. Notably, this study was reviewed by



Dr. Henrique Schneider, professor of economics at Nordakademie University in Germany and the chief economist of the Swiss Federation of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises. After examining the source data and *Just Facts*’ methodology, he concluded: ‘This study is sound and conforms with academic standards. I personally think it provides valuable insight into poverty measures and adds considerably to this field of research.’ [This refutes] a July 1st *New York Times* video op-ed that decries ‘fake news’ and calls for ‘a more truthful approach’ to ‘the myth of America as the greatest nation on earth,’ *Times* producers Taige Jensen and Nayeema Raza claim that the U.S. has ‘fallen well behind Europe’ in many respects and has ‘more in common with developing countries than we’d like to admit.’ ... The high consumption of America’s ‘poor’ doesn’t mean they live better than average people in the nations they outpace, like Spain, Denmark, Japan, Greece, and New Zealand. This is because people’s quality of life also depends on their communities and personal choices, like the local politicians they elect, the violent crimes they commit, and the spending decisions they make. Nonetheless, the fact remains that the privilege of living in the U.S. affords poor people with more material

resources than the averages for most of the world’s richest nations. ... The *Times* closes its video by claiming that ‘America may once have been the greatest, but today America, we’re just okay.’ In reality, the U.S. is so economically exceptional that the poorest 20% of Americans are richer than many of the world’s most affluent nations. Last year, the *Times* adopted a new slogan, ‘The truth is worth it.’ Yet, in this case and others, it has twisted the truth in ways that can genuinely hurt people. The *Times* makes other spurious claims about the U.S. in this same video, which will be deflated in future articles.”

**E V A N G E L I C A L H O M E S C H O O L I N G CLASSICAL EDUCATION** (Friday Church News Notes, August 30, 2019, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143) - The cover story for the August 2019 issue of *Christianity Today* is “The Rise of the Bible-Teaching, Plato-Loving, Homeschool Elitists” by Louis Markos. It describes the growth of evangelical homeschooling curriculum that provide a classical education that aims to “raise up a generation of Christians who know the Bible and who live virtuous lives, and who are also firmly grounded in the pagan classics of ancient Greece and Rome, as well as the Roman



Catholic classics of the Middle Ages.” An example is Mars Hill Academy, which “balances pagan (i.e., Homer, Aristotle) and medieval Christian (i.e., Dante, Chaucer) authors with major authors from the last 500 years of European and American literature (i.e., Shakespeare, Tolstoy, Faulkner).” The author claims the movement began in the 1940s with Dorothy Sayers, who was influenced by C.S. Lewis and “was a lover of all things classical and medieval.” Based on Sayer’s work, Douglas Wilson founded Logos School in 1981. The mention of C.S. Lewis is a loud warning to those who have ears. *Christianity Today* thinks it is a good thing that “increasing numbers of evangelicals” have “followed Lewis” to “fantasy lands populated by wizards” and “to the Catholic Middle Ages” and to the pagan “works of ancient Greek and Rome.” *Christianity Today* thinks it is a good thing that “Lewis helped unlock in the evangelical soul a longing for things of which they had been taught to be suspicious: tradition, hierarchy, liturgy, sacrament, numinous awe, and literature that was not specifically Christian.” We consider this, rather, to be evidence that C.S. Lewis was a dangerous man. To be familiar with pagan works can be helpful to the Christian life and ministry (in the sense of understanding world history, for example), if carefully examined through the lens of Scripture, but to

sit at the feet of pagans and to search for light in their gross darkness is unscriptural foolishness. *Christianity Today* admits that “this tectonic shift in the evangelical world has led significant numbers of conservative Protestants to become Catholic, Orthodox, or Anglican—not only out of a longing for liturgy and sacrament but because the classics brought with them a re-encounter with the early church fathers.” But that’s OK, they say, because “they maintain much of their passion for the Bible” and “stand at the forefront of a new conservative ecumenism.” This is nonsense. To accept false sacramental gospels that damn souls to eternal hell is neither biblical nor “conservative.” *Christianity Today* has been leading God’s people astray since its founding by Billy Graham in 1956. “Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper” (Psalm 1:1-3).

**50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ATM IN AMERICA** (Friday Church News Notes, September 6, 2019, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143) - Fifty years ago this week the first Automated Teller Machine in America was unveiled at a bank in Long Island, New York. (The world’s first ATM appeared two years earlier in England.) In America, the original ATM was called a Docuteller. Arriving before credit cards, personal computers, and the Internet, the ATM



produced a major change in society. It created 24/7 banking, made people comfortable dealing directly with machines (robots), and simplified international travel. Today there are 3.5 million ATMs worldwide, but the need for cash dispensing machines is on the decrease in the face of a cashless society. Alexander Joyce of ReJoice Financial says, “[I]t is still very popular with the baby boomer generation. However, due to technology, most millennials don’t even know their PIN number. The new ATM is in our pockets. Your phone, through applications, does most of the functions your bank can” (“90-year-old inventor of the ATM celebrates its 50th birthday,” *Fox News*, Aug. 30, 2019). Global communication and banking technology is a major sign of the times. We can see “the day approaching” (Hebrews 10:25).

**HEAD OF THE JESUITS SAYS SATAN JUST A SYMBOL** (Friday Church News Notes, September 6, 2019, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from “Jesuit Superior General: The Devil Is a Symbol,” *DailyWire.com*, Aug. 21, 2019: “On Wednesday, the Jesuit order’s superior general announced that Satan himself is a ‘symbol’ rather than an actual being that was once created by God before falling into damnation. According to Catholic News Agency, Fr. Arturo Sosa told

**KING KANGAROO** (Friday Church News Notes, August 30, 2019, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143) - The following is from CreationMoments.com, Aug. 17, 2019: "Australia, as we have frequently noted, is a land of exotic animals. And of all the strange and wonderful creatures of that continental country, perhaps none captures the imagination so much as the mighty kangaroo and its smaller cousin the wallaby. Although it's native to Australia, I remember as a child being fascinated by the mysterious sightings of wallabies in England's Peak District National Park, which was very close to where I grew up. A colony of sixty had, by 1975, grown from five individuals that had escaped from a zoo in 1940. Kangaroos are marsupials. Though many species of marsupials – mostly opossums--live in the Americas, Australia and New Guinea are replete with a wide variety of them. The main distinguishing feature of a marsupial is that the female gives birth to its young at a very early stage of gestation (about 36 days), and the baby is then sheltered, usually in a pouch, where it continues its development. A baby kangaroo, or joey, will be in its mother's pouch for about nine months before it begins



to venture out for short periods. One fascinating feature of the reproductive cycle is that a female kangaroo can have one embryo in its womb and a developing joey in its pouch. It seems to be able to freeze the development of the embryo and restart it when the joey is ready to leave the pouch. It would seem that God designed this mechanism to allow for the long migration of such marsupials to Australia after the Flood."

the Italian magazine *Tempi* that the devil 'exists as the personification of evil in different structures, but not in persons, because he is not a person, is a way of acting evil.' 'He is not a person like a human person. It is a way of evil to be present in human life,' asserted the priest. 'Good and evil are in a permanent war in the human conscience and we have ways to point them out. We recognize God as good, fully good. Symbols are part of reality, and the devil exists as a



Arturo Sosa Abascal

symbolic reality, not as a personal reality.' The Jesuit leader's statement about the devil stands in stark contrast with the Catechism of the Catholic Church, which teaches that Satan and his demons are 'spiritual, non-corporeal beings' who are nonetheless 'personal and immortal creatures' with an 'intelligence and will.' ... [A 2011 poll] showed eight in ten U.S. Catholics believe that Satan is just a symbol more akin to that of Santa Claus than an actual being." The Bible says, "For such *are* false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore *it is* no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be

according to their works" (2 Corinthians 11:13-15).

## ANOTHER SCIENTIST COMES OUT AGAINST DARWINISM

(Friday Church News Notes, September 6, 2019, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from 'Renowned Yale Computer Science Prof Leaves Darwinism,' *The Stream*, Aug. 21, 2019: "David Gelernter isn't someone you'd expect to reject Darwin. He lives and works at the heart of the intellectual establishment. He's a renowned computer scientist at Yale University — the *New York Times* called him a 'rock star' — and served on the National Council on the Arts. He explained in a recent essay in the *Claremont Review of Books* why he no longer believes Charles



Darwin's theory of evolution. He makes similar points in a recent interview with the Hoover Institution's Peter Robinson. Perhaps the biggest flaw with Darwinism, he writes, is how hard it would be to randomly make new functional proteins. Darwinian evolution depends on a huge number of them. Our understanding of molecular biology developed after Darwin. His theory doesn't fit well with this new understanding. Gelernter carefully reviews the evidence, and his article provides a very helpful short guide to the problem. He cites Douglas Axe, a distinguished scientist, who has calculated the chances of hitting a stable protein that performs some useful function, and might therefore be preserved by natural selection, are only 1 in  $10^{77}$ . That's just one of the many, many proteins needed for any organism. Gelernter summarizes the evidence. 'Immense is so big, and tiny is so small, that neo-Darwinian evolution is — *so far* — a dead loss. Try to mutate your way from 150 links of gibberish to a working, useful protein and you are guaranteed to fail. Try it with ten mutations, a thousand, a million — you fail. The odds bury you. It can't be done.' He has plenty of other problems with Darwinism. ... Gelernter admits intelligent design is an 'absolutely serious argument.' It's the 'first, and obviously most intuitive one that comes to mind.' It's got to be dealt with intellectually. It

can't be dismissed with anti-religious bigotry. His colleagues have treated him courteously since he changed his position on this issue, he says. Still, for them Darwinism has passed beyond a scientific argument. 'You take your life into your hands to challenge it intellectually. They will destroy you.' He's seen 'nothing approaching free speech on this topic.' It's not a scientific or intellectual discussion. They think he's attacking their 'religion.' Alas, he's not hopeful that Darwinism will be phased out of academia anytime soon." (See also "[Evolutionists against Darwinism](http://www.wayoflife.org)," [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org).)

### **PEDOPHILIA BEING TAUGHT IN CALIFORNIA SCHOOLS AS A "SEXUAL ORIENTATION"**

(Friday Church News Notes, September 6, 2019, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from "Pedophilia Being Taught," Alex Newman, *Project Media*, Apr. 17, 2019: "Government school officials in California think it is 'really important' to teach children about pedophilia and pederasty in the classroom because it is a 'sexual orientation.' That is according to a top official for California's Brea Olinda School District, who admitted to parents that it was being done--and that it would continue, despite the outrage. The implications are mind-blowing. The stunning admission came after a parent-information meeting last month for the Brea Olinda Unified School District (BOUSD). Stephanie Yates, founder of Informed Parents of California, asked school officials why they were 'teaching pedophilia in school to 9th graders.' But instead of a denial that

such an atrocity was taking place, a top school official confirmed it was happening and acted like there was nothing wrong with it. 'This is done because we are talking about historical perspectives of how gender relations and different types of sexual orientations have existed in history,' said BOUSD Assistant Superintendent of Curricula Kerrie Torres in a matter-of-fact way, sounding almost oblivious to how the bombshell might sound to normal people. Horrified, the mother turned activist expressed shock at Torres' admission. 'So sex between a man and a boy is a sexual orientation?' she asked. Torres did not deny it. 'It's something that occurred in history, and so this is really important for us to include,' the assistant superintendent said, implying that yes, sexual relations between a man and a boy--properly considered rape under the laws of every state--is a 'sexual orientation.' Of course, if simply having 'occurred in history' means something merits inclusion in school curricula, then one might ask why the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ or the full text of the Mayflower Compact are never mentioned in government schools. Obviously, there is more to the story than simply having to teach children about such perversions merely because they 'occurred.' Indeed, the comments may be one of the most shocking



admissions from an education official in recent memory. And the implications go even beyond simply normalizing one of the most disgusting and abominable crimes that can be perpetrated. Consider: With ‘sexual orientation’ increasingly becoming a legally protected category across almost half of the states already--with Congress working on it, too--the implications of defining pedophilia and pederasty as such are hard to overstate. For instance, in California, ‘discrimination’ based on ‘sexual orientation’ is prohibited. If pedophiles simply have a different ‘sexual orientation,’ does that mean schools are required to hire them? Establishment propaganda outlets disguised as news organizations such as Salon and Slate have also been working to normalize and redefine pedophilia and pederasty as a ‘sexual orientation.’ LGBT movement hero Harvey Milk, who is celebrated in California’s fake ‘history’ textbooks as a great figure, was known for raping minor boys, at least one of whom later committed suicide.”

**SENTIMENTALITY VS. OBEDIENCE** (Friday Church News Notes, September 6, 2019, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143) - “Sentimentality is an enemy of church discipline. Sentimentality is the love of man divorced from the love of truth. Under the specious guise of broadened sympathies it cloaks a big lot of hypocrisy and moral decay. The church sentimentalist is so kind to his fellow church member that he is willing to ignore the plain instructions of the Book of his faith rather than bring him to account for unchristian

conduct. ‘Judge not that ye be not judged,’ he quotes, but he forgets to quote 1 Corinthians 5:12, 13, ‘Do not ye judge them that are within, whereas them that are without God judgeth’” (Victor Masters, “Church Discipline,” *Baptist Courier*, South Carolina, Aug. 21, 1902).

**BAPTIST BIG NUMBERS-ISM AND PRAGMATISM IN 1877** (Friday Church News Notes, September 6, 2019, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143)



- The pragmatism that has characterized the vast majority of larger Baptist churches since the 1960s was already showing its ugly head in the 19th century. “While it is true that a Baptist church is, in theory, a body of regenerated, baptized believers, it can hardly be doubted that, in our wild scramble for numbers, we of this generation--preachers and people--are becoming less and less disposed to insist upon what our fathers used to call the marks of a genuine ‘grace experience’ on the part of those who offer themselves as candidates for baptism and church membership. ... If a long church-roll were any evidence of efficiency, or if large numbers were indication of large graces, it would be easy to understand this all-prevailing anxiety for numbers. But when it is perfectly clear to the dumbest apprehension

among us, that such is not the case, it must be confessed that this wild desire for counting up our hosts is too highly suggestive of David’s sad sin in numbering Israel” (J.C. Hiden, “Looseness of Discipline,” *Working Christian*, Mar. 22, 1877).

**U.S. AIR FORCE REQUIRES LACTATION STATIONS FOR NURSING MOTHERS** (Friday Church News Notes, September 13, 2019, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143) - According to the *Air Force Times*, “The Air Force is now requiring units to provide private, secure and sanitary rooms for nursing mothers to breastfeed or express breast milk, according to a Wednesday release. In an Aug. 15 guidance memorandum, the Air Force outlined procedures and requirements for setting up lactation rooms that can be locked from the inside. Christy Nolte, deputy assistant secretary of the Air Force for reserve affairs and airman readiness, said airmen at the grassroots level brought the lack of an Air Force-wide lactation room policy to the service’s attention. ‘Our job here is to do what we can to make it easier for airmen to serve,’ Nolte said. ‘Women shouldn’t feel like they must choose between serving and being a mother.’ ... The Air Force’s new memo also provides guidance for when mothers should be allowed lactation breaks. Supervisors should provide both military and civilian nursing mothers reasonable lactation breaks--defined by Air Force Instruction 44-102 as 15 to 30 minutes every three to four hours--for at least one year postpartum” (“Units must provide lactation space,” *Air Force Times*, Aug. 29, 2019). We wonder who will fight the enemy while the air “men” are breast feeding/pumping?



Maybe they will grant 30 minute “time outs” from the fighting a few times a day. It is no small thing that the U.S. military has been turned into a social engineering experiment and in the process has been feminized, psychologicalized, homosexualized, lawyerized, and environmentalized.

### HILLSONG PUTS ON A CIRCUS

(Friday Church News Notes, September 13, 2019, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143) - Hillsong is a coalition of churches, loosely headquartered at Hillsong Sydney where Brian and Bobby Houston are the senior co-pastors. The Hillsong churches produce some of the most popular and influential contemporary worship music, but their brazen worldliness is breathtaking. In August 2019, Hillsong Gold Coast in Australia put on a worldly circus. “Level-headed biblically-minded Christians have oft referred to Hillsong as a circus. But what they may not realize is that Hillsong isn’t just a circus metaphorically speaking--Hillsong is literally a circus. Hillsong Gold



Coast, led by James & Elida Turner, recently put on a circus performance at their campus. Not kidding. In a program they call #SundayNightAtTheMovies, they put on such an outlandish and ridiculous stunt that even the most biblically-ignorant unbelievers can look at this and tell it has absolutely nothing to do with Christianity. It’s a freak show” (“Hillsong Puts on Circus Performance,” [Reformationcharlotte.org](http://Reformationcharlotte.org), Aug. 23, 2019). In May 2016, Hillsong New York City hosted a Hillsong Women’s Conference that featured, among other things, scantily-dressed ‘cheerleaders,’ an Elvis impersonator, and a naked cowboy wearing only a cowboy hat, boots, and a guitar. The cowboy was Hillsong New York City’s own youth pastor, Diego Simla. This year (2019) Yelp identified Hillsong Los Angeles as one of the top ten “gay friendly churches” in the city. “This says something about Hillsong. A homosexual can walk in, sit down, be entertained, and not have their conscience pricked by the preaching of the biblical gospel and a call to repent of sins and come to Christ” (“Hillsong Listed in Top Ten,” [Reformationcharlotte](http://Reformationcharlotte.org), Sept. 3, 2019).

**SEEKER’S BIBLE STUDY** (Friday Church News Notes, September 13, 2019, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143) - The *Seeker’s Bible Study* is a Bible study for unbelievers and non-Christians. It explains the gospel of Jesus Christ, repentance, and faith. It begins with a study of the gospel in 1 Corinthians 15:3-4 which deals with the Bible, Christ, sin, Jesus’ atoning death for sin, Jesus’ burial and bodily resurrection. The study on the gospel is followed by practical

studies on repentance and faith. The last section answers the question, “When Is Jesus Coming?” The Bible study is designed to be used as a multi-week, one-on-one teaching course. In our church, we assign a qualified believer to go through the course with every willing visitor. The teacher is instructed to try to grow the class by involving family, neighbors, and friends of the original student. The teacher’s notes can be found in the file “Seeker’s Bible Study - Teacher’s Notes.” Both the study and the teacher’s notes are available at the following page:

[https://www.wayoflife.org/free\\_ebooks/seekers\\_bible\\_study.php](https://www.wayoflife.org/free_ebooks/seekers_bible_study.php)

### “VULNERABILITY” WITHOUT REPENTANCE

(Friday Church News Notes, September 13, 2019, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143) - Paul describes the love of money and its consequences. “But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and *into* many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows” (1 Timothy 6:9-10). Note that they “*pierced themselves*.” They are not victims. The many sorrows come because of a sinful lifestyle. Many contemporary churches offer grace and forgiveness without repentance and supernatural conversion. They have church members who live the unholy rock & roll lifestyle and pursue wealth in the midst of the filthy pop music/entertainment industry. Invariably they pierce themselves through with many sorrows in that context, but they consider themselves



victims. Instead of repenting of their sin, they become “vulnerable” by sharing their problems before the church. They don’t distinguish between suffering that comes because of sin and suffering that comes in the will of God. Pop star Justin Bieber is an example. He is a member of the contemporary Churchome in Beverly Hills, California, pastored by a husband wife team. He told the church, “It says in the bible count it ALL JOY when you face trials of various kinds. Sounds insane considering when u face trials u feel terrible. But if we are grateful and worship god for what we do have in that season there is so much power in that... whatever pain you are going through just keep telling yourself THIS WONT LAST!” (“Justin Bieber Leads Worship,” CBN News, Aug. 30, 2019). Note that he says nothing about faith in the blood of Christ or sin or repentance or conversion. Everything is generic and undefined. He spends a lot of time justifying himself by the fact that he was plunged into popularity at a young age. In contrast, Peter makes a sharp and repeated distinction between suffering for Christ’s sake and suffering for sin. “If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the Spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified. But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an

evildoer, or as a busybody in other men’s matters” (1 Pe. 4:14-15). See also 1 Peter 2:19-20; 3:17. The great promise of Romans 8:28 is not for anyone in any circumstance. It is for those who “love God, who are the called according to his purpose.” It is for those who are born again by repentance and saving faith and are walking according to God’s calling and will.

### BLACK SLAVERY IN MUSLIM-DOMINATED AFRICAN

**NATIONS** (Friday Church News Notes, September 13, 2019, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from “Black Slavery Exists Today” by Charles Jacobs, President of the American Anti-Slavery Group, *The Stream*, Sept. 4, 2019: “Today, an estimated 529,000 to 869,000 black men, women, and children are still slaves. They are bought, owned, sold, and traded by Arab and Muslim masters in five African countries. This statistic estimates those enslaved in Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, and Sudan. It excludes Nigeria, for which there are no tangible estimates. Western human rights organizations and the mainstream media are practically and painfully silent on this matter. It does not fit with their focus on Western white sin. Here is a brief survey of this quasi-taboo topic. In Sudan, slavery remains a painful vestige of



the Second Sudanese Civil War (1983–2005). That’s when the Arab Muslim government in the north of the country declared a *jihad* upon the black, largely Christian south. They killed perhaps 2.5 million people and enslaved as many as 200,000. Slaves rescued by grassroots abolitionists tell horrific stories. Abduction. Beatings. Forced conversion to Islam. Grueling labor. Female genital mutilation. Malnutrition. Rape. ... In Mauritania, the very structure of society reinforces slavery. Over the centuries a cruel class system has evolved. The lighter-skinned Arabs (*beydanes*) and Arabized Berbers rule over the black former slaves. Those slaves have been forcibly Arabized over time (*haratin*). The free blacks in the south who refuse Arabization and call themselves ‘Negro-Africans’ and the black chattel slave class (*abid*) are at the bottom. The country is entirely Muslim. Islam theoretically forbids the enslavement of one Muslim by another. However, in this case, Arab racism supersedes adherence to the Shari’ah (Islamic law). In 1993, a U.S. State Department report estimated that between 30,000 and 90,000 blacks lived as slaves owned by private masters. In 2012, a CNN investigation estimated that the number could be as high as 340,000 to 680,000. ... Sub-Saharan Africans fleeing violence and poverty for Europe are enslaved by Algerian and Libyan Arabs as they try to cross the Mediterranean. Today, according to the Global Slavery Index, around 106,000 black Africans are estimated to be enslaved in Algeria. Migrant women, but also children (both male and female), risk being forced into sexual slavery. ... In Nigeria, the long-running civil war

between the Muslim majority and the 40% Christian minority involves the enslavement of Christian Nigerians. The taking of Christian slaves has become a source of compensation for Islamic fighters.”

### CHINA'S WAR ON CHILDREN'S RELIGIOUS RIGHTS

(Friday Church News Notes, September 20, 2019, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143)

- The following is excerpted from Elizabeth Yore, “China’s War on Children,” Breitbart, Sep. 12, 2019: “While the youth of Hong Kong march for freedom and democracy, the Communist Party of China (CPC) subjects China’s youth to a brutal campaign of oppression and tyranny, barring Chinese youth from any and all religious practice and venues. ... The insidious Chinese Communist Party has declared that religious venues, churches, practices, education, and worship are no-go zones for all Chinese children under the age of 18. Chinese youth are being denied the right to religious freedom—a right enshrined in the Chinese constitution and a human right embodied and protected under Articles 2, 14 and 30 of the U.N. Convention of the Rights of the Child, signed and ratified by the People’s Republic of China in 1992. So much for the Chinese honoring international treaty obligations! ... According to the U.S. State Department, ‘The revised religious regulations implemented in February (2018) and policies enacted by the Chinese state-sanctioned religious associations inhibit children under the age of 18 from participating in religious activities and religious education.’ ... Religious freedom and human rights watchdog groups such



as Save the Persecuted Christians, Bitter Winter, Open Doors, and China Aid are tracking and reporting on Xi’s country-wide crackdown prohibiting children from attending and participating in any religious services and worship. ... The no-go zones for Chinese children extend to all phases of the child’s life, from school to summer camps to the home. ... As primary and secondary Chinese schoolchildren broke for summer holidays between June and August, the Communist Party wasted no time enforcing the no religion rule. CPC officials sent letters to parents, reminding them to prevent their children from going to religious places for Bible study classes or any other religious study. The enforcement grew increasingly aggressive as religious-sponsored summer camps were raided and closed down by the police. ... The indoctrination campaign employs school teachers to advise their impressionable students that as good Chinese citizens, they are not to believe in God. This past June, Congressman Chris Smith (R-N.J.) testified at a congressional hearing on religious freedom and warned that ‘under *Sinicization*, all religions and believers must comport with and aggressively promote communist ideology—or else.’ Smith acknowledged that ‘it’s never been worse than it is right now.’ Rep. Smith also cautioned that the Chinese government has imposed facial

recognition cameras, restricted religious expression online, and prohibited people under the age of 18 from participating in religious services ... Plus, the government is rewriting the Bible. ... The UN Human Rights High Commissioner has not moved to enforce the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. There is largely silence from international governance groups on this insidious campaign of spiritual genocide.”

### BAPTIST CHURCH CALLS TRANSGENDER PASTOR

(Friday Church News Notes, September 20, 2019, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143)

- The following is excerpted from “Baptist Church Makes History,” *Baptist News Global*, Aug. 23, 2019: “Members of an Ohio congregation are inviting the community to a Sept. 8 worship service officially welcoming one of the few openly transgender Baptist ministers as their new pastor. Erica Saunders, a 2019 graduate of the Wake Forest University School of Divinity ordained to the gospel ministry this spring by Wake Forest Baptist Church, began July 1 as pastor of Peace Community Church in Oberlin, Ohio. Founded in 1866 as the First Baptist Church of Oberlin, the congregation today describes itself as a ‘small, but active and social action-oriented congregation’ that is ‘very



"Pastor" Erica Saunders

involved' in the Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America, the Association of Welcoming and Affirming Baptists, the Alliance of Baptists and the American Baptist Churches of the Rochester/Genesee Region. The pastoral search committee said in a letter to church members that the group received 16 candidates to replace the couple and narrowed the field to five and eventually down to a final two. 'Both candidates were very strong candidates, but Erica stood out as a candidate with unique strengths,' the search team said. 'Bright, compassionate, faith-filled and spirited with a loving presence, she showed as much interest in each of us as we did in her. At the end of our time together on Sunday, when we formed a circle and said a departing prayer, I think we felt and she felt a sense of calling to our church.' ... 'With God's help, together we can follow the example of Christ and create a beloved community marked by abiding peace, expansive love and radical justice in Oberlin and beyond,' said Saunders, one of the first openly trans individuals to be ordained by a Baptist church in the United States. The church, which adopted the name Peace Community Church in 2000, decided by consensus to welcome and affirm LGBTQ persons in 2005."

**ROMANCE NOVELS** (Friday Church News Notes, September 20, 2019, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143) - Romance novels exploded in popularity in the 1970s. By 2008, sales reached 74 million. Many romance novels have a strong sexual content. A recent example is *Fifty Shades of Grey*, which even delves into sadomasochism. "These novels

were written to be titillating, and I really don't think there's a huge difference between this and porn. It's 'soft porn,' and indeed many women find themselves far more aroused by reading something like this than they would be watching porn on a computer. So women who devour novel after novel like that aren't that much different from men who watch porn all night" ("Romance Novels: Dangerous, Harmless, or Just Fun?" Jan. 16, 2012, [tolovehonorandvacuum.com](http://tolovehonorandvacuum.com)). Even G-rated romance novels take the reader into an unrealistic world typically populated by strong, beautiful heroines and handsome, caring men who "fall in love." They can create addiction to a fantasy world and dissatisfaction with real life. In 2011, the *Journal of Family Planning and Reproductive Health* in Britain reported that romance novels "are a cause of marital breakdown, adulterous affairs and unwanted pregnancies." As with anything of an addictive nature, there is the danger of progression. "I've known so many Christian teens who just devoured all the romances in the church library, and then headed to the public library for more, and ended up almost addicted to really steamy stuff" ("Romance Novels: Dangerous, Harmless, or Just Fun?" Jan. 16, 2012).

**TEENS ANXIOUS/DEPRESSED AFTER THREE HOURS A DAY ON SOCIAL MEDIA** (Friday Church News Notes, September 20, 2019, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from "Teens are anxious," *MIT Technology Review*, Sep. 11, 2019: "A study published today in the journal *JAMA Psychiatry* suggests



that teenagers who spend more than three hours a day on social media are more likely to develop mental health problems including depression, anxiety, aggression, and antisocial behavior. The study: Nearly 6,600 12- to 15-year-old Americans self-reported how much time they spent per day on social media, as well as whether they had any mental health problems. ... The effects of social-media consumption on teens manifest in two main ways, according to the study's authors: internally (depression and anxiety, for example) and externally (aggressive behavior or antisocial behavior). The latter were essentially nonexistent among teens who reported that they didn't use social media. ... Teens today are way less likely to use Facebook and more likely to flip through TikTok. They're also using social media differently, Snapchatting or Instagram DMing pals text-message style, which could explain why some teens are on social media so much in the first place. ... It's the study's broader point that Kira Riehm [a PhD student at Johns Hopkins and the lead author of the study] says is worth remembering: excessive time on social media doesn't help people's mental state."

**GOD BELIEVES IN “SECOND DEGREE” SEPARATION** (Friday Church News Notes, September 20, 2019, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbs@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbs@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143)

- Countless times over the years I have heard “second degree” separation mocked as unscriptural and extremist. For example, to separate from Billy Graham because he associated with modernists and Roman Catholics or to separate from Jerry Falwell or Ed Stetzer or whoever for similar associations is labeled “second degree separation.” As long as a man holds sound doctrine himself, we are not supposed to reprove him on the basis of his associations, but this is not what we see in Scripture. A prophet of God was sent to reprove king Jehoshaphat solely on the basis of his wrong associations. Jehoshaphat followed



the true and living God and even had enough zeal for the truth to destroy idols, but because he joined hands with an enemy of the truth, Ahab, he was reproved sharply and judged. “And Jehu the son of Hanani the seer went out to meet him, and said to king Jehoshaphat, Shouldest thou help the ungodly, and love them that hate the LORD? therefore is wrath upon thee from before the LORD. Nevertheless there are good things found in thee, in that thou hast taken away the groves out of the land, and hast prepared thine heart to seek

God” (2 Chronicles 19:2-3). If Jehu the son of Hanani were to exercise his ministry of godly reproof today, he would be labeled an extremist, a trouble maker, perhaps even a “fruitless blogger.” He would be told to “take off the gloves and pick up a towel,” as I was told by Warren Wiersbe in the 1980s. The “Jehoshaphat camp” would say, “Doesn’t Jehu know that Jehoshaphat is a good man who loves the Lord and does many wonderful works? Who does he think he is? And how many souls has this Jehu led to Christ? He’s probably jealous of the king’s good ministry.” And if Jehoshaphat were a big-name Independent Baptist leader, he would just ignore “the criticism,” stay above the fray, treat it like bubble gum, perhaps pray for Jehu to get rid of the “critical eye.”

## Aim of O Timothy Magazine

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



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