

O Timothy

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

A Monthly Newsletter for Spiritual Protection and Edification

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"The mystical 'spirituality' that is so popular in evangelical and charismatic circles today is a yearning for an experiential relationship with God that downplays the role of faith and Scripture and that exalts 'transcendental' experiences that lift the individual from the earthly mundane into a higher 'spiritual' plane." **Page 6.**

Digging in the Walls: A month's worth of news items, republished from Friday Church News Notes. **Page 11.**

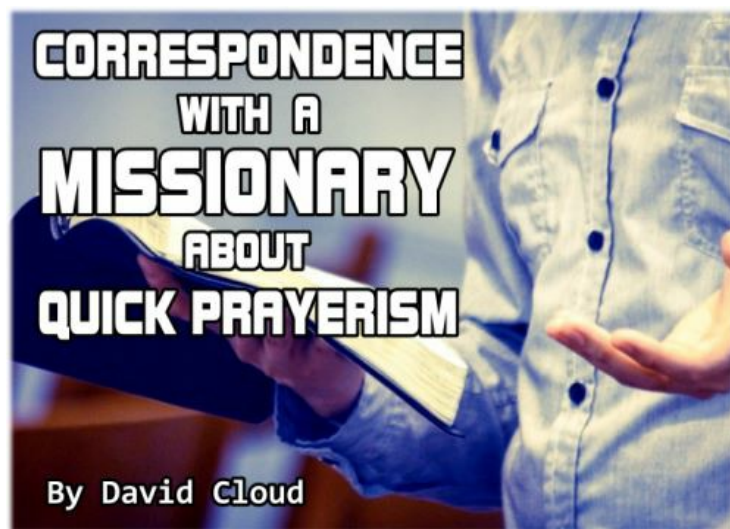


CORRESPONDENCE WITH A MISSIONARY ABOUT QUICK PRAYERISM ~ By David Cloud

The following is a series of communications with a young missionary that I have a lot of hope for. From my knowledge of how he has grown through the years and his eagerness to learn and his willingness to reject tradition and pragmatism when it contradicts God's Word and his focus on raising a godly seed, I am expecting that he will do the solid, patient biblical work of building sound, life-changing, New Testament churches which are the pillar and ground of the truth in this dark world.



Note that this preacher doesn't get offended at my biblical exhortation and reproof. That is an evidence of a spiritual and wise man, as we see emphasized in Proverbs, the book of practical wisdom. "He is in the way of life that keepeth instruction: but he that refuseth reproof erreth" (Proverbs 10:17). "Whoso loveth



instruction loveth knowledge: but he that hateth reproof is brutish" (Proverbs 12:1). "Poverty and shame shall be to him that refuseth instruction: but he that regardeth reproof

shall be honoured” (Proverbs 13:18). “A fool despiseth his father’s instruction: but he that regardeth reproof is prudent” (Proverbs 15:5). “Correction *is* grievous unto him that forsaketh the way: *and* he that hateth reproof shall die” (Proverbs 15:10). “He that refuseth instruction despiseth his own soul: but he that heareth reproof getteth understanding” (Proverbs 15:32). “A reproof entereth more into a wise man than an hundred stripes into a fool” (Proverbs 17:10).

He does exactly what God says we should do with biblical instruction and reproof, and that is hear it, prove it by God’s Word, hold fast that which is good, and reject that which is wrong (Proverbs 14:12; Acts 17:11; 1 Thessalonians 5:21-22).



Quick Prayerism is a method of soul winning that was popularized by the late Jack Hyles and the Sword of the Lord (the publisher of Hyles’ books such as *Let’s Go Soul Winning* and a chief promoter of “great manism” and “Jumboism”), as well as by many other prominent preachers. Quick Prayerism is an evangelistic methodology that is quick to get people to pray a sinner’s prayer after a shallow gospel presentation and usually without any hint of the necessity of repentance. It is quick to pronounce those people saved and give them

“assurance” and to try to baptize them even if they *barely show any interest in Jesus Christ* and even if they give no biblical evidence of having been born again. Quick Prayerism typically incorporates psychological salesmanship manipulation. In Quick Prayerism, a “sinner’s prayer” replaces Holy Spirit conviction and miraculous regeneration.

Quick Prayerism is characterized by soul winning reports that are grossly exaggerated, since the number of real conversions (as evidenced by changed lives) are minute compared to the overall statistics.

We think of Gospel Light Baptist Church, Walkertown, North Carolina, which was pastored by Bobby Roberson beginning in 1956 and during its heyday in the 1970s through the 1990s. It has regularly hosted Sword conferences. In 2015, the church hosted a Southwide Baptist Fellowship meeting. David Gibbs was the moderator, and Roberson was honored. (He died in 2018.) Gibbs said that the church and its bus ministry were responsible for four million people getting saved. Four million! There are only ten million people in all of North Carolina! How can they boast of such numbers with a straight face? Do any of them really believe that four million people were actually saved or even one million or even half a million? Don’t they know that they are speaking lies? One discerning pastor in North Carolina commented, “I believe our state would be much different if that many people were truly saved through one ministry, not to mention how many other similar churches there are in this state.” Indeed!

Bobby Roberson attributed his “success” in soulwinning to a Jack Hyles/John R. Rice training conference in 1956. He said, “I never knew how to win people just personally to Christ. He [Hyles] taught us thirty-five points, and he acted out knocking on a door, getting a conversation up with a person, and how to approach him. I wrote it all down. That was on Tuesday. On Thursday I got one of my men to go with me, knocked on a door and led my first two people to Christ. And that’s been almost fifty-four years ago” (“Walking with Giants: An Interview with Dr. Bobby Roberson,” Paul Chappell, Oct. 7, 2010).

Paul Chappell describes how that Roberson led a stranger to Christ in a matter of minutes. “Not only did he lead his church in faith-filled, strategic outreach, but he personally shared the gospel with people one on one. I

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remember another time when I was preaching at his church as we were walking across the parking lot he saw someone he didn't know. He stopped to meet him, asked him if he knew the Lord, and led him to Christ right there in the parking lot" (Paul Chappell, "Five Way Dr. Bobby Roberson Influenced Me," paulchappell.com, Feb. 13, 2018).

This is Quick Prayerism.

I have no doubt that Bobby Roberson was a gracious, sincere, compassionate, fruitful, born again man, but any Bible student knows that sincere men of God can do wrong and stupid and damaging things, and none of them are above being tested by God's Word.

We must be more loyal to Jesus Christ and the Word of God than to any mere man. There are none great, no not one! We don't see Peter calling Paul "great," and if any saint could be called great it would be Paul, but he would never have allowed such a thing. He himself taught us that at best we have this treasure in earthen vessels.

We realize that not everyone who professes Christ will "pan out." There will be false professions in any ministry, but Quick Prayerism is characterized by the fact that the majority--yea, usually *the vast majority*--of its professions are empty.

A pastor friend wrote, "Several years ago I asked one of the 'soulwinners' from a church in Bridgeport, Michigan, how many out of 100 professions get baptized. The reply was ten. I asked of those ten how many stick. The answer was one. I just could not in good conscience buy into that type of thinking."

Good for this man. In fact, no biblically-thinking preacher will "buy into" that type of thinking unless the virus of pragmatism has invaded his brain.

For more about this see [Fundamental Baptists and Quick Prayerism](https://www.wayoflife.org/free_ebooks/fbs_and_quick_prayerism.php), available as a free eBook at https://www.wayoflife.org/free_ebooks/fbs_and_quick_prayerism.php

CORRESPONDENCE WITH A MISSIONARY ABOUT QUICK PRAYERISM

Recently I received a prayer letter from a missionary friend with the following statement:

"Praise the Lord for two ladies who visited one of our morning services and came forward at the end to receive Jesus as Saviour. Please pray that they would return and grow. Their names are ----- and -----."

Following is an edited version of my communication with this missionary in regard to this statement:

BRO. CLOUD - Hello, Brother -----. Always good to hear reports from there. In regard to these two women, you didn't really try to lead them in a sinner's prayer right then without spending some time with them and instructing them in the gospel and getting to know them some, did you?

MISSIONARY - Correct. They sat in through an entire gospel sermon. Usually, my morning sermon is evangelistic. Then they were dealt with individually in two separate rooms by two other ladies. I hope I didn't give the impression of easy prayerism or believism.

BRO. CLOUD - Thanks. I would definitely call that quick prayerism, and I'm truly shocked that you would do that type of thing. They were strangers? Coming in from that confused religious society in -----? Do you really expect to make sure that they understand the gospel, repentance, and saving faith properly in such a format? I would make an appointment to meet with them and to go through everything carefully and patiently and get to know them and what they are thinking and make sure everything is clear as a bell. That's the only way you can build the right foundation. *Way* too quick and shallow!

Have you looked at the *Seeker's Bible Study*? I sent you the link? It has three major parts: the gospel, repentance, and saving faith. We deal with every part of the gospel as summarized in 1 Corinthians 15:3-4. Who is Christ? What are the Scriptures? What does it mean that Christ died and rose "according to the Scriptures?" What is sin? What does it mean that Christ died for our sin? What does it mean that Christ rose again? We only recently published it, but we are seeing good fruit from it already in our own ministry. I'm going through it every week with a medical doctor, and some other of the men are using it to conduct evangelistic Bible studies in homes. It's a way, also, to try to get friends and neighbors and relatives into the Bible study to increase the fruit. My goal is to have every truly interested visitor assigned someone to go through it.

MISSIONARY - I appreciate this and I appreciate you, too. I will take a look at these materials. I certainly do not want false converts and I am against quick prayerism.

BRO. CLOUD - Great. You will like it, I have no doubt. You said that you hope these ladies will come back. But if they actually got saved, they will most definitely come back. Passages such as Acts 2:41-42 and 1 Thessalonians 1:9-10 describe true salvation and the evidence that will always be present. A true New Testament church is a spiritual house made of living stones. A living stone is a great miracle, and there can be no doubt that a living stone can be distinguished from a natural stone!

MISSIONARY - Yep. That to me is a good sign, if they come back and continue with us. If they do come back, I would give them a visitor's card, then set up a time to meet with them, examine them, walk them through the Scriptures (depending where they are at, whether it becomes evangelistic again or discipleship is determined by their response). If they don't come back, I asked the person who brought them how they are doing and ask for their contact info and go from there. I do go back to "professing" visitors and lay out the truth that if they are just professing faith, then that is not Bible faith, and that they may not have truly been born again. Bible faith is not just in the mind or the emotions but it is evidenced by the heart and life, and if there are no evidences then that shows there isn't salvation. I would then offer to them another chance for a personal Bible study, many times they reject it, and so I know then, they were not truly saved.

BRO. CLOUD - That is a backwards program. You (or your workers) have already had these ladies pray a sinner's prayer or otherwise "receive Christ" the very first time you met them, and you have thereby given them some idea that they are saved, without first having spent significant time with them to go through the gospel, repentance, and saving faith carefully, and without getting to know them so that you can know how they are interpreting the words you are saying (i.e., reinterpreting the words "grace" and "receive Jesus" from a Catholic background and understanding) and knowing what might be hindering true repentance in their minds and hearts. Only after that they have been hastily dealt with and led in a sinner's prayer are you going to try to meet with them and deal with them properly about salvation? That is the path of confusion. What's the rush? Deal with souls carefully and thoroughly and wisely. If they aren't willing

to spend time with you, they aren't ready to be saved. There is not one example of salvation in the New Testament wherein the person was not ready to spend time trying to understand the gospel. How long does it take to deal with souls properly? It takes as long as it takes, until we see a natural stone turn into a living stone through the miracle of supernatural regeneration (1 Peter 2:5). That is something only God can perform, and He performs it in the life of the sinner who exercises repentance toward God and saving faith toward the Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 20:21). Our part is to preach the gospel clearly and thoroughly, explain and proclaim God's command that all men everywhere repent, and explain saving faith, which is not just any old type of "faith," and call on sinners to exercise that faith.

MISSIONARY - I appreciate your admonition. I will take it to heart. I do agree that we must be careful when dealing with folks about the gospel. I have some reservations (perhaps questions - trying to think things through), and perhaps, when we see each other again, Lord willing, I will be able to speak with you about it. Both ladies returned and have been attending. They have manifested some good changes (including especially their countenance), they are very young in the faith ... they bring with them the Bible that we gave them on their first visit. Since they came, we saw a new man come and visit us, he raised his hands interested about salvation. This time, I didn't call for an invitation. Rather, I talked with him after the service, and set up a time to go over the gospel with him personally. So, we shall see how things go. Many things to talk with you, ask you, Lord willing.

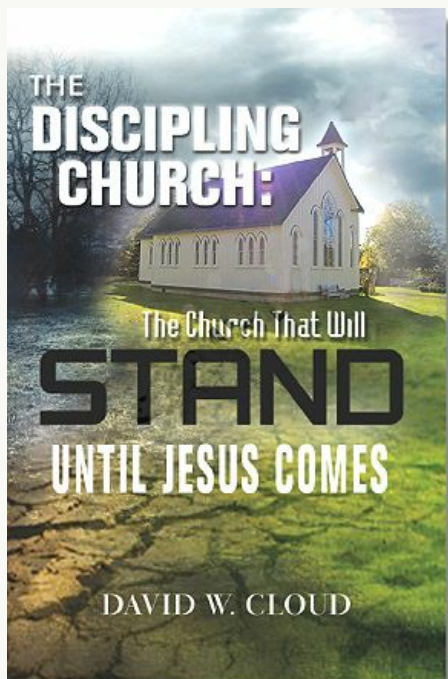
BRO. CLOUD - I look forward to discussing this matter face to face when the Lord makes that possible. I would say that what you have described is a weak, insufficient test of salvation. Lots of lost people attend church, show interest in Christ and learning the Bible, have a good countenance at church, and carry a Bible. We have had many people attend faithfully for a year and show all of those things and more before they were truly born again. In these confused times when the vast, vast majority of Christianity, including Protestantism and Fundamentalism and Baptistism, is apostate and deeply compromised, we need to be a lot more careful and biblical in testing salvations. Following are some biblical tests: Has he or she repented and humbled himself before God (Mt. 18:3; Lu. 13:3; Ac. 17:30; 20:21)? Has he renounced all false religion and believed that Jesus Christ is the only way of salvation (Joh. 14:6; Ac. 4:12; 19:19;

1 Th. 1:9)? Does he believe that he is the sinner that God says he is, that he has no righteousness that is acceptable to God, that he deserves God's eternal condemnation (Ro. 3:10; Isa. 64:6)? Does he believe 100% that Christ died for his sins, trusting Jesus Christ and His blood 100% for salvation, believing that Christ bore all of his sin when He shed His blood and died on the cross (Isa. 53:6; 2 Co. 5:21)? Does he believe with all the heart that Jesus is the Son of God (Ac. 8:37; Joh. 6:68-69)? Does he believe that salvation is by grace alone without works and that works are the fruit of salvation and not the way of salvation (Eph. 2:8-10; Ro. 11:6)? Does he believe that he has been born again and that he is a new creature in Jesus Christ, and does he know when this happened (Joh. 3:3; 2 Co. 5:17)? Does he have the Spirit of God living in him crying Abba, Father, and since when has he experienced this (Ro. 8:15-16)? Does he hear the Bible as God's voice; does it speak to him as God's voice; does he accept the Bible as God's Word without reservation and without argument (Joh. 8:47; 10:27)? Has he renounced the world and does he consider himself a pilgrim on the way to his heavenly home (1 Jo. 2:16; 1 Pe. 2:11)? Is he looking for Christ's return (Ro. 8:23; 1 Th. 1:9-10; 2 Ti. 4:8; Heb. 9:28)? It all comes back to taking the time to deal with people properly and to know where they are spiritually. If a sinner is ready to repent and believe on the Lord for salvation, like Cornelius or the Ethiopian eunuch or the Philippian jailer or Lydia, he

will do that, but haste makes waste in soulwinning, even as in other areas of life. The law was given to plow the soul deeply so that the Spirit of God works enlightenment, conviction, and brings the sinner to true repentance and faith. Baptists *used to* believe that before Quick Prayerism corrupted everything in the 1960s and particularly in the 1970s. Salvation is 100% the work of the Spirit. "And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God" (1 Co. 6:11).

BRO. CLOUD - Most Ind. Baptist preachers have been deeply influenced by Quick Prayerism, and it is not an easy thing to shake off tradition and training. I want to challenge any man who will listen to be *much more* wise and careful about the matter of salvation, baptism, and church membership. That is the foundation of maintaining a regenerate church membership, something that most Baptist churches haven't taken seriously since the 1800s, as far as I can tell from my studies and experience. You will like the new series [*Building a New Testament Church*](#), particularly the first messages which are expository messages on key passages that describe a New Testament church. <http://www.gbpc.org.au/sermons-2019>

MISSIONARY - I am listening! Especially since you have Bible. That is what matters most. AMEN!



The Discipling Church:

The Church That Will Stand Until Jesus Comes

by David W. Cloud

This book aims to help the church planter establish churches on a solid biblical foundation and it exhorts the pastors of existing churches to move forward in their establishment of a Biblical church.

The keys are a regenerate church membership, one mind in doctrine and practice, serious discipleship, thorough-going discipline, and a large vision for world evangelism.

We examine the New Testament pattern of a discipling church, and we trace the history of Baptist churches over the past 200 years to document the apostasy away from the biblical pattern to a mixed multitude philosophy. We also document the history of "sinner's prayer" evangelism which has affected the reality of a regenerate church membership.

Available From [Way of Life Online Store](#)



Eugene Peterson (1932-2018), author of *The Message*, was for many years James M. Houston Professor of Spiritual Theology at Regent College in Vancouver, British Columbia. He also served for almost 30 years as founding pastor of Christ Our King Presbyterian Church in Bel Air, Maryland.

The New Testament portion of *The Message* was published in 1993 and the complete Bible in 2002. It is called a “translational-paraphrase” and is said to “unfold like a gripping novel.” In fact, it IS a novel!

It was “translated” by Peterson and reviewed by 21 “consultants” from the following schools: Denver Seminary (Robert Alden), Dallas Theological Seminary (Darrell Bock and Donald Glenn), Fuller Theological Seminary (Donald Hagner), Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, Trinity Episcopal School, North Park Theological Seminary, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School (Richard Averbeck), Columbia Bible College, Criswell College (Lamar Cooper), Westminster Theological Seminary (Peter Enns), Bethel Seminary (Duane Garrett), Southern Baptist Theological Seminary (Paul R. House), Covenant Theological Seminary, Westmont College, Wesley Biblical Seminary, Reformed Theological Seminary, Moody Bible Institute (John H. Walton), Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, and Gordon College (Marvin Wilson).

The Message is widely recommended by well-known Christian leaders. In keeping with his love for every new translation and paraphrase to appear since the Revised Standard Version, Billy Graham printed his own edition of “The Message: New Testament.” Warren Wiersbe says, “*The Message* is the boldest and most provocative rendering of the New Testament I’ve ever read.” Jack Hayford says, “The Message is certainly destined to become a devotional classic -- not to mention a powerful

pastoral tool.” Rick Warren loves *The Message* and quotes it frequently, five times in the first chapter of *The Purpose-Driven Life*. J.I. Packer says, “In this crowded world of Bible versions Eugene Peterson’s blend of accurate scholarship and vivid idiom make this rendering both distinctive and distinguished. *The Message* catches the logical flow, personal energy, and imaginative overtones of the original very well indeed.” CCM artist Michael Card says, “Peterson’s translation transforms the eye into an ear, opening the door of the New Testament wider than perhaps it has ever been opened.” Leighton Ford says, “*The Message* will help many to transfer God’s eternal truths to their contemporary lives.” Joni Eareckson Tada says, “WOW! What a treasure *The Message* is. I am going to carry it with me. This is a treasure that I will want to use wherever I am.” *The Message* is also recommended by Amy Grant, Benny Hinn, Bill Hybels, Bill and Gloria Gaither, Chuck Swindoll, Toby of DC Talk, Gary Smalley, Gordon Fee, Gordon MacDonald, Jerry Jenkins, John Maxwell, Joyce Meyer, Kenneth Copeland, Max Lucado, Michael W. Smith, Newsboys, Phil Driscoll, Rebecca St. James, Rod Parsley, Stuart and Jill Briscoe, Tony Campolo, Bono of U2, Vernon Grounds, to name a few. (This information was gathered from the NAVPress web site.).

Peterson told *Christianity Today* that a major turning point in his ministry was a lecture by Paul Tournier sponsored by the liberal *Christian Century* magazine and held at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore (“Books & Culture Corner: The Contemplative Christian,” by Nathan Bierma, *Christianity Today* web site, Sept. 29, 2003). In a 1973 master’s thesis entitled “Paul Tournier’s Universalism,” Daniel Musick warned:

“Paul Tournier was an unrestricted universalist. His writings, personal correspondence with him, and interviews with many who knew him support this conclusion. An analysis of his soteriology over 35

years of writing reveals a transition from reformed roots to an unbiblical, neo-orthodox perspective influenced by Emil Brunner and Karl Barth."

Peterson recommended *The Shack*. Though fictional, this book's objective is the redefinition of God. It is about a man who becomes bitter at God after his daughter is murdered and has a life-changing experience in the very shack where the murder occurred; but the God he encounters is most definitely not the God of the Bible. Young depicts God the Father as a woman who loves rock & roll. Young's male/female god/goddess is the god of the emerging church. He is cool, loves rock & roll, is non-judgmental, does not exercise wrath toward sin, does not send unbelievers to an eternal fiery hell, does not require repentance and the new birth, and puts no obligations on people. (For documentation see "[The Shack's Cool God](http://www.wayoflife.org)" at the Way of Life web site, www.wayoflife.org.)

Peterson also recommended Rob Bell's universalistic book *Love Wins*. Bell says hell is in this life and most men will eventually be saved. He writes: "This insistence that God will be united and reconciled with all people is a theme the writers and prophets return to again and again. ... The God that Jesus teaches us about doesn't give up until everything that was lost is found. This God simply doesn't give up. Ever" (*Love Wins*, Kindle location 1259-1287). Bell calls the preaching of eternal hell "misguided and toxic," a "cheap view of God," and "lethal" (location 47-60, 2154-2180). He says there is something wrong with this God and calls Him "terrifying and traumatizing and unbearable" (location 1273-1287, 2098-2113).

That kind of heretical talk apparently resonated deeply with Peterson. No wonder he loved the non-judgmental god/goddess of *The Shack*.

Peterson was a big promoter of Catholic contemplative mysticism. He was on the Board of Reference for the international ecumenical contemplative organization Renovaré (pronounced Ren-o-var-ay, which is Latin, meaning "to make new spiritually"), founded by Richard Foster. At the October 1991 Renovaré meeting in Pasadena, Foster praised Pope John Paul II and called for unity in the Body of Christ through the "five streams of Christianity: the contemplative, holiness, charismatic, social justice and evangelical" (*CIB Bulletin*, December 1991). Foster advocated the practices of Catholic mystics and "the integration of psychology and theology." In his

book entitled *Prayer* Foster drew material from Julian of Norwich, Thomas Merton, Bernard of Clairvaux, Madame Guyon, Teresa of Avila, even St. Ignatius of Loyola, the founder of the Jesuits. Renovaré promotes guided imagery, visualization, centering prayer, astral projection, Zen meditation, and Jungian psychology (*Calvary Contender*, Feb. 15, 1998).

Along the same line, notice the heroes of the faith that Peterson quoted in the article "Spirit Quest" (which is a Native American term for seeking intimacy with and revelation from pagan spirits):

"Single-minded, persevering faithfulness confirms the authenticity of our spirituality. The ancestors we look to for encouragement in this business -- Augustine of Hippo and Julian of Norwich, ... Teresa of Avila -- didn't flit. They stayed" (*Christianity Today*, Nov. 8, 1993).

Augustine, Julian, and Teresa had authentic spirituality? Not when tested by Scripture. Julian of Norwich said, "God showed me that sin need be no shame to man but can even be worthwhile" (quoted by Kenneth Leech, *Soul Friend*, p. 146). She also said, "God is really our Mother as he is our Father" and called Christ "Mother Jesus." Augustine taught that the sacraments are the means of saving grace, was one of the fathers of infant baptism, claiming that baptism takes away the child's sin, taught that Mary did not commit sin and promoted prayers to her, believed in purgatory and the veneration of relics, accepted the doctrine of celibacy for "priests," and laid the foundation for the inquisition, to name a few of his heresies. Teresa of Avila was probably demon possessed; she levitated and made strange noises deep in her throat, experienced terrifying visions and voices, and held to Rome's sacramental gospel that works are required for salvation.

Peterson was Professor of Spiritual Theology at Regent College in Vancouver, British Columbia, and it is obvious that he was influenced deeply by the Catholic and modernistic Protestant "spirituality" in which he immersed himself for so many decades. Regent College's bookstore features many works by Catholic mystics, such as those already named, and by theological modernists. I have visited this bookstore many times, and there is no warning whatsoever in regard to these books.

The mystical "spirituality" that is so popular in evangelical and charismatic circles today is a yearning

for an experiential relationship with God that downplays the role of faith and Scripture and that exalts “transcendental” experiences that lift the individual from the earthly mundane into a higher “spiritual” plane.

Biblical prayer is talking with God; mystical prayer is silent meditation and “centering” and other such things. Biblical Christianity is a patient walk of faith; mystical spirituality is a flight of fancy. Biblical study is analyzing and meditating upon the literal truth of the Scripture; mystical spirituality focuses on a “deeper meaning”; it is more allegorical and “transcendental” than literal.

It is not surprising that Peterson’s translation has a New Agey flavor to it. He even uses the term “as above, so below,” which is a New Age expression for the unity of God and man, Heaven and earth.

In the book *As Above, So Below*, Ronald Miller and the editors of the *New Age Journal* say: “This maxim implies that the transcendent God beyond the physical universe and the immanent God within ourselves are one. Heaven and Earth, spirit and matter, the invisible and the visible worlds form a unity to which we are intimately linked” (quoted from Warren Smith, *Deceived on Purpose: The New Age Implications of the Purpose-Driven Church*, Ravenna, Ohio: Conscience Press, 2004).

In light of this, consider the following quotations from Peterson’s *The Message*:

Matthew 6:9-13, *The Message* -- “Our Father in heaven, Reveal who you are. Set the world right; Do what’s best -- AS ABOVE, SO BELOW. Keep us alive with three square meals. Keep us forgiven with you and forgiving others. Keep us safe from ourselves and the Devil. You’re in charge!”

Colossians 1:16, *The Message* -- “For everything, absolutely everything, ABOVE AND BELOW, visible and invisible ... everything got started in him and finds its purpose in him.”

The Message is an environmental Bible, as well. In Romans 15:13, *The Message* says, “May the God of green hope fill you up with joy...” and in 1 Corinthians 6:9-10, it says that those who “use and abuse the earth and everything in it, don’t qualify as citizens in God’s kingdom.”

The Message is pro-homosexual, playing right into the hands of those who teach that homosexuality is a natural

condition that God can bless instead of a sin that needs to be repented of. Every passage that condemns homosexuality is tampered with in *The Message*. For example, 1 Corinthians 6:9-11 in the KJV warns that “effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind” will not inherit the kingdom of God without being born again.

In *The Message* this becomes the vapid and almost meaningless “those who use and abuse each other, use and abuse sex.” In 1 Timothy 1:10, “them that defile themselves with mankind” is changed to “the irresponsible, who defy all authority, riding roughshod over God, life, sex, truth, whatever.”

It is not surprising that Peterson told Religion News Service on July 12, 2017, that he did not believe that homosexuality is sinful. He said, “I know a lot of people who are gay and lesbian and they seem to have as good a spiritual life as I do. I think that kind of debate about lesbians and gays might be over. People who disapprove of it, they’ll probably just go to another church. So we’re in a transition and I think it’s a transition for the best, for the good.”

Peterson told the RNS that the church he pastored hired a homosexual minister of music. He said that in churches where he served as associate pastor, “There were several women who were lesbians.”

Consider some other examples of the amazing liberties that Eugene Peterson took with the Words of God in *The Message*:

Matthew 5:3

KJV “Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

MESSAGE “You’re blessed when you’re at the end of your rope. With less of you there is more of God and his rule.”

Comment: Being poor in spirit means to be at the end of your rope? If that were true, vast numbers of unsaved people are candidates for heaven!

Matthew 5:8

KJV “Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.”

MESSAGE “You’re blessed when you get your inside world, your mind and heart, put right. Then you can see God in the outside world.”

Comment: This must be transcendental, because it doesn’t make any non-transcendental sense.

Matthew 5:14

KJV "Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid."

MESSAGE "Here's another way to put it: You're here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world."

Comment: "God-colors"? I didn't even know about God-colors when I was a member of Paramahansa Yogananda's Self-Realization Fellowship Society before I was saved!

Matthew 5:43

KJV "Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy."

MESSAGE "Jesus said, You're familiar with the old written law, 'Love your friend,' and its unwritten companion, 'Hate your enemy.'"

Comment: The Lord Jesus was not quoting the Mosaic Law; He was referring to the teaching of the Pharisees who had perverted the Law. The Law of God did not command, "Hate your enemy."

Matthew 9:34

KJV "But the Pharisees said, He casteth out devils through the prince of the devils."

MESSAGE "The Pharisees were left sputtering, 'Hocus Pocus. It's nothing but Hocus Pocus.'"

Comment: This is clearly a "translational-paraphrase."

Matt. 11:28-30

KJV "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

MESSAGE "Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me -- watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you."

Comment: The Message sounds like an iron tonic television commercial here!

Matthew 28:19

KJV "...baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:"

MESSAGE "...baptism in the three-fold name: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit."

Comment: The Message gives an Anti-Trinitarian, Jesus-only spin to this verse, which claims that God is not three Persons in one Godhead but that He simply manifests Himself in three ways.

John 1:18

KJV "No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him."

MESSAGE "No one has ever seen God, not so much of a glimpse. This one-of-a-kind God-expression, who exists at the very heart of the Father, has made him plain as day."

Comment: To translate "the only begotten Son" as "this one-of-a-kind God-expression" is not only heretical; it is absurd.

John 3:5

KJV "Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God."

MESSAGE "Jesus said, You're not listening. Let me say it again. Unless a person submits to this original creation--the 'wind hovering over the water' creation, the invisible moving the visible, a baptism into a new life--it's not possible to enter God's kingdom."

Comment: Peterson's "translation" gives the baptismal regenerationists the best support they have ever had. Roman Catholics who write to debate me would love this version.

John 10:30

KJV "I and my Father are one."

MESSAGE "I and the Father are one heart and mind."

Comment: To add to the words of Christ in this strange manner, it truly appears that Peterson has no fear of God.

Sources For Sacred Music Recordings

(Friday Church News Notes, October 25, 2019, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - CONCORD & HARMONY is the ministry of Alan and Ellen Ives. Their music has recently been put online for mp3 download at concordandharmony.com. GLORY AND HARMONY MUSIC is the ministry of John Randall, son-in-law of Alan and Ellen Ives. They

have a recording studio and are producing new music which is available for download. He says, "We have a recording studio in our home so that Christians can record conservative music at a drastically reduced cost." They publish an audio hymnal of over 500 mp3 songs for churches that do not have a pianist. See gloryandhonormusic.com.

Acts 8:20

KJV "But Peter said unto him, Thy money perish with thee..."

MESSAGE "Peter said, 'To hell with your money!'"

Comment: Since Peter cussed some the night he denied his Lord, I suppose Peterson believes he was still cussing in the book of Acts.

Romans 8:11

KJV "...he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you."

MESSAGE "... he'll do the same thing in you that he did in Jesus, bringing you alive to himself."

Comment: Peterson spiritualizes Christ's resurrection here.

Romans 8:35

KJV "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?"

MESSAGE "Do you think anyone is going to be able to drive a wedge between us and Christ's love for us? There is no way! Not trouble, not hard times, not hatred, not hunger, not homelessness, not bullying threats, not backstabbing, not even the worst sins listed in Scripture."

Comment: Revelation 22:18-19 should cause Peterson (and everyone who approved The Message) to lose a lot of sleep.

Philippians 2:12

KJV "Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling."

MESSAGE "Be energetic in your life of salvation, reverent and sensitive before God. That energy is God's energy, an energy deep within you, God himself willing and working at what will give him the most pleasure."

Comment: This is another New Agey, heretical spin to the Scriptures.

Colossians 2:10

KJV "And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:"

MESSAGE "You don't need a telescope, a microscope, or a horoscope to realize the fullness of Christ, and the emptiness of the universe without him..."

Comment: What? And this mess was reviewed by 21 scholars and approved by the likes of J.I. Packer?

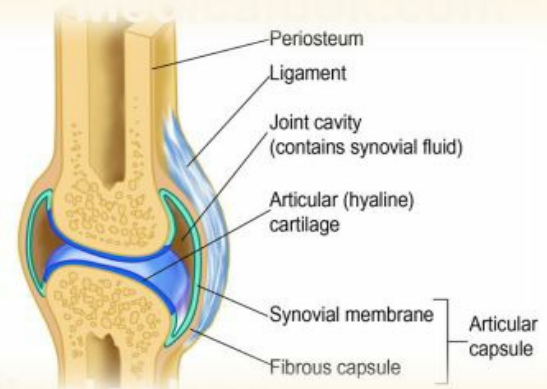
1 Peter 3:1

KJV "Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives."

MESSAGE "The same goes for you wives: Be good wives to your husbands, responsive to their needs..."

Comment: Peterson has done away with wifely subjection. Do we have the "feminist version" here?

GOD'S ARCHITECTURE WINS AGAIN (Friday Church News Notes, October 18, 2019, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is from creationmoments.com, Oct. 9, 2019: "If you live in a temperate climate, you have probably heard your home pop and crack on cold days. Those sounds are caused by the different materials that make up your house contracting at different rates as the temperature falls. At some point, the growing tensions are released and you hear the result. If you live in a warm climate that is subject to hurricanes, you know that a building is likely to fail at the point where different parts of the house, like the roof and wall, meet together. Buildings are made up of a large number of things, each of which acts differently under the same conditions. That makes for weak points in any structure. British architects have looked at the structure of living things to find an answer to this problem. They noted that skeletons can work well under conditions that would cause many other building materials to fail. One researcher noted



that a skeleton is more efficient than any man-made structure. One architect's suggestion was to build structures like walls and bridges out of artificial bone that is formed to the needs of the structure. We should not be surprised that, once again, man is looking to the living world for solutions to his problems. The living world, like everything else, was designed by our all-wise God Who does all things well. Ref: *New Scientist*, 9/16/2000, p. 7."

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?



ONE-WORLD CHURCH CONGREGATION IN

MANHATTAN (Friday Church News Notes, September 27, 2019, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- Rutgers Presbyterian Church in Manhattan is on the radical side of the one-world church. It brings together Presbyterians, Roman Catholics, Jews, New Agers, even atheists around the themes of social justice and saving the earth ("What Draws Atheists, Jews and Catholics to a Presbyterian Church," *New York Times*, Sept. 6, 2019). The congregation is involved in such things as climate change activism, homosexual rights, and Black Lives Matters. Tibetan Buddhist prayer flags adorn the church, and visitors can choose from a variety of buttons to wear declaring their "gender identity: he/him, she/her, they/them." One female attendee, Clare Hogenauer, appeared some years ago in Times Square topless to protest the death penalty. She told the *New York Times* that she does not consider herself a Christian, but she does "believe Jesus was a good guy." When she shares her health issues with the congregation, she doesn't ask for prayers. The one-world church is a big house with many rooms, and the walls are permeable. Evangelicals are in a different part of the house, but they share some fundamental things with Rutgers, particularly an emphasis on social justice and kingdom building and a

judge not philosophy. A Rutgers' member said that the church is constantly thinking about "ways to make the world right," and, "It's not just through proselytization and pointing fingers, but by working." They all misinterpret Matthew 7:1, "Judge not, that ye be not judged." (See [The Judge Not Heresy](#), a free eBook available from www.wayoflife.org.)

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH PLACES PAGAN DEITY IN SANCTUARY (Friday Church News Notes, September 27, 2019, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The following is excerpted from "Presbyterian Church (PCUSA) Reveals Their True God," *ReformationCharlotte.org*, Sep. 16, 2019: "The Sviatovid sculpture placed in the sanctuary of a New York Presbyterian church is a modern artistic rendition of an ancient Pagan god unique to Eastern Europe and was worshiped as the god of war. The sculpture, which is placed in the sanctuary of Binghamton Presbyterian Church in New York, is on display during a festival called the Luma Festival. According to the sculpture's website, Sviatovid 'is



inspired by both a ninth-century Slavic deity, and a medieval sculpture of the same name. Sviatovid is a fifteen-foot-tall faceted totem.' ... The festival claims that the purpose of the sculpture is 'in keeping with the deity's origin story, Sviatovid is on an intercontinental expedition to bring people closer together.' ... The Presbyterian Church (PCUSA) mainline denomination is long apostate and has completely abandoned the true God of the Bible in favor of LGBTQ inclusion, feminism, and social justice."

CLIMATE CHANGE ACTIVISTS CONFESS THEIR SINS TO PLANTS AT UNION THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY (Friday Church News Notes, September 27, 2019, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The following is excerpted from "Climate Crazy Seminary Confesses Sins to Plants," PJmedia.com, Sept. 19, 2019: "On Tuesday, Union Theological Seminary hosted a chapel service in which self-identified Christians confessed their climate sins to plants. No, this is not satire from *The Babylon Bee*--this really happened, and the seminary is defending it without shame. The incident illustrates how dangerous climate change hysteria can become, and how important it is for Christians to actually read their Bibles and reject the syncretism of the world. 'In worship, our community confessed



the harm we've done to plants, speaking directly in repentance. This is a beautiful ritual,' the seminary announced on Twitter. Together, we held our grief, joy, regret, hope, guilt and sorrow in prayer; offering them to the beings who sustain us but whose gift we too often fail to honor. ... we're treating plants as fully created beings, divine Creation in its own right—not just something to be consumed. Because plants aren't capable of verbal response, does that mean we shouldn't engage with them? ... We need to unlearn habits of sin and death. And part of that work must be building new bridges to the natural world. And that means creating new spiritual and intellectual frameworks by which we understand and relate to the plants and animals with whom we share the planet."

CLIMATE CHANGE HYSTERIA CAUSING CHILDREN TO NEED PSYCHOLOGICAL COUNSELING (Friday Church News Notes, September 27, 2019, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The following is excerpted from "Shrinks Are Treating Climate-Traumatized Kids," Futurism.com, Sept. 18, 2019: "An increasing number of children in the UK are being treated by healthcare professionals for 'eco-anxiety,' a growing sense of fear over climate change and impending environmental disasters, the Daily Telegraph reports. ... 'The fear is of environmental doom--that we're all going to die,' Caroline Hickman, executive for the Climate Psychology Alliance, told the *Telegraph*. 'A lot of parents are coming into therapy asking for help with the children and it has escalated a lot this summer.' At least partially to blame--for better or for worse--are the increasingly vocal



activists rallying the public against climate change."

PEOPLE WHO POST SELFIES SEEN AS LESS LIKABLE (Friday Church News Notes, September 27, 2019, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The following is excerpted from "People who post," *The Seattle Times*, Aug. 30, 2019: "In a Washington State University study that will publish this fall in the *Journal of Research in Personality*, individuals who posted a lot of selfies were almost uniformly viewed as less likable, less successful and more insecure than people who posted more 'posies'--that is, traditionally posed photos that appear to be taken by someone else. WSU psychology professor Chris Barry worked with WSU students, as well as collaborators from the University of Southern Mississippi, to design a project intended to measure judgments of pictures posted on Instagram. ... Across the board, the study found that people who posted more selfies were viewed to have lower self-esteem and to be more lonely, less dependable and less successful than those who posted more 'posies,' Barry said in a phone interview Thursday. 'Even when two feeds had similar content, such as depictions of achievement or travel, feelings about the person who posted selfies were negative and feelings about the person



who posted posies were positive,’ he said. ... A better solution, though, might be to stop being concerned about social media at all. ‘It can be very hard when we get focused on number of likes or how many followers we have or the number of interactions,’ said Keely Kolmes, a San Francisco-based psychologist with expertise in social media matters. Kolmes recommends people unplug once in a while and engage with the world around us instead.”

WOLVES, TIGERS, AND BEARS

(Friday Church News Notes, September 27, 2019, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is from CreationMoments.com, Sept. 23, 2019: “God made animals according to their kind. We refer to these kinds as *baramins* – from two Hebrew words for created kind. God did not make lions, tigers, pumas, etc. He made *felids* – the technical word for members of the cat family, or felidae. Evolutionists believe in a phylogenetic tree, showing a common ancestry of animals. Creationists do not accept this common ancestry, but neither do they accept a fixity of species because species is a relatively modern concept. We would see a phylogenetic orchard where there is a branched tree for felidae, another for *canidae*, or dogs, and another for *ursidae*, or bears. However,

evolutionists wish to find a common ancestor for these three families of carnivores, and they believe they have found it in a fossil bed near Dordrecht, in Belgium. Originally, two teeth were found, and this suggested to the discoverers a whole new type of creature. Then some ankle bones were found, and these were assumed, because of their proximity, to be from the same animal type. So they named the creature *dordrechtocyon latouri* and claimed it to be the ancestor of wolves, tigers and bears. Judging from its ankle bones, they have decided that the creature lived in trees, weighed two pounds and looked like a cross between a panther and a squirrel. They would appear to be led by what they desire to find. There is no evidence of this being any sort of link between these three kinds of animals.

Ref: www.nbcnews.com/science/science-news/tiny-ancestor-lions-tigers-bears-discovered-oh-my-flna2D11869414.”

TEETH AND TARSALS (Friday Church News Notes, September 27, 2019, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The following is from CreationMoments.com, Sept. 24, 2019: “In a previous Creation Moment [See ‘Wolves, Tigers, and Bears’], we discussed how a discovery of some teeth and some ankle bones, or tarsals, at Dordrecht in Belgium, has led to evolutionary



scientists believing they have found a missing link between dogs, cats and bears. They picture a little two-pound creature, scurrying through the branches of trees; yet, not a single complete or even nearly complete skeleton has been found. Creationist researcher Dr. Elizabeth Mitchell has explained the evolutionary thinking process involved. Evolutionary researchers made a number of assumptions which simply do not add up. First, evolutionists ASSUME that the fact that there is a wide variety of animal species on the planet, that this is actually proof that they have a common ancestor. Common ancestry is, therefore, assumed and is a basic, unshakeable belief without any real proof whatsoever. Second, they assume that comparing the features of various fossils can enable them to line them up in an evolutionary history. This is despite the fact that there has never been an observation of one kind of animal evolving into another. Third, millions of years have to be assumed in order to give time for the alleged evolution, which has never been actually observed to take place. Dr. Mitchell says, ‘There is no biological evidence for the divergence of canines, cats, and bears from a common carnivorous ancestor. ... There is no scientific justification for insisting that in the unobservable past they evolved into more complex and divergent kinds of animals from a common ancestor.’ Ref: Mitchell, E. (2014), *Extinct Carnivore Ancestor of Lions and Tigers and Bears? (Oh My!)*”

ANDERSONITE PREACHER SAYS LESTER ROLOFF IS IN HELL FOR PREACHING REPENTANCE (Friday Church News Notes, October 4, 2019, www.wayoflife.org,

fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Jesse Michael, a follower of Steven Anderson, claims that Lester Roloff is in hell for preaching repentance. Michael preached the following at Stedfast Baptist Church in Oklahoma City: "I expose the deceased false prophet Lester Roloff and his wicked 'repent and turn from your sins' works salvation as heresy. This guy's a fraud and a false prophet. He's in hell right now. He had wicked intensions. It's pretty obvious to me. Repenting and turning from your sin for salvation is works salvation. ... He's saying that basically there has to be a change in your life." This is pure Andersonite heresy. As a former student of Hyles Anderson College, Steven Anderson is the product of quick prayerism and the change in definition of repentance that equates it with faith. But the apostle Paul preached *both* repentance and faith (Acts 20:21) and he defined repentance as follows: "But shewed first unto them of Damascus, and at Jerusalem, and throughout all the coasts of Judaea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance" (Acts 26:20). Paul's repentance is not a works salvation; it's an evidence salvation. Biblical repentance is not a change of life; it is a change of mind *that results in* a change of life, and it *always* results in a change of life. Paul's repentance is the repentance that we see in the Prodigal Son (Lu. 15:18), the woman at the well (Jo. 4:39), the 3,000 on the



day of Pentecost (Acts 2:41-42), the Ethiopian eunuch (Acts 8:36-39), the Philippian jailer (Acts 16:30-34), and Paul himself (Acts 19:18-20). This is the repentance that Lester Roloff preached. He preached a pure gospel of salvation by God's grace without works, but, like Paul, he preached that salvation is "unto good works" (Eph. 2:8-10).

https://vimeo.com/362408057?fbclid=IwAR18AzFQGH18501_tlqLqMjsjJDQAscKJW1nL1IT7OppOmGZfPYsxgGbJw.

MATTEL RELEASES GENDER NEUTRAL DOLLS (Friday Church News Notes, October 4, 2019, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from "Woke Barbie," Dailywire.com, Sept. 25, 2019: "Toy company Mattel on Wednesday launched a new line of dolls that are 'gender inclusive' because, you know, kids everywhere are demanding them. Called 'Creatable World,' the line allows children to interchange hair, clothes, and accessories on the dolls--meaning they can be both male and female. 'We see this line as an opportunity for us to open up that dialogue around what dolls are for and who dolls are for,' said Kim Culmone, senior vice president of Mattel Fashion Doll Design. 'And also as the world begins to celebrate the positive impact of inclusivity, we absolutely fundamentally believed it was time to launch a doll line free of labels and free of rules for kids.' ... The company touted the new product on Twitter, linking to a story by *Time* magazine, 'A Doll for Everyone,' Sept. 25, 2019: 'Mattel's first promotional spot for the \$29.99 product features a series of kids who



go by various pronouns--him, her, them, xem--and the slogan, "A doll line designed to keep labels out and invite everyone in." With this overt nod to trans and nonbinary identities, the company is betting on where it thinks the country is going, even if it means alienating a substantial portion of the population. A Pew Research survey conducted in 2017 showed that while 76% of the public supports parents' steering girls to toys and activities traditionally associated with boys, only 64% endorse steering boys toward toys and activities associated with girls."

BENNY HINN BEGS FOR MONEY TWO DAYS AFTER RENOUNCING THE PROSPERITY GOSPEL (Friday Church News Notes, October 4, 2019, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from "Benn Hinn," *Hallels News*, Sep. 7, 2019: "Earlier this week, televangelist and faith healer Benny Hinn announced that he will no longer preach the 'prosperity gospel.' Prosperity gospel teaches



that financial blessing and physical well-being are always the will of God for them, and that faith, positive speech, and donations to religious causes will increase one's material wealth. However, two days after Hinn's confession, he is already asking for donations. In a live video posted to his Facebook page on Monday, Hinn apologizes, 'I'm sorry to say that prosperity has gone a little crazy and I'm correcting my own theology and you need to all know it. Because when I read the Bible now, I don't see the Bible in the same eyes I saw 20 years ago.' 'I think it's an offense to the Lord, it's an offense to say give \$1,000. I think it's an offense to the Holy Spirit to place a price on the Gospel. I'm done with it. I will never again ask you to give \$1,000 or whatever amount, because I think the Holy Ghost is just fed up with it.' Two days after renouncing the prosperity gospel, Hinn's website still asks donors to give up to \$1,000 a month to Hinn's ministry. Additionally, just two days after Hinn's video aired, he asked his followers to send him seed money for 'debt elimination.'"

INTERVARSITY INTRODUCES "QUEER BIBLE STUDY" (Friday Church News Notes, October 4, 2019, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from "InterVarsity Introduces," ReformationCharlotte.org, Sept. 27, 2019: "InterVarsity is an



interdenominational Evangelical fellowship designed for college students to interact and fellowship with each other. But, like CRU — formerly Campus Crusade for Christ — InterVarsity has taken a progressive nosedive into apostasy InterVarsity is closely tied to the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) and SBC churches have a habit of connecting their students to InterVarsity teams on campuses when they're away at college. In 2016, InterVarsity officially affirmed that marriage was between a man and a woman, however, the organization has gay and lesbian groups on campuses. One such campus is at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC), where a Bible-study group has been formed and named, 'Queer Bible Study.' ... The group was started by a lesbian named Alyssa Walter who says she came out as a 'queer Christian' in 2018. She said she felt she could not lead other "queer Christians" without being fully out herself."

TRUMP'S FINEST HOUR (Friday Church News Notes, October 4, 2019, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from "Trump's Finest Hour," *The Stream*, Sept. 26, 2019: "'That's very sad, in many ways.' That's the President speaking to world leaders at the United Nations' first ever summit on international religious liberty. He was shocked to learn it was the UN's first-ever such event. 'The United States,' he explained, 'is founded on the principle that our rights do not come from government; they come from God. This immortal truth is proclaimed in our Declaration of Independence. ... Our Founders



understood that no right is more fundamental to a peaceful, prosperous, and virtuous society than the right to follow one's religious convictions.' We can be grateful that an American President had the courage to say this not only to the many brutal regimes represented in the UN assembly hall. But also to Americans who believe our rights come from the government. Or the majority of voters. And who think, if we lose religious liberty, is it really a big deal? Yeah, it is. Religious liberty is about the ability to live-out one's faith in the day-to-day. It involves not just private but also public actions and speech. From it flow the rights of assembly, speech, and press, to keep and bear arms, and so forth. Our duty to our Creator outweighs duty to anyone else, including the state. Our obligation is not just to worship Him on occasion, but to live and speak as He commands *all day, every day*. If our main duty isn't to Him, then what is it to? The government? That's a terrifying thought. In our country, a growing number of Americans have been penalized for refusing to surrender their faith. Consider Baronelle Stutzman, an elderly Christian grandmother who runs a florist shop in rural Washington State. Several years ago, she refused to create floral arrangements to celebrate the wedding of two men. Since then, the state of Washington and the ACLU have brought her to court several times. The Alliance

Defending Freedom has now petitioned the Supreme Court to hear her case. This is but one example of many. Cakebakers and pharmacists, professors and sheriffs, even nurses, all attacked because they will not bend the knee to the Baal of a hostile culture. Thankfully, unlike his predecessor, Trump has defended domestic religious liberty strongly.”

CHINESE CHRISTIANS THROWING AWAY BIBLES TO RAISE “SOCIAL CREDIT SCORE” (Friday Church News Notes, October 4, 2019, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)



- The following is excerpted from “Chinese Christians,” PulpitandPen.org, Sept. 19, 2019: “According to the *South China Morning Post*, Christians in China have been visited by government officials and told that to raise their ‘Social Credit Score,’ they needed to replace all religious imagery with portraits of Communist leaders and replace the Holy Bible with Communist quotations. According to the news reports, hundreds of thousands of Chinese Christians are surrendering their Christian paintings and writings to comply with government rating standards. The so-called Social Credit Score is a nationwide “reputation scoring system” implemented in China in 2014 that has the entire world

spooked. By providing a credit score for reputation, the Chinese government is more effectively controlling their populace than by violent force. The system gives scoring based upon social media posts, neighbor opinions, employer records, and stats provided by public utilities. These scores are then used to determine hiring eligibility and social standing in Chinese institutions.”

BRITISH COURT IN TRANSGENDER CASE: BIBLE BELIEF “INCOMPATIBLE WITH HUMAN DIGNITY” (Friday Church News Notes, October 11, 2019, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The following is excerpted from “British Court,” *The Daily Wire*, Oct. 2, 2019: “On Tuesday, a British court ruled that belief in the Bible was ‘incompatible with human dignity.’ That statement came in a case involving Dr. David Mackereth, a devout Christian who had worked as an emergency doctor for the National Health Service for 26 years. He said he was fired from his job because he refused to call a biological man a woman. The court’s ruling stated: ‘Belief in Genesis 1:27, lack of belief in transgenderism and conscientious objection to transgenderism in our judgment are incompatible with human dignity and conflict with the fundamental rights of others, specifically here, transgender individuals.’ The court added. ‘... in so far as those beliefs form part of his wider faith, his wider faith also does not satisfy the requirement of being worthy of respect in a democratic society, not incompatible with human dignity and not in conflict with the fundamental rights of others.’ *The Telegraph* reported that Mackereth



said he was removed from his job with the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) in late June 2018 after his boss ‘interrogated’ him about his personal religious convictions. Mackereth told the court in July that his line manager had asked him, ‘If you have a man six foot tall with a beard who says he wants to be addressed as *she* and *Mrs* would you do that?’ Mackereth said that because of his religious beliefs, he could not, and his job was subsequently terminated. *CBN* reported that Mackereth’s attorney, Michael Phillips, told the court, ‘His belief [is] in the truth of the Bible, and in particular, the truth of Genesis 1:27: “So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.” It follows that every person is created by God as either male or female. A person cannot change their sex/gender at will. Any attempt at, or pretense of, doing so, is pointless, self-destructive, and sinful.’ ... Mackereth responded to the ruling, asserting, ‘I am not alone in being deeply concerned by this outcome. Staff in the NHS, even those who do not share my Christian convictions, are also disturbed as they see their own freedom of thought and speech being undermined by the judges’ ruling. No doctor, or researcher, or philosopher, can demonstrate or prove that a person can change sex. Without intellectual and moral integrity, medicine cannot function and my 30 years as a doctor

are now considered irrelevant compared to the risk that someone else might be offended.’ ... Mackereth said he will appeal the ruling.”

PASTOR REPLIES TO THE ARTICLE ON “JUMBOISM” (Friday Church News Notes, October 11, 2019, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The following is one of the replies we received in response to the article “Jumboism,” which we published Sept. 26. “I just wanted to drop you a quick note thanking you for your article on ‘Jumboism’ that I received this morning. ... [In my 15 years of pastoral ministry,] I have often found myself being drawn into ‘Jumboism.’ All it has ever led to in my life is discouragement. It is so easy, especially as a younger pastor, to hear other pastors touting numbers and not be sucked into the same game. I have an earnest desire to teach our people the Word of God, and how to study it and become Bible students on their own as well. I want our folks to be always ready to give an answer for the hope that is in them. How strong the temptation is to leave off these things and do nothing but shoot for numbers! I don’t ever want to use the excuse ‘we’re not about numbers’ as an excuse for laziness and not laboring in soul winning and discipleship, but I certainly do not want to become infected with ‘Jumboism.’ Your



article truly encouraged my heart this morning as we are striving to be a church that is ‘large’ Scripturally and not according to the world’s standards of success. I heard a good pastor refer to his church as a ‘crockpot church,’ slowly nurturing and developing sincere Christians, as opposed to a ‘microwave church,’ all about instant ‘Jumboism.’ I thought that was an apt illustration. Thank you again and God bless!”

FACEBOOK BANS CONSERVATIVE JEWISH WOMAN BUT NOT ANTIFA OR ISIS

(Friday Church News Notes, October 4, 2019, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from “Investigative Reporter Laura Loomer’s Lawsuit against Big Tech for Banning Her Allowed to Proceed,” *The Stream*, Aug. 28, 2019: “Big tech, it’s notorious. For what? For banning and suspending people on the right. These supposedly objective platforms have a clear political agenda. And it’s not friendly to conservatism. One person refusing to take this prejudice lying down is investigative journalist Laura Loomer. She recently filed a lawsuit against Apple, Facebook, Google and Twitter for conspiring to silence her political views. She has been banned from, you won’t believe this. From Twitter. And Facebook. And Instagram. And Periscope, PayPal, Venmo, GoFundMe, Chase Bank, Lyft, Medium, TeeSpring, Uber, and Uber Eats. *Uber Eats?* Really? They banned her, she says, mostly for her critical statements about Islam. She refers to herself as ‘the most banned woman in the world.’ ‘I plan on suing all of the Left wing terrorists and tech tyrants who are trying to shut me down simply because I am a



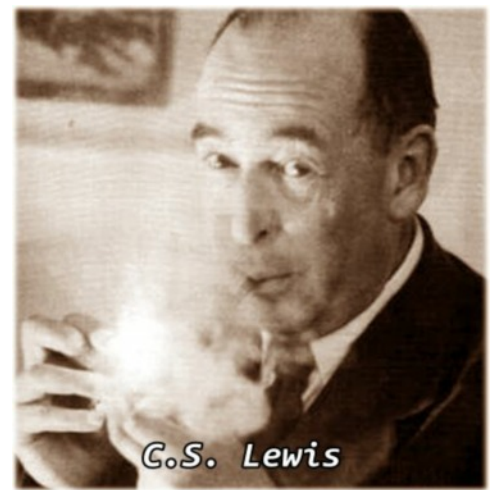
Conservative Jewish woman who speaks truth about Islam,’ she said in a social media post. ‘I have nothing to lose anymore, so trust me when I say I will stop at nothing to make sure justice is served for the way Silicon Valley has disenfranchised me, falsely accusing me of being a white supremacist, a Nazi, anti-Muslim, a racist, a bigot, and every other smear in the book.’ A D.C. federal judge initially dismissed the case. She appealed to the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals. It allowed the suit to go ahead. Loomer also claims that the tech giants have breached the Sherman Act, which prohibits monopolies. She says they’ve violated D.C.’s public accommodations law, which prohibits denying people access to public accommodations for discrimination reasons. ... Facebook and Twitter have become so popular that some argue they are public utilities. And public utilities with a monopoly on communication. As such, they are subject to government regulation. ... A spokesperson for Facebook said in response that the company bans individuals or organizations that ‘*promote or engage in violence and hate, regardless of ideology.*’ They apparently think her comments apply. However, Facebook and Instagram have not banned Antifa or ISIS from having accounts on their platforms. Antifa doesn’t engage in violence?

ISIS doesn't engage in violence and hate? Who are they kidding?"

CAMPUS CRUSADE LEADER SAYS NO NEED TO REPENT OF HOMOSEXUALITY

(Friday Church News Notes, October 11, 2019, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from "No Need to Repent," reformationcharlotte.org, Sept. 30, 2019: "Last week, *Reformation Charlotte* reported that a well-known CRU (formerly Campus Crusade for Christ) leader, speaker, and author, Matt Mikalatos had been actively seeking to import Roman Catholicism and Native American mysticism into the Evangelical Church by inviting people who hold to these aberrant religions to speak at CRU events. Mikalatos, a CRU leader out of Portland Oregon, invited the self-described 'Native American Mystic' and Pagan, Kaitlin Curtice, to speak at an event to which, thankfully, she declined. Mikalatos had also been exposed for attempting to get Catholic priests to come and speak at other events. It is beyond sound reason why anyone who claims to hold to the biblical doctrine of salvation which is expressed in the Five Solas of the Protestant Reformation would find it acceptable to invite Roman Catholics, tree-worshipping mystics, and other

aberrant religious speakers to address Christian students. It goes without saying--for any Bible-believing Christian--that those who oppose Christ's way of salvation are opposed to Christ Himself--and certainly, the Roman Catholic Church is opposed to salvation by Grace Alone through Faith Alone. Further, the Roman Catholic Church anathematizes Protestants who do hold to a biblical soteriology. ... Yet, Mikalatos doesn't stop there. Keep in mind that Mikalatos is a man with a significant amount of influence over young Christian students. Inside and outside of CRU circles, Mikalatos is a gifted and sought after speaker. Yet, despite his gift, the aberrant theology that he carries with him continues to damage the Church. Mikalatos has followed in the footsteps of one of his colleagues we reported about previously, Rachel Gilson, and has completely affirmed 'gay Christianity.' In an article titled 'How Do I Talk to LGBTQ Friends about the Gospel?' Mikalatos says, 'Practice Saying This: "You Can Be Gay and Follow Jesus."' But he didn't stop there; he completely affirmed that godless notion that coming to Christ doesn't require repentance of sin. He actually said, 'We all have a laundry list of sins in our lives, and repentance requires acknowledging only one of them.' In complete and total affirmation of 'gay Christianity,' Mikalatos writes, 'There are a good number of LGBTQ people who are already followers of Jesus. There may even be a gay person in your church who is following Jesus, just like you are. Don't assume that because someone is Queer they are not already connected spiritually ... maybe deeply connected!'"



YOUNG MAN ESCAPES THE INFLUENCE OF C.S. LEWIS

(Friday Church News Notes, October 18, 2019, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is a testimony we received from a reader recently: "My father pointed me to your materials, and at first I was hesitant, as you are more hard-lined in what you believe than Ravi Zacharias, Frank Turek, and others who I was listening to. With time, I jumped into your materials as well, and you have made me much more confident in my faith than anyone else. Your hard stance on God's Word is not harsh, but simply true. Your method of citing all claims you make with Biblical references is unlike virtually anyone else I have read. And to think I was close to purchasing *Mere Christianity* before reading your e-book on CS Lewis! Your work is completely necessary in such a confused and Biblically illiterate world, and I just want to thank you, as a brother in Christ, for the hard work you put into what you do. I have also built up a habit of daily Bible reading, which has now developed into a daily Bible study, using commentaries, the Way of Life Encyclopedia, and Strong's Concordance along with my reading. I also am reading strictly King James,



INFRASOUNDS (Friday Church News Notes, October 11, 2019, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is from creationmoments.com, Oct. 3, 2019: “We are surrounded by sounds, some of which can be louder than an airliner taking off. Yet, we never hear these sounds. It’s called infrasound. It’s real sound that can be recorded if you have the right equipment. Infrasound waves are below 20 hertz, the lowest frequency we can hear. Because the sound waves are long, they can travel hundreds or even thousands of miles. Volcanic eruptions regularly generate infrasound and so does the wind. But, perhaps most interestingly, those beautiful Northern Lights that often color the night sky also generate infrasound. The sound is produced when the incoming solar particles push the air outward. While we are not able to hear infrasound, it does influence us. Researchers in England placed an infrasound generator in a concert hall and, during the performance, infrasound was added at selected points. After the concert, the audience was asked about their emotions during certain passages of music, or if they had had experienced any strange feelings during the concert.



Researchers concluded that infrasound intensified whatever emotional state the music had produced in people. So, if you have ever watched the Northern Lights and thought you were almost hearing something, it was likely the infrasound you were sensing. The more we learn about the creation God has given us, the more we find to marvel at how excellent is His workmanship. Ref: *Science News*, 1/10: 2004, pp. 26-28, Kate Ramsayer, ‘Infrasonic Symphony.’”

which is something I never thought I’d be doing (your e-book, ‘Why We Hold to the King James Bible’ changed my heart in the matter). For the first time in my life, I can say that my faith in God is truly grounded in actual conviction, repentance, and a love for Him and His Word, and you are a big reason for it. So again, I sincerely love the work you continually put out, and I pray daily for your various ministries as well.”

POPE TOLD JOURNALIST JESUS NOT GOD AND THERE IS NO HELL (Friday Church News Notes, October 18, 2019, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from “Scalfari: Pope ‘Francis Told Me That Jesus Incarnate Was ‘a Man,’

CNSNews.com, Oct. 9, 2019: “In the latest edition of *La Repubblica*, Pope Francis’ longtime atheist friend and interviewer, Eugenio Scalfari, claims that the Pope told him that once Jesus Christ became incarnate, he was a man, a ‘man of exceptional virtues’ but ‘not at all a God.’ The teaching of the Catholic Church and most Christian churches is that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, was incarnated as fully man and fully God. ... According to the highly



respected Catholic blog, *Rorate Caeli*, and *Radio Spada* in Italy, Scalfari states in the Oct. 9 edition of *La Repubblica* (behind paywall) the following: ‘Those who, as it has happened many times with me, have had the luck of meeting him and speaking to him with the greatest cultural intimacy, know that Pope Francis conceives Christ as Jesus of Nazareth, man, not God incarnate. Once incarnate, Jesus stops being a God and becomes a man until his death on the cross.’ ... In a March 2018 interview with Scalfari, Pope Francis reportedly said, ‘There is no Hell, there is the disappearance of sinful souls.’ ... The Pope himself never denied what Scalfari reported and the article never ran a correction or removed the article from its website.”



MOST BIOLOGISTS BELIEVE THAT LIFE BEGINS AT CONCEPTION (Friday Church News Notes, October 18, 2019, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from *Christian News*, July 29, 2019: "A recent five-year research study has revealed that an overwhelming majority of biologists from 1,058 academic institutions confirm that 'a human's life begins at fertilization.' Steven Jacobs was a University of Chicago, PhD. candidate who recently successfully defended his dissertation, 'Balancing Abortion Rights and Fetal Rights. A Mixed Methods Mediation of the U. S. Abortion Debate.' For his research, Jacobs recruited 5,502 academic biologists to participate in his thesis study, 'Biologists Consensus on When Life Begins.' The biologists identified themselves as 'very pro-choice, very pro-life, very liberal, very conservative, strong Democrats and strong Republicans.' After five years, the research showed that 95% (5212 out 5502) of the biologists affirmed the biological view that a human's life begins at fertilization, revealing that biology professors in American academia overwhelmingly agree with this pro-life position. During the survey, Jacobs asked the biologists to agree or disagree with two 'implicit statements.' (1) 'The end product of mammalian fertilization is a fertilized egg

(zygote), a new mammalian organism in the first stage of its species' life cycle with its species' genome.' Approximately 90% agreed the development of a mammal begins at the moment of fertilization. (2) 'The development of a mammal begins with fertilization, a process by which the spermatozoon from the male and the oocyte from the female unite to give rise to a new organism, the zygote.' More than 75% agreed that fertilization marks the beginning of a human's life. Then the participants were given an open-ended essay question and asked to answer, 'From a biological perspective,' the question 'When does a human's life begin?' Ninety percent of biologists who described themselves as 'very-pro-life' said at the moment of fertilization. Almost 75 % of those who called themselves 'pro-choice' and approximately 60% of those who identified themselves as very 'pro-choice' answered the same."

FRANKLIN GRAHAM MORE OUTSPOKEN THAN A GREAT MANY FUNDAMENTAL BAPTIST PASTORS (Friday Church News Notes, October 18, 2019, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Franklin Graham, head of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association and Samaritan's Purse, is more outspoken for what he believes than a great many fundamental Baptist preachers. It doesn't appear that he believes



Romans 16:17; 2 Timothy 3:5; Jude 3; and 2 John 8-11 in any literal sense, for that would force him to renounce the ecumenical agenda, but what he does believe, he stands up for publicly. Most recently he posted the following on Facebook: "CNN hosted an 'Equality in America' town hall Thursday night focusing on gay & lesbian issues and asking questions of candidates running in the 2020 Democratic presidential race. Beto O'Rourke threatened that if any church, religious organization, university, etc., did not go along with their LGBTQ platform including same-sex marriage and gay/transgender rights, they should lose their tax-exempt status--the audience cheered. This gives you a clue of what the progressive, socialist-leaning Democratic Party is going to try to force on our nation if they win any election. They will create laws and 'consequences' that would punish those who do not agree with them. These socialists in the Democratic Party are a threat to religious freedom and free speech. This would be a step toward silencing the voice of the church and the influence of Christian universities and organizations. This is what godless socialism did in Eastern Europe, shutting down the churches and imprisoning pastors who disagreed with the Communists. As for me, I will not bow down at the altar of the LGBTQ agenda nor worship their rainbow pride flag. I'm going to stand with the Word of God, the Holy Bible, which is truth from cover to cover."

BAYLOR UNIVERSITY COMMITTED TO HELPING HOMOSEXUALS DEVELOP THEIR SEXUALITY (Friday Church News Notes, October 18, 2019, www.wayoflife.org,



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

- The following is excerpted from "Baylor University Says They Are Committed," reformationcharlotte, Sept. 3, 2019: "Baylor, a private Christian university located in Waco, Texas, is known as the largest Baptist university in the world with approximately 17,200 students on its 1,000-acre campus and is affiliated with the Texas Baptist Convention, which is subsequently connected to the Southern Baptist Convention. Baylor launched a website on sexuality last week which appears to take a softening stance on homosexuality. The website states that it is 'committed to providing a caring, loving and supportive community for students in all aspects of their lives, including the development of their sexuality.' ... 'We acknowledge the complexity of issues surrounding human sexuality and desire to engage in this conversation with humility, prayerfulness and convicted civility.' One can only ask, what is so complex about it? Homosexuality is a result of the fall and homosexual desire, identity, and activity is an abomination to God. Yet, the school is intent on offering support services to those who identify as LGBTQP+. The university president, Linda Livingstone, announced in a letter to students, faculty, and staff that students would not be disciplined for identifying as LGBTQ and that the university would provide resources

for LGBTQ students through the Title IX Office, Bias Response Team, Chaplain's Office and Spiritual Life, and the Counseling Center. ... In 2015, Baylor removed language from their code of conduct that characterized homosexual acts as 'misuses of God's gifts.'"

THE BIBLE IS DULL WHEN I AM DULL (Friday Church News Notes, October 18, 2019, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - "My own experience is that the Bible is dull when I am dull. When I am really alive, and set in upon the text with a tidal pressure of living affinities, it opens, it multiplies discoveries and reveals depths even faster than I can note them. The worldly spirit shuts the Bible. The Spirit of God makes it a fire, flaming out all meanings and glorious truths" (Horace Bushnell, cited from Josiah Gilbert, *Dictionary of Burning Words of Brilliant Writers*, 1895, p. 39).

CHINESE GOVERNMENT DEMOLISHES LARGE CHURCH (Friday Church News Notes, October 25, 2019, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from "China: Authorities forcibly demolish 'illegal' church," *Christian Post*, Oct. 15, 2019: "Communist officials demolished a church in China's Henan province for engaging



in 'illegal fundraising' after forcibly removing congregants, injuring two elderly people in the process. According to Chinese persecution watchdog Bitter Winter, True Jesus Church was razed to the ground completely. A new lawn with saplings was planted in place of the church, bearing no trace of its existence. ... After thoroughly searching the church, the police took away a piano and four air-conditioning units. Then, eight excavators began demolishing the church, worth about 10 million RMB (about \$1,400,000). Authorities continued to persecute church members even after the church was demolished. ... In September, it was reported that Chinese government officials demanded that clergy affiliated with the state-sanctioned Protestant church base their sermons on a new book that blends biblical teachings with the teachings of Confucius, one of the most influential philosophers in Chinese history. ... In early 2018, the communist regime passed new regulations on religious affairs in China that banned 'unauthorized' religious teachings. ... Recently, it was alleged by the China Tribunal at a meeting of the United Nations Human Rights Council that the Chinese government has murdered 'hundreds of thousands' of members of the Uighur Muslim minority and Falun Gong to harvest their organs. ... Open Doors USA ranks China as the 27th worst country in the world when it comes to Christian persecution on its 2019 World Watch List."

CHRISTIANITY IN AMERICA IN RAPID DECLINE (Friday Church News Notes, October 25, 2019, www.wayoflife.org,



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

- The following is excerpted from “In U.S., Decline of Christianity Continues at Rapid Pace,” Pew Research Center, Oct. 17, 2019: “The religious landscape of the United States continues to change at a rapid clip. In Pew Research Center telephone surveys conducted in 2018 and 2019, 65% of American adults describe themselves as Christians when asked about their religion, down 12 percentage points over the past decade. Meanwhile, the religiously unaffiliated share of the population, consisting of people who describe their religious identity as atheist, agnostic or ‘nothing in particular,’ now stands at 26%, up from 17% in 2009. ... The data shows that the trend toward religious disaffiliation documented in the Center’s 2007 and 2014 Religious Landscape Studies, and before that in major national studies like the General Social Survey (GSS), has continued apace. ... The changes underway in the American religious landscape are broad-based. The Christian share of the population is down and religious “nones” have grown across multiple demographic groups: white people, black people and Hispanics; men and women; in all regions of the country; and among college graduates and those with lower levels of educational attainment. Religious ‘nones’ are growing faster among Democrats than Republicans, though their ranks

are swelling in both partisan coalitions. And although the religiously unaffiliated are on the rise among younger people and most groups of older adults, their growth is most pronounced among young adults.”

CONCLUDING COMMENT BY BRO. CLOUD:

The root problem is not in society at large; the root problem is with lukewarm, worldly, spiritually dead, and apostate churches.

ILLINOIS SCHOOLS BRAINWASHING PRESCHOOLERS WITH LGBT

AGENDA (Friday Church News Notes, October 25, 2019, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from “Illinois Schools Promoting Transgenders to Preschoolers,” *The Stream*, Oct. 14, 2019: “All Illinois public schools must now teach LGBT history. They can only buy history textbooks that include it. And not just LGBT history. A very specific idea of that history. The ‘Inclusive Curriculum Law’ was signed in August. It goes into effect on July 1, 2020, to let teachers prepare the lessons for the 2020-21 school year. The law also covers women and minority group history. California, Colorado, New Jersey and Oregon have already passed similar laws. Why? The head of LGBT lobby group Equality Illinois explains. ‘As a former first grade teacher, I know how an inclusive education system can create change within a community.’ ... The law only enforces what many schools systems do already. Evanston/Skokie schools, for example. The school system posts its LGBT week curriculum online. Preschoolers and kindergarteners will ‘explore



concepts of families, gendered toy and clothing stereotypes, colors and meaning, flags, allyship and identity.’ 1st graders will learn to use the pronoun ‘they’ for an individual. 4th and 5th graders will watch a PBS documentary about a girl who dreams of leading the boy-only Hula troop. ... The curriculum teaches these children to approve of families headed by same-sex parents. One way it does that is to compare them with mixed-race and adoptive families. A second way is simply to normalize them. In one video, a boy says he has two dads and two moms. Materials include pictures of same-sex couples with children, which prompt students to label them as families. ... The curriculum portrays transgenders as making a perfectly normal decision. But studies have shown that 20% of transgenders revert back to their birth sex. This frequently happens after a young person has taken hormones and had sex change surgery. They then deeply regret having made the physical changes. The curriculum does not warn children about this. They are not told that many transgenders realize they were wrong and revert back. Nor are children told that 41% of transgenders attempt suicide. Nor that mental illness affects 60-90% of transgendered people. And what of other points of view? Many parents disagree strongly with the ideas behind transgenderism. Christians, Jews, and Muslims hold

different beliefs about what male and female are. The curriculum offers no alternatives to the LGBT idea. It doesn't explain how some religions object to those lifestyles. It's one-sided 'education.' It doesn't teach children to think about the issue. No dissent is acceptable. Children are only allowed to express approval of the LGBT lifestyle, and they are pushed hard to do so."

BAPTIST CHURCHES NOT PREACHING ON THE SECOND COMING

(Friday Church News Notes, October 25, 2019, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The return of Jesus Christ is a *major* New Testament doctrine, and the preaching and teaching of it is essential for holy living. It was emphasized by Christ (Mt. 24:29-31; Mr. 13:24-27). It was a theme of apostolic preaching in the book of Acts (Ac. 1:11; 3:19-20). It is mentioned in nearly every Epistle (Ro. 11:26; 1 Co. 1:7-8; Php. 1:6, 10; 2:16; 1 Th. 1:10; 2:19; 3:13; 4:15-17; 5:23; 2 Th. 1:7-9; 2:1, 8; 3:5; 1 Ti. 6:14; 2 Ti. 4:1, 8; Tit. 2:13; Jas. 5:7-9; Heb. 9:28; 10:37; 1 Pe. 1:7; 5:4; 2 Pe. 3:10-13; 1 Jo. 2:28; 3:2; Jude 14-15; Re. 1:7; 19:11-21; 22:7, 12, 20). The imminent return of Christ must,



therefore, be a fundamental part of every believer's worldview, a major theme of all biblical preaching, a constantly-emphasized doctrine of every church. But there are signs that preaching on Bible prophecy is being neglected even among "fundamentalist" churches. The following is from a reader: "About three years ago I was speaking with another fundamental Baptist pastor here in the area. I mentioned that I truly believed the Lord was coming soon. He said, 'You know, everybody was preaching on this back in the 70's, 80's and 90's and thought surely Christ would come before 2000. I really don't preach that much any more.' I about fell on the floor and responded to him, 'If Christ did not come by then, how much closer now?' I said, 'I preach His coming regularly trying to wake people up to holiness and living for Christ so that they won't be ashamed

at His coming.' Speaking to a missionary friend who spoke at our church recently, I mentioned this story. His words were, 'I have heard more from you today about the second coming than I have for months in other fundamental Baptist churches. This is from a man from a large missions ministry who preaches regularly across the country. Our people live in denial of this truth and unfortunately our preachers are also.'" Another reader sent the following comment: "Fundamental Baptist preachers seem very reluctant to delve into prophecy. ... I don't think I have ever heard a really solid message from an IFB preacher from the mountain of Old Testament prophecies with momentous future fulfillment." Another reader commented, "I was talking to my wife recently about how that prophecy preaching has all but gone away." This is a serious matter. Preachers who neglect the return of Christ are rebels against God's Word and are not qualified for the ministry. The mindset of always looking for Christ's return was modeled by the church at Thessalonica, which "turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God; and to wait for his Son from heaven..." (1 Th. 1:9-10).

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