

O Timothy

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

A Monthly Newsletter for Spiritual Protection and Edification

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"The rapidly growing global acceptance of homosexuality is a sign of the end times. Sodom is mentioned four times in reference to end times...In the 21st century, same-sex 'marriage' has been legalized in 28 nations. It is promoted by major global corporations, such as Microsoft, Apple, Starbucks, and Google. Massive 'Gay Pride' parades are held throughout the earth, including one of the largest in Tel Aviv, Israel." **Page 6.**

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CHURCHES LEAVING THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

By David Cloud

While some Independent Baptist churches are joining the Southern Baptist Convention (e.g., High Street Baptist of Springfield, Missouri, in 2017), claiming the SBC is "conservative" and "has won the battle against liberalism," some better-informed churches are leaving.

In this report, we are simply pointing out what is happening. As far as we are concerned, every Bible-believing church should have left the Southern Baptist Convention 100 years ago (even putting aside for the moment the issue that a denominational structure is unscriptural in itself).

We would also hasten to say that while we commend the following churches for having enough spiritual conviction to leave the Convention, and that does take a lot of backbone, we can't recommend them, and there are many fundamental reasons. Just the fact that they have not



rejected contemporary worship music would be sufficient. Contemporary worship music is mixing the holy God with the unholy world and is a bridge to everything that these

churches say they are separating from (and more) by leaving the SBC. Nothing is more effectively building the “one-world church” than CCM. The fact that these churches are not tearing down the bridge of contemporary music means they are still on the path to apostasy, regardless of their present boldness. There is no doubt about this. Any church that is not properly educated in this matter and boldly standing against CCM is building bridges to the world and to the one-world church. We have documented this extensively in [*The Directory of Contemporary Worship Music*](#), [*The Transformational Power of Contemporary Praise Music*](#) (a video presentation), and in the new video series [*The Satanic Attack on Sacred Music*](#) which is in the process of being edited for publication, hopefully by the end of the year.

See especially “CCM Is a Bridge to Dangerous Waters” and “Bob Jones, Majesty Music, the New Reformed Calvinism, and the Gettys.”

We would exhort these churches to make this bold step of leaving the SBC to be a beginning of a thorough-going spiritual revival whereby they will reject sin and error and worldliness and compromise in every form.

Pulpit & Pen, Sept. 30, 2019, says there are “hundreds [of churches] that we are aware of who have left the SBC and/or stopped funding it over issues relating to

corruption, the ERLC (Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission), Lifeway, charismaticism, or Social Justice.”

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF VICTORIA, MISSOURI

This church left the Southern Baptist Convention in September 2019.

The following is a statement signed by Pastor Bruce Tegg, joined by the chairman of the deacons and two other deacons:

“I have been a Southern Baptist since my preschool days. I was baptized, married and ordained (both as a deacon and a pastor) as a Southern Baptist. I was a Southern Baptist when the Convention first addressed women deacons, when the seminaries taught heresy, when we were battling the charismatic movement, when the Freemasons were investigated and now with the invasion of Calvinism. In each controversy the resolution was not to remove the cancer of error, the solution was assimilation. Rather than remove the theological Tobiahs the SBC, as Israel in Nehemiah, gave them residence in the Temple. The SBC now accepts women deacons, speaking in ecstatic utterance, Freemason pastors and deacons, Presbyterian seminary graduates, and heretical instructors in their colleges, universities and seminaries. Over the past few years the corruption has multiplied exponentially ... The Tobiahs, Achans, and the Balaams now control every aspect of Southern Baptist life. ... These issues stand out as significant, but they are in no way the complete list of theological problems in the SBC. We could also speak of Beth Moore and her support of Joyce Meyer ... the recent statement of current SBC President JD Greear about being an advocate for homosexual causes, and many other unresolved issues. Essentially, the SBC, MBC, and JBA have gone the way of Balaam, seeking monetary gain over holiness and righteousness. ... When this corruption occurs, the Scripture is clear, we must make our decision based on His commandments and not any partiality toward friendships or finances.

“Ephesians 5:11 ‘And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.’

“2 Thessalonians 3:6 ‘Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw

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David W. Cloud, Editor
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Way of Life Literature
PO Box 610368, Port Huron, MI
48061

866-295-4143 (toll free)

fbns@wayoflife.org

<http://www.wayoflife.org>

Bethel Baptist Church
4212 Campbell St. N.
London, Ontario, N6P 1A6 Canada
519-652-2619

yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us.’

“Based on these and many other commandments found in both the Old and New Testaments, the First Baptist Church of Victoria is formally and publicly resigning from affiliation with all entities of the SBC, MBC, and JBA effective immediately.”

SOUTHSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH, GALLATIN, TENNESSEE

This church left the SBC in August 2019.

The following is the church’s statement:

“The present tragic reality is that the Southern Baptist Convention now has key leaders in places of high authority and influence who are directing Southern Baptists away from clear Biblical truth.

“Beth Moore now insists that by calling homosexuality a sin, that she is making people feel ‘demonized,’ and ‘doing more harm than good.’ ... Beth Moore is only one person ... however no one in SBC leadership is correcting her or calling her to repent, and her influence is affecting millions.

“Sam Allberry is a gay priest in the Anglican Church who speaks at and is promoted by the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission (ERLC) of the Southern Baptist Convention. Allberry suggested that families should allow open homosexuals to ‘babysit’ your children unsupervised. Allberry is a man who identifies as ‘same-sex attracted,’ and has confirmed that he has ‘sexual, romantic and deep-emotional attractions to people of the same sex.’ Russell Moore, head of the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission (ERLC) tweeted, ‘Sam Allberry is a gift to the church. We need his voice.’

“Recently, J.D. Greear, the president of the Southern Baptist Convention, preached a sermon—from Romans 1, mind you—where he insisted that the Bible doesn’t really have all that much to say about sexual immorality, and is much more vocal about other sins such as materialism and boasting.

“At the 2018 SBC annual Convention ... Dr. Robert Oscar Lopez, a professor at the Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary ... submitted a powerful resolution

on LGBT issues titled *On Ministry and Counseling to Lead People from Homosexuality to Heterosexuality*.” ... It stated: ‘RESOLVED, the Southern Baptist Convention rejects as heresy any claims that God makes people homosexual.’ The Resolutions Committee refused to allow it to go to the floor for a vote, claiming that it needed ‘more clarification.’

“The President of the SBC, J.D. Greear, claims Christians and Muslims worship the same God. The stunning claims were made in his book *Breaking the Islam Code*.

“On Aug. 18, 2019, the Southside congregation made a united decision: Because the leadership of the SBC has left and/or is weak on key Biblical positions; and because they have turned a deaf ear to those who have tried to stand against their departure—we, of necessity, leave the convention.”

FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH, STEINHATCHEE, FLORIDA

This church left the SBC in September 2019.

Following is the church’s statement:

“Right now their mission [that of the SBC] and our mission are not in agreement. Not the official, stated mission of the SBC because it is very biblical, but it is the liberal direction of its leadership. It is not what they say, but what they are doing. The promotion of Social Justice and Critical Race Theory and Intersectionality and the softening stance on homosexuality and women in the pulpit.

“We, Fellowship Baptist Church of Steinhatchee, Florida, hereby renounce all membership, affiliation and any other formal association with the Southern Baptist Convention, and by extension, the Florida Baptist Convention and Taylor Baptist Association. We will continue to hold firmly to the Word of God and to historic Baptist doctrine while affirming the 1689 Baptist Confession of Faith as our confession.”

GRACE LIFE CHURCH, MUSCLE SHOALS, ALABAMA

This large church announced in October 2019, that it is in the process of “finally and formally separating all connections to the Southern Baptist Convention.”

On October 20, in the Sunday morning service, Pastor Jeff Noblit preached about this and posted it online at the church's web site.

He said the church's elders are united in the decision. He began the message by saying that "this issue is burning in my heart" and he believes that the stirring is "a righteous indignation." He said that he has had deep concerns about the Convention for many years, and one of the "straws that broke the camel's back" was the "rise and embracing and affirming of Beth Moore's ministry." He said, "Beth Moore is a charismatic, gifted communicator who has drifted toward considering herself a preacher. She does a lot of internet things where she kind of gets in the face of those of us who are conservative in our doctrine, saying 'I am preaching at so and so church this Sunday morning,' kinda like [thumbing her nose] and saying, 'What are you going to do about it?' This is a serious issue. Southern Baptists from all ages have held that Scripture is unequivocally clear that women do not hold the office of preaching or pastoring the church, women do not exercise authority by preaching the Word in the congregational meetings of the church. Now we have key, prominent Southern Baptist leaders who are accommodating and blessing this. You want me to tell you why? Because she has a million followers online, she has a huge influence, and the great idol of Southern Baptist life is pragmatism. It's working and it brings in the money, so hands off. We died to that idol a long time ago. We had the chance to be 'something' in the Convention; we had the chance to be a big noise. We were selected to be that, but we would not compromise our convictions to make that happen. So that is a very serious issue to me. You look at church history. You find the churches and the collections of churches that begin to embrace feminism and women in authority and women preachers, and they went to liberalism fast. And we will be no exception."

Following are other excerpts from Pastor Noblit's sermon:

"At the last Southern Baptist Convention, the messengers of the churches voted to include 'critical race theory and intersectionality' as tools to help us interpret the Bible. Now if you don't know what critical race theory and intersectionality mean, among other things it means that if you are born white you are already a racist, it doesn't matter what you feel or how you act. All of this reparations talk about what happened in generations past, all of the radical political progressive thought is in those

terms. In order to appease the culture and get along, they actually voted to say that we will include these unbiblical, God-hating, God-rejecting people and their theories to help us interpret the Bible. It's not going to happen [here]! I don't need radical, liberal, atheist and godless people to help me understand the Scriptures. It seems like a small thing, but, brothers, the cow's out of the barn. I know where this is going. I've been watching it for years. ... There's not one word in the Bible that tells you that schools [seminaries] clean up the church; the churches clean up the church. And the churches don't have the moral spiritual fiber or fabric or courage and fortitude to do anything about it.

"All of this is happening like dominoes. In the last couple of weeks, Robert Jeffreys, the pastor of First Baptist Church of Dallas, Jack Graham, the pastor of Prestonwood Baptist Church of Dallas, Jerry Falwell, Jr., president of Liberty University (they are now Southern Baptist), have given their endorsement to Paula White's ministry. Paula White is a heretic, a three time married pastor who calls herself a prophet. And these men of this stature (Graham is a former president of the Southern Baptist Convention) are saying that they embrace and encourage her work. It is 100%, dyed in the wool, let's share out constituencies. It's about money; it's about wealth; it's about popularity. It's hard to retreat from these things. Folks, Paula White couldn't teach in my Sunday School. She wouldn't be allowed [to be] a member of this church. Not that I don't love the lady and wouldn't reach out to her, but you have to believe certain things to be a member of a church and be in good standing!

"I agree with Dr. Jeffreys at First Baptist Dallas; I agree with Jack Graham of Prestonwood Baptist about supporting President Donald Trump even though we are very offended and disagree with a lot about him. But his positions deserve our support over the radical, liberal agenda of the Democratic party. If you are a Democrat, I'm sorry, but it's absolutely gone. The wickedness; the ungodliness; killing a baby up to the moment of birth and even saying we will allow them to die after they are born if the mother decides she wants to abort it. All of this of applauding and pushing, affirming unnatural, perverse sexual practices, all of these gender issues, all of this nonsense. This is what happens when a culture turns its back on God. I wish we had a better instrument than Donald Trump but there is a basis in Scripture to disagree with a lot about him but to agree with his policies. If somebody is breaking into your house, I don't think you

wait for a police offer to show up that can give you his baptismal certificate and tell you he is in good standing at a godly church. You say, ‘Come in here and help me kill this snake, help me fight this enemy.’ That’s the way I view that. So I agree with those men on some things, but if we are going to cooperate together we have got to agree on truth, we have got to agree on the gospel, we have got to agree on what qualifies a person to be a pastor.

“Even this week Brother Steve is getting calls from churches that are saying, ‘We want to connect with you guys; we can’t go with this any further.’ ... Far and away, biblically speaking, our Baptist churches are gone. They won’t come back to health. There are good Baptist folk scattered in them, don’t misunderstand me, some people that love the Lord, and I thank God for them, but as a whole they’re gone. And we might as well do as Amos did and link up with the people who are trying to do right, stay humble, stay repentant, and go on for the glory of God.

“I was reading the biography of Dr. D. Martyn Lloyd Jones, one of the premier expositional preacher/pastors of the last 150 years. He also lived in London. This was two or three years ago on my study break, I’m reading and praying and thinking, and he made a statement in there that toward the end of his life he had to separate with ministers and ministries he had worked with for decades, because they finally caved in and went with the world. Brothers and sisters, listen to me, I will die first! ... there are things that matter that are being radically compromised, all to the end of numbers and money and popularity. It might be [only] 12 or 27 of us, but we aren’t going down that road.

“Let me say something to you moms and dads out there. You better raise your children in a place that believes something, believes something that if it’s a good time and it’s a party and everybody is having fun, that’s all that matters. Church isn’t meant to be like the world. It is meant to enjoy the deep, wondrous, glorious treasures of our God who reveals Himself in Scripture.

“My dear, dear good friend John O. Sims, he and I have been together for decades now, he has basically told his church the exact same thing. He said, ‘Brother Jeff, I’m a fifth generation Southern Baptist. That’s all I’ve known; that’s all my people have known. But even my daddy, who is now 80 years old, has told me, Son, you are doing the right thing.’

“So when our leadership, 20 and 30 years ago, was reclaiming the inerrancy of the Scripture, we felt good about that, but I’ve said the whole time, It’s not going to last. You can change all of the schools you want, but until the local churches embrace it and really walk in it, it’s just a matter of time. We have the most atrocious, unsound preaching and teaching in so many of these places.”

“To remind you of what I have pointed out to you several times, the present president of the Southern Baptist Convention is the one who stated that let’s remind ourselves that in the Bible God only whispers about the sin of homosexuality, which is totally wrong. I’m sick and tired of these guys saying, ‘Well, it’s a sin,’ but then they go 20 minutes explaining how that it is really, kinda not a sin anymore. I know where this is going. In Brother Matt’s lifetime there will be homosexual preachers in Southern Baptist churches. Mark my words. I’ve been watching this for four decades. Everything I’ve said was going to happen has happened. ...

“And ladies I would ask you, as your pastor, there are a lot better ladies out there to listen to than Beth Moore. She’s driven by emotionalism, she’s driven by promoting herself. You don’t need Beth Moore’s teaching. She’s been pointedly asked several times, ‘What’s your position on homosexuality?’ and she will not answer the question. Folks, these are Baptist churches. What has happened to us? If you think there is some wisdom in going down that road, let me say to you, You are in the wrong local church. [We are not going to] back up one inch. We aren’t moving on what God says is sin. We are not moving on moral absolutes. ... How far are we going to go with this culture? Straight to hell? That’s what’s going on. And here’s the great travesty of it. These men hold to an orthodox statement of faith and doctrine, then they practice something different over here. It’s nothing new. Jeroboam in ancient Israel kept all the law of Israel, but he brought the Baal calves in and all of the sensual immoralities and entertainment that went with it. It’s been happening for thousands of years. Folks, our God is holy. He is holy. How dare we bring the filth of the world in and mix them up with the holy things of our God? Look, we are sinners around our God, but to willfully embrace [these things] is pure blasphemy; it is apostasy.”

Jeff Noblit, Oct. 20, 2019, Sunday morning service, Grace Life Church, Muscle Shoals, Alabama
https://www.gracelifeshoals.org/sermons#!/swx/pp/media_archives/203615/episode/79777

Modern Heresies About HOMOSEXUALITY

By David Cloud

The rapidly growing global acceptance of homosexuality is a sign of the end times. Sodom is mentioned four times in reference to end times (Lu. 17:28-32; 2 Pe. 2:6; Jude 7; Re. 11:8). See Gen. 19:4-7. The spirit of homosexuality has swept the world in my very lifetime. In the 21st century, same-sex “marriage” has been legalized in 28 nations. It is promoted by major global corporations, such as Microsoft, Apple, Starbucks, and Google. Massive “Gay Pride” parades are held throughout the earth, including one of the largest in Tel Aviv, Israel.

Not surprisingly in light of widespread apostasy, this acceptance has infiltrated Christianity in a big way.

On one hand, there is the full-on acceptance of homosexuality, including same-sex “marriage.”

This position is represented by the Metropolitan Community Churches, founded in 1968 by a homosexual “priest” named Troy Perry. It has 222 congregations in 37 countries and is a leading force in the development of “queer theology.” It “fully embraces and welcomes lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.” It has observer status with the World Council of Churches. Perry performed the first public same-sex “marriage” in the United States in California in 1969 (though it wasn’t legally recognized at the time). Today the MCC perform more than 6,000 same-sex “marriages” annually.

This position is also found in the more liberal Protestant denominations. In 1989, Episcopal Church in America Bishop John Spong ordained the first openly practicing homosexual to the priesthood. The man, Robert Williams, was diagnosed with AIDS less than two years later. According to Integrity, a pro-homosexual Episcopal group, at least 50 practicing homosexuals had been ordained to the priesthood by 1991. In 1993, a survey of

nearly 20,000 Episcopalians showed that seventy percent believed “faithful Christians can be sexually active gays and lesbians” (*Christian News*, Nov. 1, 1993). In his 1991 book *Rescuing the Bible from Fundamentalism*, Episcopal Bishop John Spong said the apostle Paul was “a self hating, repressed homosexual.” That year, Spong ordained another homosexual priest, Barry Stopfel. Lesbian Episcopal priest Carter Heyward delivered the ordination sermon. When Stopfel’s male “lover” was introduced, the audience applauded. On June 7, 2003, the Diocese of New Hampshire elected V. Gene Robinson as the first openly homosexual bishop in the history of the Episcopal Church USA. The election was confirmed on August 5 by the General Convention meeting in Minneapolis. Years earlier, Robinson had broken his marriage vows by leaving his wife and two young daughters and moving in with his male partner. In a speech on April 29, 2000, the day before a homosexual march in Washington, D.C., Robinson said: “... we are worthy to hold our heads high as gay folk--NOT because we’ve merely decided we are worthy, but because God has proclaimed it so. That we are loved beyond our wildest imagining by a God who made us the way we are and proclaimed it good. We proclaim today that we too read our Bibles, and through the voices of its many witnesses, we hear God’s voice--NOT saying ‘You are an abomination,’ but rather, ‘You are my beloved.’ We lay an equal claim to a savior who loves us as we are and who died to save us from our ‘manifold sins and wickedness,’ which does NOT include our being gay. And we come here today, laying claim to our full membership--our FULL membership--in the Body of Christ.”

On the other hand, there are many subtle positions that are bridges from the traditional Bible position to the full acceptance position.

It is held by many Southern Baptists. It is held by Russell Moore, president of the SBC’s Ethics & Religion

Leadership Council (ERLC). It is held by Sam Allberry and his influential Living Out ministry based in the United Kingdom. It is held by many within The Gospel Coalition. It is held by the Evangelical Alliance of England.

Following are some major characteristics of this “evangelical” position on homosexuality.

Point # 1 - Homosexuality is a natural inborn trait that cannot be changed; same-sex “attraction” itself is not a sin.

Homosexuality is seen as an “Orientation” that is fixed.

Those who hold this view do not believe in repentance and supernatural conversion, as taught so plainly in 1 Corinthians 6. “Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor EFFEMINATE, nor ABUSERS OF THEMSELVES WITH MANKIND, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. 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. 6:9-11).

Instead, they believe the homosexual is destined to live as a “same-sex attracted” person, either celibately or not. This is promoted by the aforementioned Anglican priest Sam Allberry who claims to be a same-sex attracted man who lives in celibacy.

“To be clear, Allberry does not teach that practicing sodomy is acceptable, but rather he teaches that Same-Sex Attraction is not a sin, that homosexuals cannot expect to be changed by the Holy Spirit and given a nature not desirous of sodomy, and that there are elements of ‘gay culture’ that are redeemable and should be celebrated. In Allberry’s view, virtually everything about homosexuality can be embraced except for the act of bodily penetration. Common in the *Living Out* subculture, are testimonies of professing Christians who learned to love and embrace, rather than be freed from their homosexuality. Also common are accusations toward the Christian church of “homophobia” and demands that the church soften its views on the sin of sodomy. The organization is an increasingly important factor in re-branding SSA as an itself neutral, non-sinful impulse, and

it heavily promotes the idea that it’s okay to be gay so long as one is celibate, going so far as to encourage churches to ordain those who are Same-Sex attracted” (“Gay Christian Event,” *Pulpit & Pen*, Oct. 19, 2018).

Rebecca McLaughlin, who contributes to The Gospel Coalition, was asked at an “I’m In” conference, Nov. 14, 2019, how churches can support members who have same-sex or bisexual attractions. She replied that the churches should assume that at least 14 percent of the women experience same-sex attraction, and should stop acting like same-sex attraction is worse than heterosexual attraction (“TGC Contributor Says Same-Sex Attraction Not Worse,” *ReformationCharlotte.org*, Nov. 18, 2019).

God’s Word says that wrong lusts are sin in themselves even when not acted on. Jesus taught that for a man to look upon a woman to lust after her is adultery (Mt. 5:28). The same would be true, then, a man to lust after a man or a woman to lust after a woman, only it would be even worse because whereas man’s desire toward women is natural, same-sex desire is unnatural.

Paul specifically mentioned “vile affections” and “burned in their lust one toward another” and a “reprobate mind” as aspects of the sin of homosexuality that are condemned by God (Ro. 1:26-27). Those are “same-sex attractions.” God’s Word condemns these things even if they are not acted upon physically. The lusts of the flesh must to be confessed and repented of.

Point # 2 - Homosexuality is “just another sin.”

This widely-held and rapidly-growing view was promoted by Southern Baptist Convention President J.D. Greear in a sermon on Romans 1 entitled “How the Fall Affects Us All,” Jan. 27, 2019. He said that homosexuality is a sin, but he soft-peddled it. He said that “the Bible appears to whisper when it comes to sexual sin compared to it shouts about materialism and religious pride.” He was quoting from female preacher Jen Wilkin whom he praised as one of his church’s favorite Bible teachers.

But we wouldn’t call God’s judgment on Sodom and Gomorrah a whisper! Those are the only two cities in human history that God picked out for complete destruction by fire, and they were so targeted for moral perversion, not lack of hospitality. Jude says it was because of “giving themselves over to fornication, and

going after strange flesh” (Jude 1:7). Peter says it was because of their “filthy conversation” (2 Pe. 2:7).

Greear tried to make the sin of homosexuality equal to sins mentions in Romans 1:29-31. He said, “Here’s a question: do you think of deceit and boasting as equally depraved? How about greed? Do you think of greed as equally depraved as homosexuality? How about a rebellious attitude against your parents? Do you see that as equally depraved? Paul would.”

No, Paul wouldn’t. Paul has told us exactly what he thinks about homosexuality, and had Greear been faithful in dealing with the biblical text, as he is solemnly accountable to God to do, instead of capitulating to the pop culture and scratching the ears of this apostate generation, he would not have strayed into heresy. In Romans 1, Paul labeled homosexuality *a special sin* that is the product of God giving impenitent men over “to dishonor their own bodies between themselves.” Paul called homosexuality “vile affections,” “against nature,” “a reprobate mind” (Ro. 1:26-28).

This position tries to shame those who hold a strictly biblical stance on homosexuality, the stance that has been held for 2,000 years of church history.

Following is a discerning review of Greear’s sermon:

“He did everything in his power to make sure that people sitting in his congregation who are tired of hearing about these sins, would walk away feeling justified for their apathy. What he did was preach ‘peace, peace, when there was no peace.’ He did this while at the same time making it look like those who are committed to the complete biblical truth on this issue should be ashamed. ... The first thing he does when addressing this issue is ‘acknowledge upfront that... historically, we in the church have not done a great job of talking about this and maybe even a worse job of caring for those going through this.’ What he does here and elsewhere is to paint himself as caring and passionate while throwing the church under the bus. It is this classic move to ingratiate yourself with an audience by trying to position yourself as not as extreme as others. By doing this, he is already foreshadowing what he is about to do, which is to soften the biblical and historical teaching on homosexuality. He is abandoning the over 2000-year historical witness of the church on this issue. ... The church for 2000 + years has hated this evil. They have hated it because it

dishonors God, makes a mockery of the created order, destroys the bodies and minds of those who practice it, and it endangers nations who tolerate it. It was love of God and love of neighbor that led these men to thoroughly condemn this sin, warn those who practice it of the wrath of God, and point all people to the only hope, Jesus Christ. When J.D. Greear apologizes for the church historically doing a bad job on this issue, he is carefully distancing himself from this teaching. Why? Because our culture hates it. And because he wants to sound reasonable to our culture” (*The Sword and the Blog*, Jan. 31, 2019).

Point # 3 - Homosexuals must be accepted by the churches “as they are.”

Since homosexuals can’t change, it is wrong to demand that they “repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance” (Acts 26:20). Instead, they must be accepted as they are. Christian love demands it, they say.

In 2014, in a message before the Southern Baptist ERLC (Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission) National Conference on “The Gospel, Homosexuality, and the Future of Marriage,” Southern Baptist megachurch pastor J.D. Greear said, “We have to love our gay neighbor more than we love our position on sexual morality ... I am not saying that we would ever compromise our position or fail to state it, just that even when they disagree with it, we do not cut them off, we draw them close. We say yes, this issue is important. I cannot compromise, but I LOVE YOU MORE THAN I LOVE BEING RIGHT. In the cross of Jesus Christ, he shows us the right way to relate to the gay and the lesbian community—clarity about God’s righteousness, compassion that would give up its own life to draw them close.”

Greear’s position is incredibly misguided and unbiblical, though it is covered with a veneer of truth. It is certain that Jesus Christ loved sinners and died for sinners with a desire that sinners draw close to Him; **but Jesus calls sinners to repentance and there is no “drawing close” to God without repentance.** Twice in the same sermon Christ said, “except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish” (Luke 13:3). Christ directly and plainly exposed the sin of the woman at the well, and she repented and drew close to God in salvation (John 4). On the other hand, Jesus exposed the sin of the rich young ruler, and

he did *not* repent and as a result did not draw close to God (Mark 10:17-23).

Greear says, “We have to love our gay neighbor more than we love our position on sexual morality,” and, “I love you more than I love being right.” But the Bible says we should love God’s Word and hate every false way (Psalm 119:128). The Bible says we should have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them” (Ephesians 5:11). Jesus was a friend of sinners, but He preached repentance to sinners and warned them of eternal hellfire (e.g., Mark 9:43, 45, 47; Luke 12:5). Christ never modified or softened or shortened His message in any way whatsoever in order to “draw them close.”

This position includes the call to “rethink” and “redefine” the family. It is promoted by the Southern Baptist Russell Moore in his book *The Storm-Tossed Family*. It is promoted by Allberry’s Living Out ministry. It was promoted at the Southern Baptist’s Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission’s (ERLC) “Cross Shaped Family Conference” in Dallas in 2018, which featured Moore delivering the opening message and Allberry delivering the final message.

It is the idea that Christian families must bring homosexuals into their bosoms and even share their children with them in order to live out their acceptance of them. If a family wants to protect themselves from the influence of homosexuals, even “celibate” ones, they are condemned.

“According to Allberry, the Christian mentality of family is akin to creating a nuclear family with marriage, kids and the family dog and then going into a fortress or castle and ‘pulling up the drawbridge.’ So, whether Nate Collins, the founder of Revoice, uses the term ‘idolatry of family’ or Sam Allberry refers to the nuclear family as a ‘closed fortress’ of only biological members, BOTH draw the same conclusion as Russell Moore--that Christians *must redefine family* as the broader (LGBT+ Inclusive) church. ... The biological family as God made it appears to be a problem for them, as are conservative faith and family values which resonate with generations of conservative Christians--that a man shall leave his father and mother and cleave to his wife, being fruitful and assuming personal responsibility for the rearing of their own children, in the fear and admonition of the Lord” (Thomas Littleton, “ERLC Family Conference Redefines Family as the Inclusive Church,” thirtypiecesofsilver.org, Oct. 14, 2018).

Allberry calls for churches to “audit” themselves for how well they exercise “LGBT Inclusion.” In his “Living Out Church Audit” he has ten demands for churches. These aren’t

meant to be suggestions! These people are bullies, and eventually they will accept nothing less than full acceptance of homosexuality by all churches.

Allberry says the churches must rethink friendship and intimacy and hospitality with the objective of “ministering to” the needs of “same-sex oriented” people who cannot and will not change. Instead of labeling homosexuality the great sin the Bible says it is and calling homosexuals to true repentance and transformation conversion as the Bible demands, the churches are to accept them as they are and minister to them as they are. This includes sharing their children with them. Allberry tells how that some families in his church “share their kids” with him by allowing him to babysit them. “Such a family relationship is also a solution to the loneliness of singleness and childlessness experienced by members of the celibate gay Christianity which they have been selling the Church since 2013.

Allberry indicates that sharing our children with LGBTs is an especially valid fulfillment of what the conference is espousing and proof that a church is adhering to their redefined family” (Ibid., Thomas Littleton, Oct. 14, 2018).

“This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away” (2 Timothy 3:1-5).

“Fret not thyself because of evildoers, neither be thou envious against the workers of iniquity. For they shall soon be cut down like the grass, and wither as the green herb. Trust in the LORD, and do good; *so* shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed. Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart. Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring *it* to pass. And he shall bring forth thy righteousness as the light, and thy judgment as the noonday. Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for him: fret not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass. Cease from anger, and forsake wrath: fret not thyself in any wise to do evil. For evildoers shall be cut off: but those that wait upon the LORD, they shall inherit the earth. For yet a little while, and the wicked *shall not be*: yea, thou shalt diligently consider his place, and it *shall not be*. But the meek shall inherit the earth; and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace” (Psalm 37:1-11).

BRUCE METZGER

Beloved By Modernists, Evangelicals & Fundamentalists

By David Cloud



As a student at Tennessee Temple in the 1970s, I was given zero information about the editors of the United Bible Societies Greek New Testament that we were required to use. These were Bruce Metzger, Matthew Black, Allen Wikgren, Carlo Martini, Kurt Aland, Barbara Aland, and Johannes Karavidopoulos.

I looked into these people for myself as a young missionary in the early 1980s and was amazed to find that Martini was a Roman Catholic cardinal and most of the others were theological modernists. I found, further, that the entire field of modern textual criticism was rife with unbelief from its inception. Modernists and Unitarians and modernist-influenced Evangelicals were the chief voices, with few exceptions.

I decided that I had been kept in the dark and nearly led astray. God commands me to mark and avoid heretics, not study their writings, adopt their principles, and use their Testaments.

In [*Faith vs. the Modern Bible Versions*](#), we have given extensive information about Martini, the Alands, Black, Wikgren, and Karavidopoulos. In this report we will focus on Metzger.

Bruce Metzger (1914-2007) was probably the most influential textual critic of his generation. Every book defending the modern versions lists his works. He is popular across all Christian lines: Catholic, liberal Protestant, Evangelical, Fundamentalist, Baptist.

He is popular with evangelicals and, in fact, is considered an evangelical. Metzger was mentioned in *Christianity Today* as one of the “highly skilled, believing scholars” of our day (Michael Maudlin, “Inside CT,” *Christianity Today*, Feb. 8, 1999). The book *Bible Interpreters of the 20th Century: a Selection of Evangelical Voices*, edited by Walter Elwell and J.D. Weaver (Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1999), features a chapter on Bruce Metzger by James A. Brooks (pp. 260-71).

Metzger is even popular with fundamentalists who support modern textual criticism, and that is a large and growing population. He is often mentioned and recommended in books written by fundamentalists (e.g., *From the Mind of God to the Mind of Man*, 1999, written by BJU graduates and associates; Central Baptist Seminary’s *The Bible Version Debate*, 1997). In a letter to me in the 1980s, fundamental Baptist evangelist Robert L. Sumner said that he trusts Metzger and he rebuked me for labeling Metzger a liberal. On a visit to the Bob Jones University bookstore in March 2005, I counted five of Metzger’s books for sale, and there was no warning of his theological liberalism.

Metzger was one of the editors of the United Bible Societies’ Greek N.T. He was George L. Collord Professor of New Testament Language and Literature at Princeton Theological Seminary. He headed up the New Revised Standard Version translation committee, which is owned by the theologically radical National Council of Churches in America. He has served on the board of the American Bible Society.

Metzger’s 1997 autobiography, *The Reminiscences of an Octogenarian*, omitted any reference to a personal salvation experience.

Metzger was a radical ecumenist. He was at the forefront of producing “the Ecumenical Edition” of the RSV in 1973 and personally presented a copy to Pope Paul VI. “In a private audience granted to a small group, comprising the Greek Orthodox Archbishop Athenagoras, Lady Priscilla and Sir William Collins, Herbert G. May, and the present writer, Pope Paul accepted the RSV ‘Common’ Bible as a significant step in furthering ecumenical relations among the churches” (Metzger, “The RSV-Ecumenical Edition,” *Theology Today*, October 1977). Metzger also presented a Bible to Pope John Paul II.

Metzger was rationalistic in his approach to the Bible’s text. He did not believe in the divine preservation of the

Scripture in any practical sense. In fact, he claimed that it is possible that we do not have sufficient manuscript evidence to recover the original text, because the manuscripts that exist might not even represent the text of the early churches. "...the disquieting possibility remains that the evidence available to us today may, in certain cases, be totally unrepresentative of the distribution of readings in the early church" (Metzger, *Text and Interpretation: Studies in the New Testament Presented to Matthew Black*, 1979, p. 188).

Metzger blatantly denied the infallible inspiration of the Bible.

Metzger brazenly claimed that some portions of the original Scriptures might have been unfinished or lost before any copies could be made. Of the original ending of Mark 16 he says, "Whether he [Mark] was interrupted while writing and subsequently prevented (perhaps by death) from finishing his literary work, or whether the last leaf of the original copy was accidentally lost before other copies had been made, we do not know" (*The Text of the New Testament*, p. 228).

Metzger advocated that Matthew incorporated errors in his royal genealogy of Christ (Metzger, *A Textual Commentary on the Greek New Testament*, 1975, p. 1; cited from Thomas Strouse, "The Pauline Antidote for Christians Caught in Theological Heresy: An Examination and Application of 2 Timothy 2:24-26," Emmanuel Baptist Theological Seminary, Newington, CT, 2001).

Metzger's theological liberalism in regard to inspiration was expressed in the *Reader's Digest Condensed Bible*. He was the chairman of the project and wrote the introductions to each book, in which he questioned the authorship, traditional date, and supernatural inspiration of books penned by Moses, Daniel, Paul, James, and Peter. Consider some examples:

Genesis: "Nearly all modern scholars agree that, like the other books of the Pentateuch, [Genesis] is a composite of several sources, embodying traditions that go back in some cases to Moses."

Exodus: "As with Genesis, several strands of literary tradition, some very ancient, some as late as the sixth century B.C., were combined in the makeup of the books."

Deuteronomy: "Its compilation is generally assigned to the seventh century B.C., though it rests upon much older tradition, some of it from Moses' time."

Daniel: "Most scholars hold that the book was compiled during the persecutions (168-165 B.C.) of the Jewish people by Antiochus Epiphanes."

John: "Whether the book was written directly by John, or indirectly (his teachings may have been edited by another), the church has accepted it as an authoritative supplement to the story of Jesus' ministry given by the other evangelists."

1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, Titus: "Judging by differences in style and vocabulary from Paul's other letters, many modern scholars think that the Pastorals were not written by Paul."

James: "Tradition ascribes the letter to James, the Lord's brother, writing about A.D. 45, but modern opinion is uncertain, and differs widely on both origin and date."

2 Peter: "Because the author refers to the letters of Paul as 'scripture,' a term apparently not applied to them until long after Paul's death, most modern scholars think that this letter was drawn up in Peter's name sometime between A.D. 100 and 150."

Metzger's radical modernism in relation to the Scripture was also evident in the notes to the *New Oxford Annotated Bible RSV*, which he co-edited with Herbert May. It first appeared in 1962 as *The Oxford Annotated Bible* and was the first Protestant annotated edition of the Bible to be approved by the Roman Catholic Church. It was given an imprimatur in 1966 by Cardinal Cushing, Archbishop of Boston. Metzger and May claim the O.T. contains "a matrix of myth, legend, and history," deny the worldwide flood, call Job an "ancient folktale," claim there are two authors of Isaiah, call Jonah a "popular legend," and otherwise attack the divine inspiration of Holy Scripture.

Introductory Notes to the Pentateuch: "The Old Testament may be described as the literary expression of the religious life of ancient Israel. ... The Israelites were more history-conscious than any other people in the ancient world. Probably as early as the time of David and Solomon, out of a matrix of myth, legend, and history, there had appeared the earliest written form of the story of the saving acts of God from Creation to the conquest of the Promised Land, an account which later in modified form became a part of Scripture" (Bruce Metzger and Herbert May, *New Oxford Annotated Bible*).

Note on the Flood: "Archaeological evidence suggests that traditions of a prehistoric flood covering the whole earth

are heightened versions of local inundations, e.g. in the Tigris-Euphrates basin” (Metzger and May, *New Oxford Annotated Bible*).

Note on Job: “The ancient folktale of a patient Job circulated orally among oriental sages in the second millennium B.C. and was probably written down in Hebrew at the time of David and Solomon or a century later (about 1000-800 B.C.)” (Metzger and May, *New Oxford Annotated Bible*).

Note on Psalm 22:12-13: “the meaning of the third line [they have pierced my hands and feet] is obscure” COMMENT: In fact, it is not obscure; it is a prophecy of Christ's crucifixion!

Note on Isaiah: “Only chs. 1-39 can be assigned to Isaiah's time; it is generally accepted that chs. 40-66 come from the time of Cyrus of Persia (539 B.C.) and later, as shown by the differences in historical background, literary style, and theological emphases. ... The contents of this section [chs. 56-66] (sometimes called Third Isaiah) suggest a date between 530 and 510 B.C., perhaps contemporary with Haggai and Zechariah (520-518); chapters 60-62 may be later.” COMMENT: The Lord Jesus Christ quoted from both major sections of Isaiah and said they were written by the same prophet (Jn. 12:38-41).

Note on Jonah: “The book of Jonah is didactic narrative which has taken older material from the realm of popular legend and put it to a new, more consequential use” (Metzger and May, *New Oxford Annotated Bible*).

Introduction to the New Testament: “Jesus himself left no literary remains; information regarding his words and works comes from his immediate followers (the apostles) and their disciples. At first this information was circulated orally. As far as we know today, the first attempt to produce a written Gospel was made by John Mark, who according to tradition was a disciple of the Apostle Peter. This Gospel, along with a collection of sayings of Jesus and several other special sources, formed the basis of the Gospels attributed to Matthew and Luke” (Metzger and May, *New Oxford Annotated Bible*). COMMENT: The Gospels, like every part of the New Testament, were written by direct inspiration of the Holy Spirit (Jn. 16:13). This nonsense of trying to find ‘the original source’ for the Gospels is unbelieving heresy.

Notes on 2 Peter: “The tradition that this letter is the work of the apostle Peter was questioned in early times, and internal indications are almost decisive against it. ... Most

scholars therefore regard the letter as the work of one who was deeply indebted to Peter and who published it under his master's name early in the second century” (Metzger and May, *New Oxford Annotated Bible*). COMMENT: Those who believe this nonsense must think the early Christians were liars and fools and that the Holy Spirit was on vacation.

Notes from “How to Read the Bible with Understanding”: “The opening chapters of the Old Testament deal with human origins. They are not to be read as history ... These chapters are followed by the stories of the patriarchs, which preserve ancient traditions now known to reflect the conditions of the times of which they tell, though they cannot be treated as strictly historical. ... it is not for history but for religion that they are preserved ... When we come to the books of Samuel and Kings ... Not all in these books is of the same historical value, and especially in the stories of Elijah and Elisha there are legendary elements. ... We should always remember the variety of literary forms found in the Bible, and should read a passage in the light of its own particular literary character. Legend should be read as legend, and poetry as poetry, and not with a dull prosaic and literalistic mind” (Metzger and May, *New Oxford Annotated Bible*).

Metzger also supported the form criticism approach to the Gospels. In *The New Testament, Its Background, Growth, and Content*, which was published in 1965, he claimed that “the discipline of form criticism has enlarged our understanding of the conditions which prevailed during the years when the gospel materials circulated by word of mouth” (p. 86).

This is not true. Form criticism is an unbelieving discipline which claims that the Gospels were gradually developed out of a matrix of tradition. The fathers of form criticism have held a variety of views (reflecting the unsettled and relativistic nature of the rationalism upon which they stand), but all of them deny that the Gospels are the verbally inspired, divinely given, absolutely infallible Word of God.

Metzger said, “What each evangelist has preserved, therefore, is not a photographic reproduction of the words and deeds of Jesus, but an interpretative portrait delineated in accord with the special needs of the early church” (Ibid.).

Metzger was wrong. The Gospel writers have indeed given us, by divine revelation, a careful reproduction of the words and deeds of Jesus Christ in precisely the form designed by the Holy Spirit, a supernatural four-fold portrait of the Saviour. Praise God for it!

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?



BOB JONES UNIVERSITY'S PLUNGE INTO NEW REFORMED CALVINISM

(Friday Church News Notes, November 29, 2019, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- Since 2006, we have documented the move toward Reformed Calvinism on the part of many BJU graduates, but it wasn't clear where the school itself stood. That picture has now come into clear focus, and it is worse than we suspected. In October, BJU president Steve Pettit participated in the "Greenville Conference on Reformed Theology" at Second Presbyterian Church. The other two speakers were Joel Beeke and Richard Phillips. Beeke is a professor at Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary and Phillips serves on the board of The Gospel Coalition. On November 11-12, Andy Naselli was the guest speaker at BJU for the Stewart Custer Lecture Series. Naselli is a professor at John Piper's Bethlehem College & Seminary and an elder of Bethlehem Baptist Church. Naselli is also on the staff of The Gospel Coalition. It is becoming more clear why Bob Jones University is building bridges to Keith Getty, who is a Reformed Calvinist and whose pastor, Alistair Beggs, is a prominent member of The Gospel Coalition. TGC represents the new Reformed Calvinism. Unlike old Reformed Calvinism, new Reformed Calvinism is ecumenical. The old Reformed men believed that Rome is the great whore of Revelation 17,

drunken with the blood of the martyrs, but the new Reformed have ecumenical relationships with Rome, or at least are sympathetic to it. On the TGC web page "Should Christians Be Ecumenical," we find the following: "Can evangelicals and Catholics truly be together? ... Jesus' prayer for unity in the Body obligates me to see the ecumenical task as important for Christianity" (by Trevin Wax, a Southern Baptist Wheaton College professor who associates with the Gettys). This is false. Jesus' prayer in John 17 has nothing to do with ecumenism. In fact, Christ emphasized obedience to God's Word and the importance of truth (Joh. 17:6, 8, 14, 17, 19), which are *incompatible* with ecumenism. Lou Martuneac makes the following observation, "What has BJU president Steve Pettit shown us by taking an active role in this conference, with these speakers? First, he has removed any lingering doubt of having led the University to embrace Reformed Theology. Second, The Gospel Coalition (TGC) includes men in its leadership who are some of the most egregious of ecumenical compromisers among the so-called 'conservative' evangelicals. ... To any objective observer surely enough has been seen to erase any lingering doubt that BJU has abandoned its foundational, separatist principles. ... The University has always been theologically broad. So-that's not new. What is new is the association with compromised denominations that have *never* espoused fundamentalism" ("This Is Not Your Father's Bob Jones University, A Continuation," *In Defense of the Gospel*, Nov. 14, 2019).

MR. ROGERS, THE NICE CHRISTIAN (Friday Church News Notes, November 29, 2019,



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- *A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood*, starring Tom Hanks, depicts the life of Fred Rogers, a Presbyterian minister who was famous for the children's television program *Mr. Rogers*. He was "Mr. Nice" personified. He was always positive. He never condemned or offended anyone. He never called anyone a sinner, never commanded anyone to repent or perish, never warned of destruction. He had his own code of personal morality, but he didn't judge anyone else's. His most famous line was "Won't you be my neighbor?" In fact, he didn't even mention God on his program. Even *The Daily Beast*, an ultra-liberal, leftist, pro-abortion, pro-homosexual rights, pro-socialist news site, praises Mr. Rogers for his "niceness" in the report "Finally, Something Nice: Tom Hanks Playing Mr. Rogers May Save Us All" (Nov. 18, 2019). But the reason why Mr. Rogers' Christianity appealed even to some atheists is that it was false. The true Jesus is far more loving than Mr. Rogers' Jesus and also far more holy and just and righteous. The true Jesus is love incarnate, but He is not Mr. Nice by man's standards. The true Jesus doesn't smile at sin or overlook sin. He suffered and died for sin to make the atonement required by God's holy law for sinners to be saved. He doesn't offer "universal" salvation or preach the Fatherhood of God. He says, "Except a man be born again, he

cannot see the kingdom of God," and He repeated it for emphasis (John 3:3, 7). The true Jesus isn't all-positive, all-accepting. He said, "I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish," and He repeated it for emphasis (Luke 13:3, 5). The true Jesus doesn't preach heaven for all. He said, "And if thy hand offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter into life maimed, than having two hands to go into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched" and He repeated it five times for emphasis (Mark 9:43, 44, 45, 46, 48). The true Jesus called men evil (Luke 11:13). The true Jesus called some men fools and blind, full of hypocrisy and iniquity, serpents, generation of vipers (Matthew 23:13-33). This generation is in love with a false christ. It is the Hillsong christ, the Joel Osteen smiley-face christ. But it is an idol that is not real and cannot save and will be an eternal disappointment.

KEITH GETTY CONDEMNS THE "MODERN WORSHIP MOVEMENT" (Friday Church News Notes, November 29, 2019, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- In a recent interview with *The Christian Post*, Keith Getty gave a strong warning about the "modern worship movement." He called it "a movement for cultural relevance," "a de-christianizing of God's people," and "utterly dangerous." He said, "This idea that Christianity is cool or easy is not biblical. It's a misnomer for our generation. ... An authentic generation doesn't begin with catharsis; it has to begin with an authentic picture of the God of the Bible" ("Keith Getty: Modern worship mov't is 'utterly dangerous,'" *The Christian Post*, Nov. 9, 2019). We agree with this

100%, as far as it goes, but it is an ineffectual warning. **It is ineffectual, for one thing, because it is spoken in generalities.** Is Keith Getty talking about Bethel Church? Calvary Chapel? Casting Crowns? Steven Curtis Chapman? Christ for the Nations? Delirious? Kirk Franklin? Gateway Worship? Hillsong? Hosanna? Integrity? International House of Prayer? Maranatha? MercyMe? Newsboys? Michael W. Smith? Vineyard? Worship Central? The answer is, No one knows. In typical New Evangelical fashion, Getty's strong-sounding warning is too vague to be effective. But then, to sound *clear* warnings would narrow a big tent ministry. **Keith Getty's warning is also ineffectual because of his radical ecumenism.** He says this generation needs "an authentic picture of the God of the Bible," but how does his friend Matt Maher give such a picture by believing in transubstantiation and praying to Mary the Queen of Heaven? How does Getty's oft-quoted hero C.S. Lewis give such a picture by his rejection of Christ's substitutionary atonement and eternal judgment? This list could be expanded greatly. **Keith Getty's warning is also ineffectual because of his eclectic, "use any music you please," approach to music.** He says, "Part of our campaign is to get our generation to know the great hymns of the faith." That sounds commendable, but the Gettys have jazzed up the great hymns with a modern sound that doesn't match the



message of the words. Their concerts, even their Christmas concerts, such as *Sing! An Irish Christmas*, are out-and-out rock & roll fests with a pounding back beat and Irish dance music. It is sensual entertainment. It is highly emotional, but not holy. What do darkened auditoriums and floodlights and stage musicians and female worship leaders and big screen monitors and Christmas trees and Irish dancers and pounding drums have to do with the worship of a thrice holy God? I can't imagine David putting on such a performance at the Tabernacle or Solomon at the First Temple or Nehemiah at the Second Temple or Paul at the church at Ephesus.

KANYE'S JESUS DIDN'T COME TO MAKE BAD MEN GOOD

(Friday Church News Notes, November 29, 2019, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Massively influential rapper Kanye West has professed a Christian conversion experience and is now preaching Jesus. West was a terrible blasphemer. He appeared as a thorn-crowned Jesus on the cover of *Rolling Stone* in 2006. His 2013 album was titled *Yeezus*, which is a play on West's nickname *Yeezy* and the name *Jesus*. The cover art depicted West being crowned king by angels. In the song "I Am a God," he raps, "I just talked to Jesus, and he said, 'What up, Yeezus?'" We would hope that this man has indeed been born again, but



as a spiritual babe, at best, he has made a great error by keeping himself in the limelight and conducting church services. When he considered giving up hip hop because "that's the devil's music," he was given the very bad advice by his pastor, Adam Tyson, that "you can rap about God." At a recent concert with Kendrick Lamar, Kanye had a conversation with a man dressed up as Jesus. West said, "Jesus, I'm so sorry. I've been such a bad man." The Jesus figure replies, "Kanye, don't you know I didn't come here to make bad men good. I came here to make dead men alive." That is half-truth, and half-truths are extremely dangerous. While making bad men good is not the way of Christ's salvation, making bad men good is most definitely the *objective* of salvation. The way of salvation is to receive the free gift of God's grace without works, but the free salvation thus received produces good works. Ephesians 2:8-10 clarifies this common error in simple, clear, and precise language. "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, CREATED IN CHRIST JESUS UNTO GOOD WORKS, WHICH GOD HATH BEFORE ORDAINED THAT WE SHOULD WALK IN THEM." The present era is characterized by heaps of teachers who confuse the grace of God with moral license. It is a fulfillment of the prophecy of 2 Timothy 4:3-4, "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away *their* ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables." The apostle Paul defined the true grace of God as follows: "For the

grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; WHO GAVE HIMSELF FOR US, THAT HE MIGHT REDEEM US FROM ALL INIQUITY, AND PURIFY UNTO HIMSELF A PECULIAR PEOPLE, ZEALOUS OF GOOD WORKS" (Titus 2:11-15). Kanye would do well to heed Paul's divinely-inspired teaching and reject every voice that speaks contrary to it.

RESPONSES TO "BOB JONES UNIVERSITY'S PLUNGE INTO NEW REFORMED CALVINISM"

(Friday Church News Notes, December 6, 2019, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- Following are a couple of the responses to the report in last week's Friday Church News Notes: **RESPONSE # 1** - "I am a 1977 BJU grad. I am EXTREMELY upset I am forced to realize that BJU is now a New Evangelical school, having become so without a peep from Dr. Bob Jones the third, as far as I know. Two or three years ago I checked out the website of a man who was scheduled to preach in Bible Conference. On the link for his church's youth group, one can hear hard rock music. Not wimpy 'soft rock' but HARD rock. No pastor treating his church kids to hard rock should even be allowed close to the BJU pulpit, much less preach from it. I complained to President Pettitt, who responded with a 'I see nothing wrong with it' response. No surprise, since he is actually in the video. Please note on the school's website,



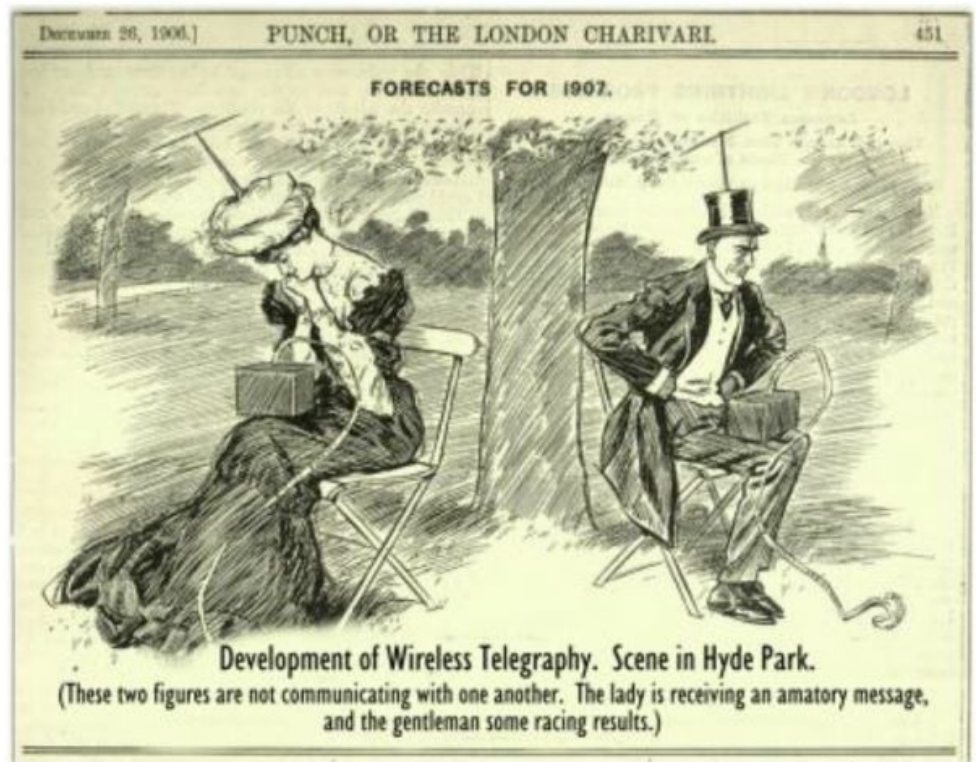
the link for 'Approved Greenville Churches' lists not only Second Presbyterian Church (PCA) but also the Southern Baptist Church directly across the street from the school, White Oak Baptist, pastored by Dr. Lonnie Polson, a member of the BJU faculty and Dept. Head. I predict after the death of 80-year-old Bob Jones III, they will change the name of the school." **RESPONSE # 2** - "Bob Jones has been hemorrhaging students over the past 20 years. They have basically lost their independent Baptist constituency. IBC pastors are nervous not only about their position on the Bible, but also their growing affinity to reformed/covenant theology. Northland went down a similar route. (They were known as the BJ of the Midwest in their heyday.) So now BJ is reaching out to their Presbyterian friends to try and rebuild the school. I doubt if that will work. The Presbyterians have their own network of colleges. But when colleges lose constituencies, their enrollment drops. When that happens, their finances drop. When that happens, they begin to make desperate moves to stay afloat. We are witnessing that at Bob Jones as we speak. I watched the same thing at Northland and Pillsbury, not to mention Tennessee Temple University, Clearwater, and Calvary Seminary. Other places like Central Seminary and Detroit Seminary are barely hanging on and are now more evangelical than fundamentalist. (Incidentally all of these places have

been a part of the Bob Jones Network, not to mention groups like the Fundamental Baptist Fellowship. But the common thread in all these places has been the embrace of scholarship--one of the tenets of New Evangelicalism--which has led them to embrace critical-text Bibles and then flirting with reformed theology and CCM. They either all have failed or are in the process of failing including the FBF. Of course, true focus on evangelism fades inversely as elitist scholarship attitudes increase. How sad!"

THE DARK SIDE OF THE SMARTPHONE BECOMING CLEAR TO SECULAR SOCIETY

(Friday Church News Notes, December 6, 2019, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from "Your smartphone is making you stupid, antisocial and unhealthy," *The Globe and Mail*, Apr. 10, 2018: In the winter of 1906, the year San Francisco was destroyed by an

earthquake and SOS became the international distress signal, Britain's *Punch* magazine published a dark joke about the future of technology. Under the headline, 'Forecasts for 1907,' a black and white cartoon showed a well-dressed Edwardian couple sitting in a London park. The man and woman are turned away from each other, antennae protruding from their hats. In their laps are little black boxes, spitting out ticker tape. A caption reads: 'These two figures are not communicating with one another. The lady is receiving an amatory message, and the gentleman some racing results.' The cartoonist was going for broad humour, but today the image looks prophetic. A century after it was published, Steve Jobs unveiled the first iPhone. Today, thanks to him, we can sit in parks and not only receive amatory messages and racing results, but summon all the world's knowledge with a few taps of our thumbs, listen to virtually every song ever recorded and communicate instantaneously with everyone we know. More than two billion



people around the world, including three-quarters of Canadians, now have this magic at their fingertips--and it's changing the way we do countless things, from taking photos to summoning taxis. But smartphones have also changed us--changed our natures in elemental ways, reshaping the way we think and interact. For all their many conveniences, it is here, in the way they have changed not just industries or habits but people themselves, that the joke of the cartoon has started to show its dark side. The evidence for this goes beyond the carping of Luddites. It's there, cold and hard, in a growing body of research by psychiatrists, neuroscientists, marketers and public health experts. What these people say--and what their research shows--is that smartphones are causing real damage to our minds and relationships, measurable in seconds shaved off the average attention span, reduced brain power, declines in work-life balance and hours less of family time. ... Ten years into the smartphone experiment, we may be reaching a tipping point. Buoyed by mounting evidence and a growing chorus of tech-world jeremiahs, smartphone users are beginning to recognize the downside of the convenient little mini-computer we keep pressed against our thigh or cradled in our palm, not to mention buzzing on our bedside table while we sleep."

BEWARE OF MEDITATION COLORING BOOKS (Friday Church News Notes, December 6, 2019, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - I received the following question from a reader: "Our children have been receiving coloring books and coloring pages from relatives and friends at church which we're not



sure about. Some have told us they're great for relieving headaches and just fun to do. Abeka has also put coloring pages with this type of theme in the 3rd grade Arithmetic Test books. They used to have an animal or some cute picture to color after speed drills were completed, but now they've switched to these objects and patterns. We started researching these types of coloring books and are alarmed to see the association with meditation and Buddhism. While the pages themselves may or may not be evil, they definitely lead down a wrong path. We've discarded any books or pages. Because of your location and knowledge of cultures in the east, we were wondering if you know any details about these coloring pages."

REPLY FROM BROTHER CLOUD: This is the first I have heard about coloring books using mandalas, but the mandala is strictly pagan in origin and purpose. They are used in Hinduism and Buddhism, and especially in Tibetan Buddhism, which is highly occultic. Tibetan Buddhism uses mandalas (circle) as symbols of the enlightened mind (nirvana) and the path to it. (In Hinduism, *yantra* is a similar concept.) There are endless forms and interpretations. "The mandala represents in visual form the core essence of the Vajrayana teachings." One popular mandala is the Five Buddhas, representing the various paths to enlightenment. The mandala is a meditation tool. The practitioner

meditates "to the point of saturation, such that the image of the mandala becomes fully internalised in even the minutest detail and can then be summoned and contemplated at will as a clear and vivid visualized image." "Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you. And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty" (2 Corinthians 6:17-18).

TAROT CARD FOLLY (Friday Church News Notes, December 6, 2019, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The following is excerpted from "Tarot Card Resurgence," Al Perrotta, *The Stream*, Oct. 28, 2019: "We're experiencing a burst in popularity of tarot cards. *The New York Times* in 2017 celebrated 'Tarot is Trending.' *The Guardian* promoted it as a form of therapy in 2018. One writer said she counted 550 tarot apps in the Apple Store before giving up. An Amazon search of 'tarot cards' renders 10,000 results. ... Before giving my life fully to Christ, I was a tarot card fanboy. I loved having readings. I bought about half a dozen different decks. I had a shelf full of books. I studied tarot cards harder than I'd studied any subject in school. ... that gets us to tarot's dirty little



secret ... First, you learn the basic meaning of each card. Then you learn each card's alternative meanings. Then you learn that the meaning, positive or negative, depends on whether the card is right side up or upside down. And then you learn that the meaning also depends on its relative position to the cards next to it. In other words, a 'negative' card in the past can actually be 'good' if the card next to it indicates a change for the better. And vice versa. Wait, there's more. Then you learn that an isolated part of imagery itself might contain a meaning tucked within it. Take the card commonly called 'The Chariot.' See the wheels? In a specific reading, the Chariot itself could have to do with your car. Could have to do with travel. If the card is upside down, it could mean beware the wheels coming off a project or relationship. The black and white sphinx-like creatures? Could refer to an issue that is clear black-and-white. The red symbol between them that looks like a top could mean that even though the choice is black and white, your head is spinning like a top trying to decide the issue. It could also refer to the unity of different things — both sphinxes, just different colors. Even though the decision seems black and white, it really isn't. ... Are you getting the idea? If not, let me put it to you very simply. *Any card at any time can mean anything.* And if something can mean anything, it means nothing. ... Even if the cards *could* tell you something about the future, they don't give you the power to change the future. This is why we must hold to the God who made Himself known. 'Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths' (Proverbs 3:5-6)."



HILLSONG TO HOST ALPHA CONFERENCE/CATHOLIC MASS (Friday Church News Notes, December 13, 2019, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Hillsong Phoenix is hosting Alpha Conference 2020 on January 30-31, complete with a Catholic mass. Speakers include Sarah Shin of InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, Francis Chan, Kelvin Walker of the Christian & Missionary Alliance, Catholic priest James Mallon, and contemporary worship leader Matt Redman. The conference opens on Friday morning with a Catholic mass in which a wafer of bread will become the actual body and blood of Jesus and will be worshipped as Jesus by the participants, according to official Catholic doctrine. Alpha is an interdenominational evangelistic program that was birthed in the 1990s at Holy Trinity Brompton Anglican Church in London, England, from a charismatic "revival" in which people experienced "massive electricity going through" their bodies, were thrown across rooms by spiritual forces, howled, laughed like hyenas, lay on the floor with their feet in the air, and were "drunk." The Alpha course includes a "Holy Spirit Day" with the objective of bringing the participants into a charismatic experience, including teaching them how to speak in "tongues." Alpha is helping to build the end-time, one-world "church." Developer Nicky

Gumble, vicar of Holy Trinity Brompton, says, "Alpha runs in every arm of the Church. It's growing the fastest in the Catholic church. ... What unites us is infinitely greater than what divides us. ... In every different part of the body of Christ--Presbyterian, Baptist, Lutheran, non-denominational, Catholic, Pentecostals, Bulgarian Orthodox, Coptic Orthodox--Alpha crosses all divides" ("The Alpha Course: An International Phenomenon," WillowCreek.org, March 2012). Hillsong is a network of churches and an influential producer of contemporary worship music. It began at Hills Christian Life Centre in Sydney, Australia, and has branched out to start churches in London, New York City, Los Angeles, Phoenix, and other cities. Popular Hillsong songs include "Oceans," "Shout to the Lord," "Stronger," "This Is Our God," and "Mighty to Save."

SALVATION ARMY LEADER MEETS WITH POPE FRANCIS TO PROMOTE ECUMENICAL COOPERATION (Friday Church News Notes, December 13, 2019, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - World leader of the Salvation Army, Brian Peddle, met with Pope Francis in Rome on November 8 to express ecumenical oneness and joint efforts to save the world through social action. The pope said, "Holiness transcends denominational



boundaries. ... Catholics and Salvationists can increasingly assist one another and cooperate in a spirit of mutual respect" ("Pope asks Catholics, Salvation Amy to spread God's love through service," *Crux*, Nov. 8, 2019). The previous Salvation Army General, André Cox, was the first Salvation Army leader to visit the pope. During the 2014 visit, the pope said, "The differences between Catholics and Salvationists regarding theological and ecclesiological questions need not impede the witness of our shared love of God and love of neighbour." The Salvation Army was founded in the 1800s by William and Catherine Booth for the purpose of preaching the gospel and assisting the needy. It is basically Methodist in doctrine and preaches a "holding out faithful" salvation and sinless perfection sanctification. "... continuance in a state of salvation depends upon continued obedient faith in Christ. ... it is the privilege of all believers to be wholly sanctified" ("Doctrines of the Salvation Army"). The Salvation Army does not practice baptism or the Lord's Supper. Ecumenism and social welfare have long dominated the organization's agenda.

AUSTRALIAN RUGBY STAR SACKED FOR POSTING A BIBLE MESSAGE REACHED A SETTLEMENT IN LAWSUIT (Friday Church News Notes, December 13, 2019, www.wayoflife.org,

fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from "Vindicated: Australian Rugby Star," *The Stream*, Dec. 5, 2019: "Israel 'Izzy' Folau, Australian Rugby player who was sacked because he posted a Christian message on Instagram, reached a settlement Wednesday in a lawsuit he filed for unfair firing from the team. Although Folau originally sought \$14 million, the terms of the settlement remain confidential. ... Rugby Australia and Rugby NSW also apologized to Israel for sacking him and any 'hurt or harm' the firing caused. ... 'We are extremely pleased with the settlement reached today,' Folau continued. 'With today's acknowledgment and apology by Rugby Australia, we have been vindicated and can now move on with our lives to focus on our faith and our family. ... I believe in a God that's in control of all things. Whatever His will is, whether that's to continue playing or not, I'm more than happy to do what He wants me to do.' ... Earlier this year, Folau posted a statement on Instagram that is based on 1 Corinthians 6:9-10. It stated, 'Warning. Drunks, Homosexuals, Adulterers, Liars, Fornicators, Thieves, Atheists, Idolaters. Hell Awaits You. Repent! Only Jesus Saves.' ... Folau said, 'First and foremost, I live for God now. Whatever He wants me to do, I



believe His plans for me are better than whatever I can think. If that's not to continue on playing, so be it."

MARGARET SANGER: FEMINIST FOUNDER OF PLANNED PARENTHOOD (Friday Church News Notes, December 13, 2019, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The following is excerpted from David Horowitz's *Dark Agenda: The War to Destroy Christian America*, 2018: "Margaret Sanger belonged to a group of leftists who were also associated with the creation of the American Civil Liberties Union. The most prominent figure in this radical circle was Emma Goldman, known as 'Red Emma.' Goldman was a revolutionary who had plotted with her lover to assassinate Henry Clay Frick, chairman of the Carnegie Steel Company. The plot failed, and she was deported to the Soviet Union. In her own mind, Sanger, too, was a revolutionary, openly proclaiming that birth control was the means by which she intended to change the world. In March 1914, Sanger launched a monthly newspaper, the *Woman Rebel*, which promoted not only contraception but moral and political anarchy. The paper's motto was 'No gods, no masters!' ... In a 1930 profile of Sanger in *The New Yorker*, writer Helena Huntington Smith noted that the *Woman Rebel* ... mixed its birth-control propaganda with a good deal of red-flag-waving, and perorations of the 'Workers of the World, Arise!' variety. She printed rousing contributions entitled 'A Defense of Assassination' and 'The Song of the Bomb,' and composed an editorial declaring: 'Even if dynamite were to serve no other purpose than to call forth the spirit of revolutionary solidarity and



loyalty, it would prove its great value.' ... Her 1920 book, *Woman and the New Race*, was a manifesto of her revolutionary program to change the world. ... Margaret Sanger belonged to the company of self-appointed social redeemers. A eugenicist, she believed that the world's problems—poverty, hunger, war—stemmed from the 'fit' having too few children and the 'unfit' having too many. The 'unfit' were people of the lower classes and races she regarded as inferior. The disastrous situation that uncontrolled births created could be remedied, she believed, if people could be bred like animals with an eye to improving the species. ... Sanger believed that salvation lay in 'liberating' women by endowing them with 'reproductive freedom' ... She wrote, 'Even as birth control is the means by which woman attains basic freedom, so it is the means by which she must and will uproot the evil she has wrought through her submission.' She based the title of her 1922 book *The Pivot of Civilization* on the notion that birth control is the pivot or turning point by which civilization can move from barbarism and disaster to future rationality and well-being. Such delusional world-transforming ambitions lie at the heart of every radical cause and fuel the extremist energies and beliefs. 'Reproductive freedom'—with its implications of world-transforming consequences—

is still the rallying cry of the women's movement Sanger inspired."

SOCIAL MEDIA AND EVIL COMMUNICATIONS

(Friday Church News Notes, December 13, 2019,

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

- In a nutshell, the main danger of the Internet in general and social media in particular is evil communications.

"Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners" (1 Co. 15:33). Evil communications refer to any kind of associations, relationships, communion, conversation, and fellowship that is evil, bad, wrong, or harmful by the standard of God's Word. "**Evil**" is the Greek *kakos*, the standard New Testament word for evil. It is usually translated "evil." It is also translated "wicked" (Mt. 21:41), "harm" (Ac. 16:28), "ill" (Ro. 13:10), "noisome" (Re. 16:2). Evil is anything that is contrary to God's standard of righteousness and holiness, anything that is contrary to God's will. God's standard for His redeemed people is very high. "Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from ALL filthiness of the flesh and spirit, PERFECTING holiness in the fear of God" (2 Co. 7:1). "**Communications**" is *homilia*, "to converse, to have companionship." It is from *homileo*, meaning "a multitude, a crowd, a company." It is translated "talked together" (Lu. 24:14) and "communed together" (Lu. 24:15). "**Good manners**" is *chrestos* (profitable, fit, good for any use) and *ethos* (custom, habit, morals, character). It refers to the right way of living and thinking. "**Corrupt**" is *phthero*, "to waste, pine, destroy, spoil." It is translated "defile" and "destroy" (1 Co. 3:17). It is used for

the corruption of the mind by false doctrine (2 Co. 11:3). The Bible warns, therefore, that any association or company or communion with evil corrupts and spoils the right and biblical way of Christian living and thinking. God's Word says, "**Be not deceived**" on this point. You are not an exception. If you associate with, commune with, company with, converse with evil, you will most definitely be injured by it. The word *h o m i l i a - - c o m m u n i o n*, companionship, a crowd, a company—is a precise definition for social



media! There has never been a more powerful forum for evil communications in the history of this fallen world. Let God's people take heed! On the positive side, 1 Corinthians 15:33 calls for a testing mindset. It is an unequivocal divine commandment to judge everything by the standard of whether or not it is an evil communication and to avoid everything that fits that standard. This is contrary to the "judge not, be tolerant, mind your own business" thinking that is predominate within 21st century Christianity.

PRAY FOR AMERICA (Friday Church News Notes, December 13, 2019,

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

- Prayer is the only thing that can have a significant effect on America's terrible spiritual and moral condition. Almighty God, who is in control of all earthly authorities, has specifically instructed His people to pray for their

governments. Surely, we can pray such a prayer in perfect faith that He will answer and help us. “I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, *and* giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and *for* all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty” (1 Timothy 2:1-2).

HERESY AT MOODY CHURCH/MOODY BIBLE

INSTITUTE (Friday Church News Notes, December 20, 2019, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Daniel Cameron, who has taught theology at Moody Bible Institute (MBI) since 2017, holds the heresy that Jesus shared man’s fallen nature. He had an epiphany of this doctrine at a Chris Tomlin Christian rock concert while listening to the words of “Jesus Messiah” -- “He became sin, who knew no sin. That we might become His righteousness.” This is an inaccurate translation that allows for the heresy that Christ partook of human fallenness, which is what Cameron believes. (He was ordained by Moody Church and works with youth there.) In *Christianity Today* this month, Cameron wrote, “Theologians such as Karl Barth and T.F. Torrance argue in the spirit of Gregory of Nazianzus that ‘the unassumed is the unhealed.’ In order for Jesus to bring healing to our sinful natures and provide a new way to be human, in the incarnation Jesus

must *vicariously* assume a fallen human nature into union with his divine nature and divine person. In the words of 20th-century Scottish theologian T.F. Torrance, Jesus ‘entered into our condemned state under divine judgment and made it his own, suffered the Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani, and yielded up the Ghost under the burden of sin and judgment and wrath.’ ... Because sin is a corruption of nature, it is that fallen nature that Jesus assumed into union within His person” (“What It Means that Jesus Was ‘Without Sin’?” *Christianity Today*, Dec. 5, 2019). In true Barthian fashion, Cameron uses human logic as an authority and employs double speak to claim that Jesus “assumed fallen nature” but also that Jesus was sinless. Cameron makes non-critical reference to three heretics in this one article: Karl Barth, T.F. Torrance, and Gregory of Nazianzus, a disciple of Origen and a publisher of his works. These are the dangerous waters of contemporary evangelicalism. Since the days of Harold Ockenga, they have renounced “separatism,” so there is no protection from heresy.

A WISE AND COURAGEOUS VOICE AT MOODY

FOUNDER’S WEEK 1961 (Friday Church News Notes, December 20, 2019, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Probably the last clear warning against New Evangelicalism at Moody Bible Institute was given by Charles Woodbridge at Moody Founder’s Week in 1961. Though the warning was ignored by most, it was heeded by a young preacher named Rolland Starr of Massachusetts, who later pastored Cornerstone Baptist Church in Belmont. In 1998, he wrote the following reminiscence: “When I entered the ministry 40 years ago



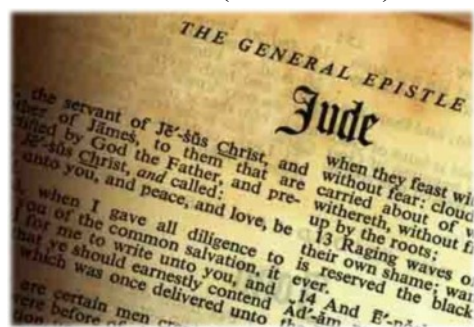
[1958], I sensed some things did not seem altogether right in the church circles where I fellowshiped, but I could never put my finger on it. The language always seemed right and yet Bible believers (pastors, leaders, etc.) seemed to be leaning toward those who were not in the mainstream of Fundamentalism. I did notice Billy Graham’s change. However, things really came into focus in 1961 when someone paid my way to attend Moody Founder’s Week at Moody Bible Institute--once a Fundamental institution but now deeply imbedded in the Evangelical camp. Though unknown to me, even when I was there, seeds of this new philosophy were well developed at Moody. Dr. Charles Woodbridge was one of the speakers and it was announced that one afternoon he would hold a special session for pastors, evangelists, missionaries, etc. After hearing what he had to say about this new mood, I marvel that he was asked to speak there. Probably 200 or more were present. I remember it almost as if it were yesterday since it was such an eye-opener. I still remember his outline. He said there were some changes going on among the Evangelicals-Fundamentalists. First, he noted that there was **a new mood** among them. It was a mood of compromise and accommodation. Then, there was **a new method** in evangelical circles and he particularly mentioned the new method in evangelism: ecumenical evangelism which Billy

Daniel Cameron



Graham had entered into some five years previously. Lastly, he warned that there would follow a **new message**. Anyone who says that Billy Graham, and the rest of the Evangelical crowd, preaches the old-time Gospel, the one he preached 45 or 50 years ago, does not know what he is talking about. My eyes were really opened. Dr. Woodbridge had certainly turned on the light. I came home a different man. I soon lost a good many of my former friends in and out of the ministry. I was too narrow, too bigoted. I have no regrets for, though it has not always been easy, it is wonderful just to stand on God's Holy Word. I bless God for that man who had the courage to warn God's servants of this deviant Christianity" (Starr, *The New Evangelical Experiment*, 1998, p. 4).

JUDE THE RIP-ROARING FUNDAMENTALIST (Friday Church News Notes, December 20, 2019, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - "Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort *you* that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints. For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ" (Jude 1:3-4). The



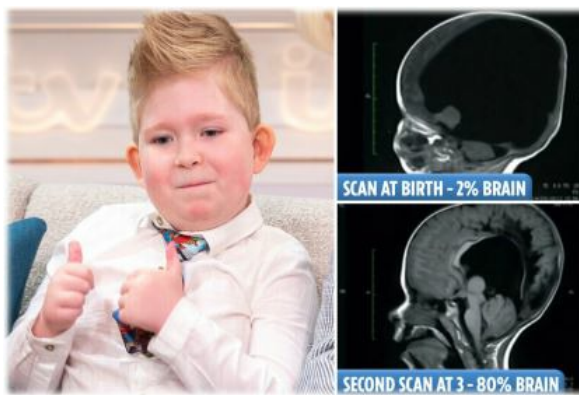
overall theme of the little epistle of Jude is apostasy from the New Testament faith and how to deal with it. Jude is a warrior for the truth, and he teaches every believer and every family and every church to be the same. He is a rip-roaring fundamentalist! He is compassionate toward the saints ("mercy unto you, and peace, and love, be multiplied. Beloved ... beloved..."). But he is fierce toward heretics. He isn't content with preaching "positive truth." He cares nothing for avoiding controversy. Like the Psalmist, he doesn't merely love truth, he hates error (Psalm 119:128). He is a contender, a warner, a reprover, a sharp rebuker, plain spoken, even severe in his denunciations. He is in the middle of the fray, just like the prophets of old, like Enoch, John the Baptist, Jesus, Paul, Peter, James, and John the apostle. When I was a young preacher, in about 1980, I wrote to noted evangelical author Warren Wiersbe and asked how he could be associated with *Christianity Today* and its non-critical promotion of heretics. He replied that I should "take off the gloves and pick up a towel." That's not Jude type of counsel. With Jude, fighting and serving is not either/or, it is both! Jude was definitely *not* a New Evangelical, and for the Bible lover, that is all he needs to know about whether or not New Evangelicalism is the right path.

KIM KARDASHIAN RESOLVES TO DRESS MORE MODESTLY (Friday Church News Notes, December 20, 2019, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Kim Kardashian, one of the queens of the me-centered pop culture, says her New Year's resolutions include dressing more modestly. Following



on the heels of her rapper husband Kanye West's professed Christian conversion, earlier this year Kim journeyed to her homeland of Armenia to be "baptized" in an Orthodox church. A few weeks ago, Kanye asked Kim to dress more modestly, and though she wasn't in agreement at the time, now she says, "I don't know if it's the fact that my husband has voiced that sometimes too sexy is just overkill, and he's not comfortable with that. ... But I have kind of had this awakening myself. I realized I could not even scroll through Instagram in front of my kids without full nudity coming up on my feed pretty much all the time" ("Kim Kardashian Resolves," *Christian Headlines*, Dec. 2, 2019). This is a good decision, as far as it might go, but it is more along the lines of a mid-life moral adjustment than biblical repentance. Biblical confession of sin is to agree unequivocally with God that a particular act is sin, and public sin must be confessed publicly. True repentance on the part of a Hollywood movie star, a supermodel, or a pop music diva would consist of a public confession that the indecent flaunting of herself is illicit by God's holy standards and that her actions have contributed to an adulterous generation that is shaking its fist at Almighty God. God's Word condemns "the attire of an harlot" and warns "that whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already

in his heart” (Proverbs 7:10; Matthew 5:28). True repentance is a change of mind about God that *results in* a change of life. It is the Prodigal Son saying, “I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee, And am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants” (Luke 15:18-19). Biblical salvation by grace teaches “that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world” (Titus 2:12), and, “have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them” (Ephesians 5:11). Biblical regeneration will reprove pop culture evils. Kim’s first marriage, which began with a multi-million dollar wedding, ended 72 days later. Her 2014 book featuring 2,000 selfies was titled *Selfish*. Our earnest prayer is that all of the Kardashians of this lost world would find true peace in Jesus Christ and be lights in an evil generation.



BOY BORN WITH “NO BRAIN” MAKING GOOD PROGRESS

(Friday Church News Notes, December 20, 2019, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from “Boy with ‘No Brain’ Continues to Defy Expectations,” Right to Life UK, Dec. 8, 2019: “A seven-year-old from Cumbria has moved his foot for the first time after undergoing pioneering therapy after his parents rejected pressure from doctors to abort him. Doctors did not expect Noah Wall, who was born with spina bifida, only 2 per cent of his brain and is paralysed from the waist down, to

live more than a few days. They advised his parents, Shelley and Rob Wall, to consider abortion on five separate occasions. But they refused, and now Noah continues to defy expectations. At the age of three, his brain had grown to a remarkable 80 percent of what it should be and is now nearly fully-functional, leaving medical professionals stunned. He is now undergoing specialised treatment--designed to alter the way the brain sends messages to his limbs. ‘We were offered termination five times,’ Rob told documentary, *The Boy Without a Brain*. ‘It was never an option for us. To me, we wanted to give Noah that chance of life. To hear his brain’s almost back to normal is beyond belief,’ Shelly Wall said. ‘Rob and I broke down when we heard the news. It was like a dream. I’ve never known anything like it. Even the consultants were in tears. Every time we see the doctors, they just shake their head. They’re just amazed at what he can do.’”

Aim of O Timothy Magazine

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- 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.
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