

O Timothy

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

A Monthly Newsletter for Spiritual Protection and Edification

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"The reason that Spurgeon had such a dim view of prophecy is that he held mostly to an allegorical interpretation, which turns those portions of the Word of God, such as Revelation, into a big puzzle. It was a serious blind spot to which most preachers in his day had succumbed." Page 2.

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



ANOTHER CHURCH ENTERS THE POST-TRIBULATIONAL WILDERNESS

By David Cloud

This is a warning about the danger of messing around with so called pre-wrath, mid-tribulation, and post-tribulation Rapture views. It is a warning about allowing people to join a church if they are not in agreement with the church's doctrinal stance. It is a warning about men who are changeable at a point in their ministry when they should be well established.

The pre-wrath, mid-tribulation, and post-tribulation views are a wilderness of uncertainty and disharmony. There is no consensus that Revelation 6-20 describes literal future events, that Matthew 24 describes literal future events, that Daniel's 70th week (Da. 9:27) describes literal future events, that there is a literal seven-year tribulation, that the 144,000 of Revelation 7 are Israel, that the day of the Lord is the Great Tribulation, that the Antichrist will sit in a literal temple, that the abomination of desolation and the great tribulation of Matthew 24:15-21 are yet future, that the ministry, death, and resurrection of the two witnesses



of Revelation 11 are literal future events, and that the coming of Christ is really imminent. About the only thing that post-tribulationists agree on, and are dogmatic on, is that there is no pre-tribulation rapture!

All of these things are settled by a normal-literal method of interpretation of prophecy.

I am sad to report that Pastor Charlie Haddad and Joshua Koura of Grace Bible Baptist Church of New Castle, NSW, have abandoned the fundamental doctrine of the Pre-tribulation Rapture and are wandering in the aforementioned wilderness. Though they admit that they haven't come to a settled position (and therefore should be keeping their mouths shut as learners instead of teachers), they have become sowers of doubt and confusion.

I have a personal stake in this, because last October I preached a Bible conference at Grace and assisted in the ordination of Joshua. Now I must withdraw my participation in that ordination and my support of that church.

The following is a slightly edited version of what I sent to these men in January:

A man or woman should be able to join a church on the basis of that church's published statement of faith and not be in danger of finding himself or herself doctrinally shaken by the very church that is supposed to be a place of protection and by the very men who are supposed to be their doctrinal protectors.

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A man who is ordained under the pledge of holding to a certain doctrinal position, whether pastor or evangelist, and finds that he is no longer sure of that doctrine and can no longer pledge allegiance to it, should resign that ordination and any position he has taken on the basis of that ordination. It is a matter of honesty and humility.

He should step down and spend as much time as he needs settling his doctrine. If he is reconfirmed in his former doctrine and can pledge unqualified faith in it, he can seek to be reinstated to his previous ordination and position. And if he comes to a new doctrinal position, he must seek ordination from those who agree with him and plant or pastor churches that are established under that particular doctrinal position, and if he is a missionary, he must get support on the basis of his new doctrine.

Any man is at liberty to re-examine his doctrine, but he must do so in a right way and in the right context and be ready to pay the full consequences. It is no light matter for a preacher to change his doctrine.

You published a statement of faith, a statement that included an unequivocal statement on the fundamental doctrine of the Pre-tribulation Rapture (many consider it a fundamental doctrine whether you do or not), and it was on that basis that I and many others have had ministry fellowship with you and on that basis that they invited you to preach in their churches and teach in their Bible institutes and participated in ordinations at your church and recommended your church. But you allowed people to join the church who didn't agree with what you professed to believe, and now you yourselves are no longer sure about what you professed to believe.

Grace Bible Baptist Church has become the church of the rabbit hole.

Like Alice in Wonderland, you have fallen through a rabbit hole into a land of confusion and uncertainty on Bible prophecy. And now you are trying to draw others into that rabbit hole under the guise of seeking help and the guise of Christian charity. In truth, you want to pull them into your rabbit hole through the process of endless questionings, endless discussion, and browbeating. I wonder what rabbit hole you will fall into next in your pursuit of the re-evaluation of settled doctrines.

I turned aside from some very pressing projects to spend some hours trying to help you by WhatsApp and email.

I shared many teachings and relevant statements to the best of my ability. I gave prayerful thoughtful, Bible-based warnings. I have all of those communications as a record. I didn't discuss the matter by telephone, but that is neither here nor there. The Lord is my witness that I have pursued this in Christian love and humility. In regard to your questions, I've either answered them personally or have pointed you to the answers. Other men have done the same. You have ignored most of what I have said, and what you have not ignored you have twisted out of context. I have been shocked by your attitude toward a grandfather preacher who has been studying the Bible and standing for the faith once delivered to the saints far longer than you have been alive. My communication has been swept aside as nothing.

I said to you that there are questions I can't answer on the prophecy issue, as there are on the election issue and practically any other issue. I settle these doctrines by looking at the big picture. These doctrines are not settled by any one verse, but on all of Scripture weighed together. That's true even for the biggest doctrines and issues like the Trinity and the Deity of Christ and the infallible inspiration of Scripture.

If you interpret Bible prophecy in a consistent normal-literal manner, which is a fundamental principle, you land on the clear distinction between the church and Israel, you understand that the 70 Weeks of Daniel 9 and Revelation 5-18 is Israel ground, not church ground; you understand that imminency, a plain teaching of Scripture, demands that church-age saints be Raptured before Israel's program is brought back to the fore. As far as I'm concerned, the matter is settled. In modern times, it has been settled for more than 100 years. I took the time to give you a succinct overview of this important history.

I love the Bible's teaching about the Pre-tribulation Rapture. It's not just a "doctrine" to me. It is absolute truth. I have studied it for nearly a half a century and have *no doubt* that it is a fundamental Bible doctrine. It has been held by every biblicist movement that I have any respect for over the past century and a half. There are some things about Independent Baptists as a movement that I do not agree with, but these pertain to practice, not to major doctrines such as the Pre-tribulation Rapture. I see the consistent stand for the Pre-tribulation Rapture among Independent Baptists from their inception as a very important thing, a very good thing, a very powerful

thing. The fact that some Independent Baptists are giving up the Pre-tribulation Rapture is a loud warning sign.

I am more convinced today than I ever have been of its truth and its importance. I'm seeing great fruit from preaching it, and I intend to preach it as long as I have the ability to do so, both with my mouth and with my pen. And I will do my best to keep the influence of preachers who reject the Pre-tribulation Rapture away from my church and family. That goes for the Independent Baptist heretic Steven Anderson or anyone else.

You persist in the false claim that no one has answered you. It is ridiculous. Though this issue has been thoroughly debated for 150 years and a multitude of books have been published presenting all sides of the matter, you are acting like you have come upon questions about the Pre-tribulation Rapture that no one has dealt with. Instead of consulting the answers that are available in many serious theological studies, you demand that someone personally rehash it to you. If, on the other hand, you *have* consulted the answers in the relevant books, why are you demanding that they be rehashed to you in person? There is only so much that can be said on this issue, and it has been said! There are no new questions and no new answers.

You persist in attacking the character of those who have tried to help you, claiming that they lack Christian charity and insinuating that they are motivated by pride, when you are not in any position to know other men's motives.

A mere few weeks ago I was one of your favorite teachers, loved and highly respected, by your own testimony and actions (inviting me to fly a long distance to participate in Joshua's ordination). Now I am treated almost like an enemy and have even been mocked. I haven't changed, but you have.

You are lashing out at other men who have been close friends for many years. They haven't changed, but you have.

You are trying to blame others and turn the focus onto others, but this mess is 100% of your own making, my friends.

THE REAL ISSUE IS DOCTRINAL SOUNDNESS.
THE REAL ISSUE IS TRUTH. WE MUST LOVE

TRUTH MORE THAN SENTIMENT, LOVE GOD MORE THAN MAN.

This business is a loud warning to those who have eyes to see. It is a warning that a man must be settled in his fundamental doctrines before he is ordained and before he starts churches. It is a warning not to allow people to join a church if they do not agree with the church's doctrines. It is God's express command that the church "be joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment" (1 Corinthians 1:10).

You disobeyed that clear Biblical truth when you allowed a man to join your church who was not of like mind in Bible prophecy.

David Cloud

"I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth" (3 John 1:4).

For more on this subject, see "The Fundamental Doctrine of the Pre-Tribulation Rapture"

https://www.wayoflife.org/reports/fundamental_doctrine_of_the_pre-tribulation_rapture.php

CONCLUDING NOTE FROM A READER

"You are right to take a strong stand on the pre-tribulation rapture position. This is our blessed hope and the encouragement that Jesus gave to His Church, as we fight the good fight. Sadly, I left that position for over twenty years, favoring the pre-

wrath rapture and then, for a while, the seventh trumpet rapture position.

"Over time, I lost my joy in Christ. I often repented of my fear of the judgments to come, my fear that I wouldn't be found worthy to escape, my fear that we hadn't prepped enough, my fear that I would lose my salvation, etc. It wasn't that I was afraid to die for my faith, but that those days are described as something far worse than any kind of tribulation ever experienced on earth.

"I wondered why God would allow His latter day Church to endure such horrible tribulation, that could end with one of the weaker believers taking the mark of the beast?! I just prayed for strength, grace and courage to face the worst in that day.

"At the same time, there was also a pridefulness that had set in with me, as I had also noticed in others who held my anti-pre-tribulation view. And a disdain for those poor souls who held to such an easy escapist way out of tribulation. It was like we knew the truth and had some kind of deeper understanding of God's Word.

"Thankfully, God led me to a pre-tribulation website back in 2016. I fought it off for a bit, and then decided to listen to the Holy Spirit. I can't tell you how happy I am that I did. My joy was restored and I now believe it is absolutely the correct and biblical rapture position and a very important doctrine.

"Thank you for all that you do. God bless."

**The Fundamental Doctrine
of the
Pre-Tribulation Rapture**
See the report at: www.wayoflife.org

Spurgeons Wrong View of DISPENSATIONALISM

By David Cloud



Charles Spurgeon preached the following in December 1867 in a sermon on "The Mystery of Godliness"

"Let me also say that I do not perceive anything in this summary *tending remarkably to exalt prophecy*. I would not make this remark if it were not that there is a certain troublesome sect (c) abroad nowadays to whom the one thing needful is a perpetual speculation upon prophecy. All the bells in their steeple ring out 'prophecy! prophecy! prophecy!' They plume themselves upon an expected secret rapture, and I do not know what vain imaginings besides. Where prophecy is preached in connection with their shibboleth, there the gospel is preached, and all ministers besides their own, however honoured by God, are railed at by them as part of Babylon, against whom men are to be warned. They, truly, are wise men, and can afford superciliously to look down upon their fellow Christians as the slaves of sect and system, being, I venture to say, far more sectarian than the worst of us, and more bigoted to their system than Romanists themselves. My dear friends, if you have any time to spare, and cannot find any practical work for Jesus, study the dark places of prophecy, but do not read modern prophetic works, for that is a sheer waste of time and nothing better. Hold off as you would from a serpent from the idea that the study or preaching of prophecy is the gospel, for the belief that it is so, is detrimental beyond conception. The gospel which is to be vehemently declared is this:—'God was revealed in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen by angels, preached to the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.' As long as London is reeking with sin, and millions are going down to hell, let us leave others to prophesy, let us go with anxious hearts to seek after souls, and see if we cannot by the Spirit's power win sinners from going down into the pit."

Spurgeon referred to those who believe the study of prophecy is the gospel, who plume themselves upon an expected secret rapture, whose steeple bells ring out only prophecy. and who rail at all who do not believe in the Rapture as part of Babylon. We do not know any dispensationalists who are guilty of those things, but the number of Dispensational Brethren churches had exploded across Britain in the 1850s and 1860s, and it would appear that this was Spurgeon's focus.

Spurgeon spoke of the "dark places of prophecy." While there are things hard to be understood in prophecy, as in other parts of Scripture, Peter called prophecy light rather than darkness. "We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts" (2 Pe. 1:19). This is a proper view of prophecy.

The reason that Spurgeon had such a dim view of prophecy is that he held mostly to an allegorical interpretation, which turns those portions of the Word of God such as Revelation into a big puzzle. It was a serious blind spot to which most preachers in his day had succumbed. As a result, he preached very little on Revelation chapters 5-19 (about 30 sermons), and when he did he failed to deal properly with the context. For example, his sermon "What and Whence Are These?" from Revelation 7:13-14 totally ignored the fact that this describes 144,000 sealed Jews whose ministry during the "great tribulation" resulted in their martyrdom. Entirely disregarding that essential information, he launched right into an application to salvation and persecution of saints in general. It was an abuse of Scripture that was the sincere but wrong-headed product of his capitulation to Augustinian allegoricalism that he got from the Puritans.

And as for Spurgeon's view that prophecy should be left alone for the sake of preaching the gospel, he was speaking in direct contradiction to the example of the New Testament apostles and prophets. They preached prophecy *and* they preached the gospel and saw zero contradiction between the two. Most New Testament epistles mention the return of Christ and many of them speak of it as imminent.

Consider the constant references to Christ's second coming in the Epistles:

Romans 11:26 And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob.

1 Corinthians 1:7-8 So that ye come behind in no gift; waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall also confirm you unto the end, *that ye may be* blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 11:26 For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do show the Lord's death till he come.

Philippians 1:6 Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform *it* until the day of Jesus Christ.

Philippians 1:10 That ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ.

Philippians 2:16 Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain.

Philippians 3:20-21 For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.

Philippians 4:5 Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand.

Colossians 3:4 When Christ, *who is* our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.

1 Thessalonians 1:10 And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, *even* Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come.

1 Thessalonians 2:19 For what *is* our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? *Are* not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming?

1 Thessalonians 3:13 To the end he may stablish your hearts unblameable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive *and* remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

1 Thessalonians 5:2-3 For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.

1 Thessalonians 5:23 And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and *I pray God* your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Thessalonians 1:7-9 And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, 8 In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: 9 Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power.

2 Thessalonians 2:1 Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and *by* our gathering together unto him.

2 Thessalonians 2:8 And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming.

2 Thessalonians 3:5 And the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God, and into the patient waiting for Christ.

1 Timothy 6:14 That thou keep *this* commandment without spot, unrebukeable, until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Timothy 4:1 I charge *thee* therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom.

2 Timothy 4:8 Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

Titus 2:13 Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ.

James 5:7-9 Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain. 8 Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh. 9 Grudge not one against another, brethren, lest ye be condemned: behold, the judge standeth before the door.

Hebrews 9:28 So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.

Hebrews 10:37 For yet, a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry.

1 Peter 1:7 That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 5:4 And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.

2 Peter 1:19 We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:

2 Peter 3:10-13 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. 11 *Seeing* then *that* all these things shall be dissolved, what manner *of persons* ought ye to be in *all* holy conversation and godliness, 12 Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?

1 John 2:28 And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming.

1 John 3:2 Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

Jude 14-15 And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints, To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard *speeches* which ungodly sinners have spoken against him.

Thus the Bible has a *major* practical emphasis on prophecy, and on the imminent return of Christ. Sadly, it is an emphasis that Charles Spurgeon did not have. In fact, it is an emphasis that he rejected and reproved. The man was often a Biblicist, but not in this case.





A Church SMARTPHONE Accountability Program

By David Cloud

The church should help oversee young people who want to do right. It can't help rebels in this way, except for preaching and prayer, but for those young people who love the Lord and are wise and want help to stay safe, the church should be intimately involved in their lives. God's Word commands this.

"Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus" (Colossians 1:28).

Our church is starting a phone accountability program for those who want this help. A great many people are waking up to the moral danger of the smartphone age and are taking steps to protect themselves and their families. We have quoted ---

Many families are making "Family Phone Agreements." A sample is as follows (from *Smartphone Sanity*):

- Parents have full access to any phone at anytime.
- No sneaky apps designed to hide or keep secrets.
- Calls from parents are answered or responded to in a certain time period we decide.
- GPS location services are on for our family.
- No pornography and no sexting.
- No dating or 'hook-up' apps.
- We will not use our phones to bully or gossip.
- No abusing or inappropriate language communicated through this device.
- Handle phones legally (not while driving, etc.).
- Respect the parameters of the family data plan.
- Be wise.

If unbelievers and evangelical and denominational Christians are taking such steps, how much more should Bible-believing fundamentalists and Baptists!

Spiritually mature men who understand the technology are assigned to oversee the phones of other men who want to sign up for the program. Each participant is assigned to one of the overseers. The overseer has all passwords

and has complete access to the phones, laptops, etc. He can ask to see the devices any time.

Church members sign up on a freewill basis. Without a personal and strong desire to live a holy life in God's will, no accountability program will work.

One of the benefits of this program is that it keeps the issue of Internet danger before the church, and keeps the church informed and communicating about this.

An accountability ministry is a "one another" ministry

The Christian life is not a solitary life lived for self. It is a family life lived with others and for others. I *am* my brother's keeper!

- "admonish one another" (Ro. 15:14)
- "by love serve one another" (Ga. 5:13)
- "bear ye one another's burdens" (Ga. 6:2)
- "forbearing one another, and forgiving one another" (Col. 3:13)
- "teaching and admonishing one another" (Col. 3:16)
- "edify one another" (1 Th. 5:11)
- "consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works" (Heb. 10:24)
- "exhort one another" (Heb. 3:13; 10:25)

Preparation

We spent many weeks preparing for this by teaching in the weekly men's meeting on surrender, holy living, seeking God's will, being transformed by the renewing of the mind by God's Word, controlling the emotions, and the importance of separation from evil, all with a strong application to Internet dangers. Some of the studies we taught are in the course *Spiritual Safety in the Facebook Age*, www.wayoflife.org.

Another thing we emphasized is the blessing of God's will. See, for example, Ps. 16:11; 37:4, 10; Joh. 10:10; 1 Ti. 6:17; Jas. 1:17. A holy life as a pilgrim believer is a

blessing-filled life. Within the protective boundaries of God's will are massive blessings. There is liberty to do anything that is good, and that is a very long list.

The program must be explained carefully to the church and discussed and fine-tuned according to the feedback. Emphasize that the purpose is for protection, not control. The adult participants must not be treated like children or like they are in a prison. The overseers of the accountability program are not prison guards, they are friends in Christ.

Overseers

Overseers are selected on the basis of how many members sign up for oversight. Ideally, an overseer should not be responsible for more than three or four people so that he can give proper attention to this.

The overseers should be chosen and assigned with wisdom. They must be spiritually mature and wise enough to shepherd the individuals under their care, and they must know enough about technology to be an effectual overseer. They must know how to check for new apps, browser histories, etc.

They must have knowledge of protection tools such as AppLock (an Android app that can be used to control select apps), web browser filters (e.g. CleanInternet), Covenant Eyes, and parental control software (e.g., Qustodio, Norton Online Family, Family Shield OpenDNS, Family Pro Shield).

The major spiritual qualifications of an overseer in this program are found in Romans 15:14. Here we see two things that are necessary for the effectual function of admonishing others. First, there must be goodness, which refers to a good Christian character and testimony. Second, there must be knowledge, which refers to knowledge of God's Word and God's will. If an individual lacks goodness, lacks a good testimony, he can't effectively admonish others because they won't take him seriously. If he lacks Bible knowledge he will not have the wisdom to admonish in a right way.

Participants

The individual who joins the program promises not to hide anything and to avoid visiting wrong sites or looking at wrong things. He agrees to obey God's command to

set no wicked thing before his eyes (Ps. 101:3), to have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness (Eph. 5:11), and to avoid evil communications (1 Co. 15:33).

He agrees that the overseer will have access to all areas of his phone, tablet, laptop, etc.

He agrees not to delete the history of Internet use, such as browsing history. He agrees not to use browsers such as Tor or Epic or SRWare Iron that do not leave a history and agrees not to use private modes in browsers (such as Chrome's incognito mode) that do not leave a history. (These are unofficially called "porn modes.") He agrees not to use secret IDs to log in to YouTube, etc., that are kept from his overseer. There should be no deleting of photos and videos and music except when they were received as unwelcome intrusions, such as sent by someone via text or WhatsApp. In other words, the deletions should not be for the purpose of hiding sin. When using the YouTube app, he/she will log in so that a history is maintained.

The participants should be categorized by age and situation and treated accordingly. For example, married people cannot be treated the same as single ones. Married people should have more privacy. For example, married people's communication with their spouses should be strictly private, but single people should not have intimate communication with members of the opposite sex other than close relatives. In fact, every person in the program must be treated as an individual.

The program

The overseer starts by meeting with each individual under his care to develop a plan for how he is going to supervise that individual. The overseer must be firm and protecting but not overly forceful. If he forces the individual to do something against his will, it won't work, because there are endless ways to get around supervision.

From beginning to end, the program must be free will. In general, the overseer talks with the individual to find out how he is currently using his phone and other devices, in what legitimate and good ways, and tries to work out a plan so that the individual can use his devices for good but not for sin. Following are some of the things that should be done in the first meeting:

- At the very beginning, the individual must agree to keep everything open, to have no secrets on his devices, to not delete things in order to hide wrongdoing, to allow the overseer to check his phone at any time, and to communicate with the overseer to seek help if he is experiencing problems.
- Find out all of the ways the individual currently uses his phone and/or other devices.
- Ask if the individual has experienced any special temptations pertaining to the use of his devices.
- Thoroughly examine the individual's phone and other devices. First check overall usage for last ten days. (On an iPhone, screen time can be checked easily by going to Settings >> Battery >> "Last 10 Days.") Then look at every app and find out its function and how the individual uses it.
- The overseer can recommend using the aforementioned protection tools for controlling and filtering.
- Decide on a plan: What apps will be kept? How will they be used? Will something like Covenant Eyes be installed? Will a browser filter be installed? Some individuals should have no use of a web browser, for example, while others should have access to it.
- Pray together about the program and ask God's help.

The main thing is to treat each participant as an individual and have good communication and rapport with that individual. The individual's age, spiritual maturity, and background must be taken into consideration. If an individual has had problems with pornography in the past, for example, he should desire and should be given closer supervision.

The overseer commits to be mindful of the men under his care, to pray for them, and to be observant of them. He will meet each individual under his care at various times (irregular and unexpected, ideally) and do the following things: inquire about the individual's situation and how he is doing with the Lord; look to see what apps are installed; check overall smartphone use (Settings >> Battery >> "Last 10 Days"); check histories (browsers, YouTube, photos, calls, etc.); perhaps look at photos and videos (this depends on each individual's situation, as we have discussed); and pray with the individual. The overseer doesn't read the individual's private communication (e.g., email, SMS, WhatsApp), but he does try to get an idea with whom the individual is communicating. The overseer must allow the individual to explain any particular aspect of his devices and Internet

use that might be questionable and not be hasty to condemn.

The overseers give reports to the church leaders so they can be informed about what is happening.

The Attitude

We cannot emphasize enough the importance of the right attitude on the part of the church leaders and the overseers of this program. If the participants feel that they are being treated with true Christian love, kindness, patience, mercy, and wisdom, if they feel that the overseers are truly wanting to help and protect them and not to dominate them, they will benefit from the program and will want to continue to participate in it. Otherwise, it will be a short-lived thing.

"And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you" (Ephesians 4:32).

"Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ" (Galatians 6:1-2).

The author of the previously cited Family Phone Agreement observes, "This agreement is a WIP, a work in progress. It will need to be adjusted as time goes on."

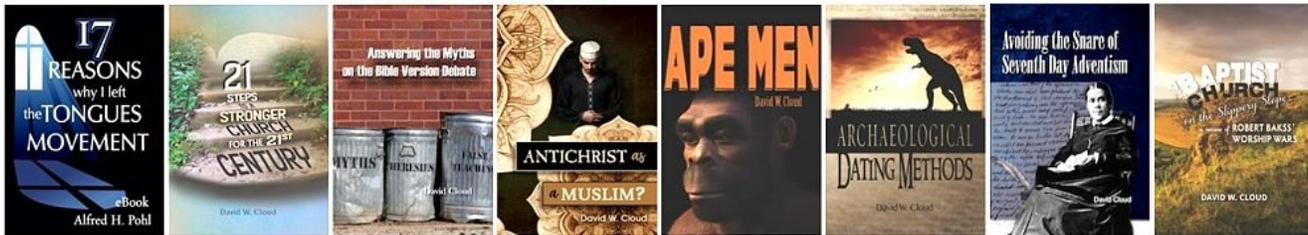
Feedback and Adjustment

For this type of program to work, there must be good feedback and adjustment. It can't be set up and forgotten.

Each church in each place and time is different, and a program like this must be well adapted to the church's particular situation.

What devices are being used? What are the most popular apps, Internet sites, social media, etc., in that place? What are the main ways that young people in that place are using technology? Are the men happy with the program? Do they want to continue? Do they have suggestions for improvement?

Plus the technology is constantly changing and God's people must be aware of what is happening and be in control of the technology rather than allowing the technology to control them.

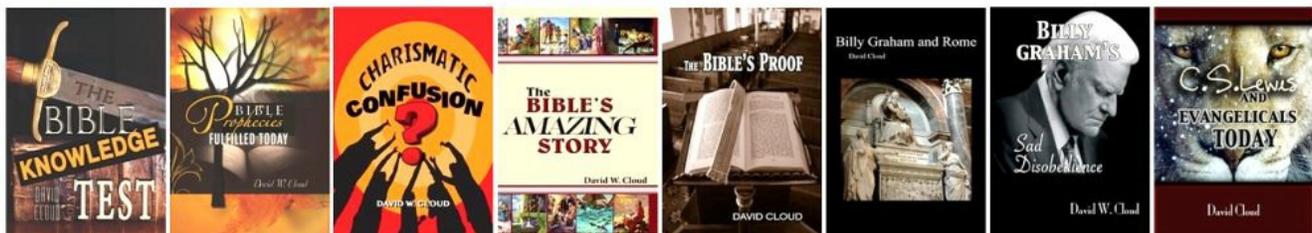


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Following are some of the 100+ books that can be freely viewed or downloaded from the Way of Life web site. The eBooks can also be obtained in print editions.

https://www.wayoflife.org/free_ebooks/free_ebooks_by_name.php

- 21 Steps to a Stronger Church for the 21st Century
- A Plea to Southern Baptist Music Fans
- Antichrist as a Muslim?
- Avoiding the Snare of Seventh-day Adventism
- The Bible and Western Society
- The Bible Version Question Answer Database
- The Bible's Proof
- Biblical Separatism and Its Collapse among Fundamental Baptists
- Billy Graham's Sad Disobedience
- C.S. Lewis and Evangelicals Today
- Child Discipline
- Church Discipline for the 21st Century
- Contemplative Mysticism: A Powerful Ecumenical Bond
- Directory of Contemporary Worship Musicians
- The Emerging Church Is Coming
- End Time Confusion: The International House of Prayer
- Evangelicals and Contemplative Prayer
- Fundamental Baptists and Quick Prayerism
- The House Church Movement
- The Hyles Effect: A Spreading Blight
- Ideas for Evangelism
- Keys to Fruitful Church Membership
- Lying Evolutionary Art
- Memory Verse Journal
- Modern Bible Version Hall of Shame
- The New Age Tower of Babel (book and video series)
- New Evangelicalism: Its History, Characteristics, and Fruit
- Pastors, Deacons, and Church Members
- Protestant Persecution of Baptists
- Questions Answered on the Bible and Christianity
- Rock & Roll's War against God
- Rome and the Bible: the History of the Roman Catholic Church and Its Persecution of the Bible and Bible Believers
- Scientists Who Believe the Bible
- Seeker's Bible Study (evangelistic Bible study program)
- What about Steven Anderson?
- What Every Christian Should Know about Rock Music
- Why We Hold to the King James Bible





We are to “prove all things” (1 Th. 5:21), and certainly one of the “all things” is music, one of the most important influences in lives of individuals, in the home, the church, and society.

If ever there were an age when God’s people need to take particular heed to the issue of music, it is today! This could be called “the age of music” because technology has made it ubiquitous.

Most people are immersed in music every day of their lives. This is a brand new thing in human history. There was no music on demand from Eden until the 20th century, except for kings and the most wealthy who could afford to have musicians on their payroll, and even their choices were severely limited.

The music revolution began with the phonograph (record player). It was invented in 1877 by Thomas Edison and he rightly predicted, “The phonograph will undoubtedly be liberally devoted to music.” Twenty years later he observed that “people are willing to pay to be amused more than anything else.” How right he was!

Modern communications technology has made this the age of amusement, and music is at the very heart of the amused culture. By the turn of the 20th century, record companies were popularizing music recordings. In 1920, “Crazy Blues” by Mamie Smith sold one million copies.

The explosion of commercial radio in the 1920s hastened the popularity of music listening and increased record sales. Music pieces began to be written to fit the time available on a record.

The result was the three-minute pop song. It was the first time in history that an individual could listen to whatever music he pleased, and the first time that an individual

could immerse himself in music in isolation. It was the dawn of the age of “me.”

RCA’s 45 rpm vinyl record of 1949 was another major step in the music revolution. The 45 rpm players were small and more portable than anything that had previously existed, and some featured tall spindles that would automatically play stacks of records. It was the inexpensive, portable 45 that propelled the rock & roll revolution of the 1950s. It was the record of the rock party, the record shop, and the ubiquitous jukebox. In 1955, Bill Haley’s “Rock Around the Clock” sold 3 million copies.

When I began my personal venture into the world of rock in about 1962, the 45 was still a prominent technology of the pop culture. The popularity of 45 rpm records peaked in 1977 with 200 million sales.

Beginning in the 1950s, television furthered the music listening craze, particularly of pop music, with shows such as *American Bandstand*.

The handheld, battery-powered transistor radio of the 1950s took portability of music to a new level. The Sony Walkman of 1979, that played the compact cassette tape, was revolutionary in making “my music” available 24/7, even while walking, running, etc.

The iPod digital music player (2001) and then the iPhone (2007), with its constant connection with the Internet, took this to an even higher level. The iPhone plugged the listener into the vast world of streaming services and on demand music such as Spotify, iTunes, and Amazon.

The technology-empowered music revolution is the heart and soul of the global pop culture with its licentious “me first” philosophy.

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?



GETTYS PROMOTING FOUNDER OF VEGGIE TALES

(Friday Church News Notes, January 31, 2020, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - One of the speakers scheduled for Keith and Kristyn Getty's Sing! Worship Conference 2020 is Phil Vischer, creator of VeggieTales. The announcement promises "three days of deep theology, timeless artistry and rich congregational worship," but there is no deep theology in VeggieTales. From its inception, it was a dangerous bridge to the world, creating in children a taste for every type of worldly music. The VeggieTale movie *Jonah* featured "Jump, Jive an' Wail" by secular rocker Brian Setzer of the Stray Cats. Following are the lyrics: "Baby, baby it looks like it's gonna hail ... You better come inside Let me teach you how to jive and wail ... Papa's in the icebox lookin' for a can of ale ... Mama's in the backyard learning how to jive and wail." Vischer says that laughter is a key to teaching. So why didn't Jesus, the Master Teacher, make people laugh while He taught them spiritual truths? We believe the ultra silly VeggieTales approach to teaching spiritual truths CHEAPENS the things of God. It brings eternal truth down to the level of worldly cartoons. The Bible says that "foolishness is bound in the heart of a child" (Proverbs 22:15). The last thing we need to do is encourage the innate silliness of children, as if they are not already silly enough without

the help of sincere but misguided adults. Consider the VeggieTales version of Nebuchadnezzar forcing Meshach, Shadrach, and Abednego to worship the idol in the book of Daniel. Nebby K. Nezzzer, manufacturer of chocolate bunnies, tries to force Shack, Rack, and Benny to worship a giant bunny. The VeggieTales song "Dave and the Giant Pickle" is dedicated to the psycho-babble theme of "self-esteem." "Oh Santa" from "Silly Songs with Larry" is about the mythical Santa Claus. The VeggieTales movie *Jonah* had the king of Nineveh claiming he didn't know that the things they were doing were wrong and pretending that their chief sin was slapping each other with fish. What a fearful example of trivializing sin! The Gettys have no boundaries and are a bridge to anything and everything. (See "The Gettys: Pied Pipers of Contemporary Worship Music" at www.wayoflife.org.)

SOUTHERN BAPTIST LEADER SAYS MANY CATHOLICS ARE BORN AGAIN (Friday Church News Notes, January 31, 2020, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Southern Baptist Richard Land says that he is seeing "more and more Catholics" who have been born again



(“Being ‘born again’ isn’t trendy--it’s meaningful,” OneNewsNow, Jan. 24, 2020). Land was head of the Southern Baptist Convention’s Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission from 1988 to 2013. He made the recent comment in light of the 2018-2019 General Social Survey that found that the use of the term “born again” is spreading to Catholics and mainline Protestants. He said, “It’s not what your denominational affiliation is, it’s whether you have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.” But the Roman Catholic Church is not just a different “denomination.” It is a different religion from the New Testament faith once delivered to the saints. Rome has a false christ and a false gospel. Its christ is a consecrated wafer called the host that is worshipped as the very Jesus Christ. Its gospel is baptismal regeneration followed by participation in the other sacraments. I have met “evangelical Catholics” while attending ecumenical conferences with media credentials, but when questioned carefully about salvation, they demonstrate their confusion and their trust in the sacraments and “the church.” I have never met a Roman Catholic who testified, “I am trusting in the blood of Christ alone for salvation; baptism and sacraments have absolutely nothing to do with salvation; Mary and the saints cannot hear and answer prayer; I know that Rome’s gospel is unscriptural and I renounce it.” That would be the testimony of a truly “born again Catholic.” In 2005, Land was recognized by *Time* magazine as one of the “25 most influential evangelicals in America.” (For documentation of Rome’s gospel from sources such as the Vatican II Council and the *New Catholic Catechism*, see *Is the Roman Catholic*

Church Changing?, a free eBook available from www.wayoflife.org.)

TRUMP IS THE FIRST PRESIDENT TO ATTEND MARCH FOR LIFE

(Friday Church News Notes, January 31, 2020, www.wayoflife.org fbs@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The following is excerpted from “Trump Defends the Unborn,” PJMedia.com, Jan. 24, 2020: “President Donald Trump became the first president in history to attend and speak at the March for Life in person. The president received deafening applause from the thousands in attendance as he championed the dignity of the unborn, condemned radical Democrat proposals on abortion, and touted his historic wins for the pro-life movement. ‘Unborn children have never had a stronger defender in the White House,’ Trump declared. He mentioned his administration's efforts on the Mexico City Policy, a pro-life rule on Title X funding, support for the Little Sisters of the Poor, new rules preserving faith-based adoption, and his 187 confirmed originalist federal judges. ‘Sadly, the far-left is actively working to erase our God-given rights, shut down faith-based charities, ban religious believers from the public square, and silence Americans who believe in the sanctity of life,’ the president declared. ‘They are coming after me because I am fighting for you and we



are fighting for those who have no voice, and we will win. When it comes to abortion, Democrats have embraced the most radical and extreme positions for years and decades...,’ Trump added. ‘Nearly every top Democrat in Congress now supports taxpayer-funded abortion all the way up until the moment of birth.’ ... He concluded the speech with a firm declaration of the sanctity of human life, born and unborn. ‘Every child brings joy to a family, every person is worth protecting, and above all we know that every human soul is divine and every human life, born and unborn, is made in the holy image of almighty God,’ Trump said.” **CONCLUSION:** President Trump demonstrated his ignorance of Scripture in saying that every human soul is divine, but we are glad for his open and unqualified support of the pro-life movement in gross contrast to every Democrat party presidential contender.

TRANSGENDER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN PASTOR

(Friday Church News Notes, January 31, 2020, www.wayoflife.org fbs@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The following is excerpted from “Transgender Latin makes history,” *NBC News*, Dec. 13, 2019: “Before coming out as transgender, Nicole Garcia prayed daily that God would ‘fix’ her. When her prayers weren’t answered and the feeling in her gut didn’t go away, she gave up on religion. Now, nearly four decades later, Garcia stands behind the pulpit at Westview Lutheran Church in Boulder, Colorado, and delivers weekly sermons to a congregation of more than 100 faithful as their ordained pastor. ‘Nobody can question my faith, my devotion to



Christ, my devotion to the church. That's why I'm the pastor here,' Garcia, who turned 60 Thursday, told *NBC News*. 'Being trans is secondary.' Garcia, who delivered her first sermon at Westview earlier this month, is the first known transgender Latina to serve as a pastor within the 4 million-strong Evangelical Lutheran Church in America--an unanticipated position for someone who grew up in the Roman Catholic Church and left religion entirely for nearly 20 years."

COMMENT BY BRO. CLOUD: Missing in Garcia's testimony is biblical salvation. As a Roman Catholic, Garcia was baptized, sacramentalized, and prayed, but he didn't come on God's terms in repentance and saving faith. When he became a Lutheran, it was the same thing: sacramentalism. All his life, by his own testimony, Garcia has believed a gospel of works, and it is a false gospel with no life-changing power. Religion cannot "fix" man's sin problem. The old Adamic nature is full of sin, every type of sin. The Lord Jesus said, "For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness" (Mark 7:21-22). Only biblical salvation can "fix" man by regeneration and sanctification. Paul describes how that some of the citizens of wicked Corinth were "fixed." "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 Corinthians 6:9-11).

SUPER BOWL IDOLATRY (Friday Church News Notes, February 7, 2020, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The Super Bowl is one of modern America's gods. Viewership peaked at 115 million in 2014, but it still remains at about 100 million. It is not just a football game, it is a forum for the promotion of moral wickedness and humanistic philosophy. It is purposefully held on Sunday, a brash affront to the God who designated Sunday as "the Lord's Day." For many years, the halftime show has been "essentially a celebration of gay pride." This year, one of the commercial spots featured "pro-homosexual drag queens bent on indoctrinating your children into a pro-LGBTQ lifestyle" (whereas an anti-abortion commercial was

deemed inappropriate). The game is primarily about greed, but the environment is permeated with foul speech, drinking, gambling, half-nakedness, rock & roll sensuality, a "live as you please" philosophy (with a thin veneer of "Jesus is my buddy and he helped me win" Christianity). Fox made \$412 million in advertising revenue this year, and the host city, Miami, received a \$500 million economic impact. The price of a single ticket is more than \$6,000. Anheuser-Busch has spent \$441 million on Super Bowl advertising since 2006. Super Bowl fans consume 52 million cases of beer. About 23 million people (7% of the population) place wagers on the game, totaling \$6.8 BILLION. The Super Bowl does not stir up righteous affections. It's all about "inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry" (Colossians 3:5). A pastor who stopped watching Super Bowl in 2008 said, "It has become an intensified concentration of vulgarity and ego, with enough athletics in the game and cleverness in the commercials to trick me into watching. It's simply not what I'm living for." To that we say, Amen. We would like to know how one can obey the following Scripture while participating in the Super Bowl. "And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them" (Ephesians 5:11).



THE GIRAFFE’S WONDER NET (Friday Church News Notes, January 31, 2020, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is from creationmoments.com, December 30, 2019: “Did you ever stand up a little too quickly and get dizzy? That happens because by standing you may have temporarily lowered the blood pressure in your brain. Can you imagine what can happen when the giraffe swings his head from the ground to the treetop? The giraffe’s heart and the rest of his cardiovascular system are very different from ours--and from most other creatures. If it weren’t different, there wouldn’t be any giraffes! In order to get his blood all the way from his heart up that long neck to his brain, the giraffe’s heart must produce twice as much blood pressure as would be expected in an animal his height. But the giraffe’s brain is very sensitive to high blood pressure. So giraffes have been given a special structure that’s been called the ‘wonder net’, where the blood supply enters his brain. This wonder net keeps the blood pressure in the giraffe’s brain just where it should be. Even if the giraffe drops his head quickly--say, from nibbling a treetop to take a drink of water--the blood pressure



in his head remains safe. The wonder net can quickly control such rapid changes. And to prevent used blood from draining back into his brain when he lowers his head, the giraffe has a special set of one way check valves in his neck. When we talk about our Creator, we need not be afraid that some people will think we are talking about worthless things. Truly, the wonders the Creator has made are great and worthy to be told to people far and wide! Notes: ‘Sticking out his neck.’ *Creation Science Report*, Creation Science Research Center, San Diego, CA, July 1974.”

SUPER BOWL HALF TIME: JENNIFER LOPEZ REPLACES JESUS ON CROSS, WORSHIPED AS SEX GODDESS (Friday Church News Notes, February 7, 2020, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from “Christians Clap and Cheer,” *Reformation Charlotte*, Feb. 3, 2020: “The Super Bowl Halftime Show during the NFL game last night may have been the most blasphemous production ever put on by a major world organization. As the show was riddled with sex--and references to sex--it is clear that Americans have exchanged the true God for a god of lust. ... During the show, Jennifer Lopez put on a pole dance performance and presented herself as a sex object for the world to watch. ...

during the performance, it appears she is raised up on what looks like a pose on the cross of Jesus while the surrounding people fall down on their faces in simulated worship. [And there was an obvious depiction of the two crosses that were on either side of Jesus.] Anyone who thinks this wasn’t by design is foolish.”

DEMOCRAT PRESIDENTIAL CONTENDERS ARE A GREAT DANGER TO FIRST AMENDMENT LIBERTIES



(Friday Church News Notes, February 7, 2020, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - We don’t spend much time writing about politics, but the Democrat party has become a clear and present danger to religious liberty in America by its 100% support of homosexual rights. Consider two of the top Democrat presidential contenders. Elizabeth Warren promises to fill at least half of her cabinet “by women and non binary people” (transsexuals) (*Pulpit and Pen*, Jan. 27, 2020). She also vows that her nominee for Secretary of Education must be interviewed and approved by a nine-year-old transgender child (“Elizabeth Warren Vows,” *The Washington Times*, Jan. 30, 2020). Yet she insanely calls her platform “Restoring Integrity and Competence to Government.”

Meanwhile, Joe Biden tweets, “Let’s be clear: Transgender equality is the civil rights issue of our time. There is no room for compromise when it comes to basic human rights” (@JoeBiden, Jan. 26, 2020). Of course, there is no such thing as a transgender. One is either male or female, as determined by biology.

BRITISH TEENS ENCOUNTER MORE PORN ON SNAPCHAT THAN PORN SITES; PARENTS IN DENIAL (Friday Church News Notes, February 7, 2020, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- A new study by the British Board of Film Classification (BBFC) found that “viewing pornography has been normalised among children from their mid-teens onwards, with more encountering it on networks such as Snapchat and WhatsApp than on dedicated pornography sites” (“Porn survey reveals extent of UK teenagers’ viewing habits,” *The Guardian*, Jan. 31, 2020). “The report’s authors concluded that parents of 16- to 17-year-olds were either in denial or largely unaware of what their child viewed online, with the parents of teenage girls the most likely to be unaware their children were watching pornography. ... While 75% of parents did not believe their children would have watched pornography, the majority of these parents’ children told the researchers that they had viewed adult material.”



PARENTS NEGLECTING CHILDREN FOR SMARTPHONES (Friday Church



News Notes, February 7, 2020, 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: “Catherine Steiner-Adair, a clinical psychologist and research associate in psychiatry at Harvard Medical School, interviewed 1,000 kids between the ages of 4 and 18 for her 2013 book *The Big Disconnect*. Many of them said they no longer run to the door to greet their parents because the adults are so often on their phones when they get home. And it gets worse once they’re through the door. One of the smartphone’s terrible, mysterious powers, from a child’s perspective, is its ability ‘to pull you away instantly, anywhere, anytime,’ Dr. Steiner-Adair writes. Because what’s happening on the smartphone screen is inscrutable to others, parents often seem to have simply gotten sucked into another dimension, leaving their kid behind. ‘To children, the feeling is often one of endless frustration, fatigue and loss.’”

FATHER OF TEXAS BOY WHOSE MOTHER WANTED TO “TRANSITION” HIM TO A GIRL WINS IN COURT (Friday

Church News Notes, February 7, 2020, 2020, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The following is excerpted from “Father of 7-Year-Old,” *Daily Wire*, Feb. 1, 2020: “On Thursday, a Texas court ruled in favor of Jeff Younger, the father of James Younger, the seven-year-old whose pediatrician mother was attempting to medically transition her son into a girl. Dallas Judge Mary Brown upheld an October decision that gave both parents conservatorship over their child and denied the mother’s request that the case revert to the October 21 11-1 jury decision that gave her sole managing conservatorship. That decision was later overruled by Judge



Kim Cooks, who ruled that conservatorship would be split evenly between both parents. ... Jeff Younger said Georgulas had been pushing their son to transition after their divorce. He claimed that when his son was three years old, his mother locked him in his bedroom and told him, ‘monsters only eat boys.’ He also said she had forced James to wear dresses.”

FRANKLIN GRAHAM BANNED FROM VENUES IN ENGLAND, WALES, SCOTLAND FOR “HATE SPEECH” ON PRESSURE FROM HOMOSEXUAL ACTIVISTS (Friday Church News Notes, February 7, 2020,



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

- The following is excerpted from *Pulpit & Pen*, Jan. 27, 2020: “[A] prominent Liverpool venue just canceled American evangelist, Franklin Graham, for preaching ‘hate.’ By ‘hate,’ the ACC Liverpool venue means Graham’s preaching of the Bible when it comes to various sin issues like homosexuality. [ACC Liverpool tweeted,] ‘Over the past few days we have been made aware of a number of statements which we consider to be incompatible with our values.’ [BBC reported,] ‘Franklin Graham has repeatedly publicly promoted his homophobic beliefs including, but not limited to, branding homosexuality *a sin*, claiming Satan was the architect of same-sex marriage and LGBT rights, claiming gay people existing are causing *a moral 9/11*, declared that gay people are *the enemy* of civilization and advocates for the highly damaging abusive practice of gay conversion therapy.’ The mayor of Liverpool, Joe Anderson, took to Twitter to rub it in. ‘Our City is a diverse City and proud of our LGBTQ+ community and always will be. We can not allow hatred and intolerance to go unchallenged by anyone including by religious groups or sects. It’s right we have banned from the M&S Arena Franklin Graham. #Love conquers hatred always.’” NOTE: Graham has also been banned from the International

Convention Centre Wales in Newport, Glasgow SEC, and Sheffield City Trust.

URANIUM-LEAD DATING

(Friday Church News Notes, February 7, 2020, www.wayoflife.org
fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The following is from creationmoments.com, January 16, 2020: “Many people assume that carbon dating is used to date rocks and fossils. It is not. Carbon dating is specifically used to provide a date for material which was previously part of a living organism, and even if such ages were possible, does not give an age of over 100,000 years. Many geologists will rely on uranium-lead dating to find the age of a rock. This technique involves measuring the amount of the uranium isotope U-238 in a rock and also the stable isotope lead-206, into which U-238 decays. It is important to emphasize that neither this technique, nor any other, actually directly measures the age of the rock. Rather, the age is calculated from the measured amounts of uranium and lead, using three assumptions: 1. It is assumed that all of the lead present in the rock originally came from uranium. But why should this be the case? Could not the rock have been formed with lead in it? 2. None of the lead produced has been lost. But since lead compounds are partially soluble in water, it is unlikely that millions-



of-year-old rocks would have escaped water erosion. 3. It is assumed that the half-life of uranium-238 has never changed over the lifetime of the rock. Half-life gives us the rate at which uranium turns into lead, but we now know that this value can change a great deal. So all three assumptions under-girding uranium-lead dating are suspect. Better to trust the Bible’s account of where rock came from. Ref: Snelling, A., *Radiometric Dating.*”



CHURCH OF ENGLAND APOLOGIZES FOR SAYING ONLY MARRIED STRAIGHT PEOPLE SHOULD HAVE SEX

(Friday Church News Notes, February 14, 2020, www.wayoflife.org
fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The following is excerpted from “Church of England apologizes,” *Christian Post*, Feb. 2, 2020: “Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby and Archbishop of York John Sentamu have apologized for a decree issued by the Church of England which said that only heterosexual married couples should have sex and that sex in gay or straight civil partnerships ‘falls short of God’s purpose for human beings.’ ‘We as Archbishops, alongside the bishops of the Church of England, apologize and take responsibility for releasing a statement last week which we acknowledge has jeopardised trust,’ the archbishops said in a statement, according to *Belfast Telegraph*. ‘We

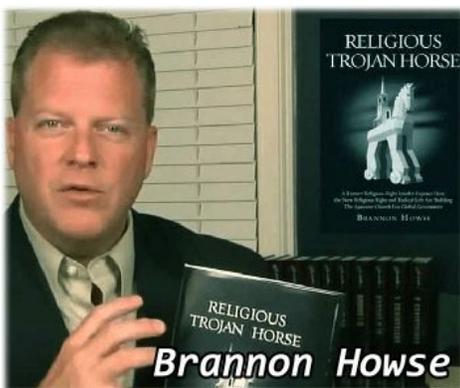
are very sorry and recognize the division and hurt this has caused.’ The House of Bishops of the Church of England last week issued a pastoral guidance, which said, ‘For Christians, marriage—that is, the lifelong union between a man and a woman, contracted with the making of vows—remains the proper context for sexual activity.’ ... After the guidance, some important Anglican figures wrote an open letter to the archbishops, warning that the denomination had become ‘a laughingstock to a nation that believes it is obsessed with sex,’ according to *The Telegraph*. The pastoral statement, they added, ‘makes clear there has been no desire to listen or learn from those of us who spoke to explain how offensive we found the tone of the House of Bishops’ previous document. Indeed, the statement is anything but “pastoral”—it is cold, defensive, and uncaring of its impact on the millions of people it affects.’”

YOUTUBE CENSORS VIDEO ABOUT EVANGELICALS HELPING MARXISTS AS “HATE SPEECH” (Friday Church News Notes, February 14, 2020, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from “YouTube Says Video,” *Pulpit and*

Pen, Jan. 28, 2020: “Technocracies are increasingly controlling the conversation, censoring particularly impactful videos, posts, and articles that expose leftist schemes to takeover American institutions. This trend is seen most recently in YouTube taking down a video from Christian ministry organization, *Worldview Weekend*, which focused on the link between Marxists and Muslims and their desire to take control of the United States. Entitled, *Some Evangelicals Are Helping the Marxists and Muslims Sabotage America*, the video was produced and posted by Brannon Howse of *Worldview Weekend* (WWW). WWW now reports that the tech giant removed the video because of ‘hate.’ ‘On January 25th, 2020 we received an email from YouTube that stated: ‘Our team has reviewed your content, and, unfortunately, we think it violates our hate speech policy. We have removed the following content from YouTube: Video: *Some Evangelicals Are Helping the Marxists and Muslims Sabotage America*.’ WWW continues, ‘Telling the truth with TONS of documented facts and video clips is now hate speech? These were older videos and so apparently YouTube is stepping up its crackdown on conservatives as the fall of 2020 elections approach. Yet, YouTube is FILLED with hateful rants by Islamists and Marxists about Christians, conservatives and Jews. Some of these videos feature individuals like Linda Sarsour, Yasir Qadhi, Dalia Mogahed, Ilhan Omar, Rashida Tlaib, and Siraj Wahhaj who was on a list of co-conspirators in the trial of the 1993 bombing of the World Trade Center. This is the second video in one week that YouTube has removed.’”



TESTIMONY OF ONE WHO FORMERLY HELD THE “PRE-WRATH” DOCTRINE (Friday Church News Notes, February 14, 2020, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - “You are right to take a strong stand on the pre-tribulation rapture position. This is our blessed hope and the encouragement that Jesus gave to His Church, as we fight the good fight. Sadly, I left that position for over twenty years, favoring the pre-wrath rapture and then, for a while, the seventh trumpet rapture position. Over time, I lost my joy in Christ. I often repented of my fear of the judgments to come, my fear that I wouldn’t be found worthy to escape, my fear that we hadn’t prepped enough, my fear that I would lose my salvation, etc. It wasn’t that I was afraid to die for my faith, but that those days are described as something far worse than any kind of tribulation ever experienced on earth. I wondered why God would allow His latter day Church to endure such horrible tribulation that could end with one of the weaker believers taking the mark of the beast?! I just prayed for strength, grace and courage to face the worst in that day. At the same time, there was also a pridefulness that had set in with me, as I had also noticed in others who held my anti-pre-tribulation view. And a disdain for those poor souls who held to such an easy escapist way out of tribulation. It was like we



knew the truth and had some kind of deeper understanding of God's Word. Thankfully, God led me to a pre-tribulation website back in 2016. I fought it off for a bit, and then decided to listen to the Holy Spirit. I can't tell you how happy I am that I did. My joy was restored and I now believe it is absolutely the correct and biblical position and a very important doctrine. Thank you for all that you do. God bless."

CHILDREN ADDICTED TO PORNOGRAPHY VIA SMART PHONES (Friday Church News Notes, February 14, 2020, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The following is excerpted from "What's the Right Age for a Child to Get a Smartphone," *New York Times*, July 20, 2016: "Not long ago, many parents wondered at what age they should give their child full access to the car keys. Nowadays, parents face a trickier question: At what age should a child own a smartphone? The topic is being increasingly debated as children get smartphones at an ever younger age. On average, children are getting their first smartphones around age 10, according to the research firm Influence Central, down from age 12 in 2012. For some children, smartphone ownership starts even sooner--including second graders as young as 7, according to internet safety experts. ... 'The longer you



keep Pandora's box shut, the better off you are,' said Jesse Weinberger, an internet safety speaker based in Ohio who gives presentations to parents, schools and law enforcement officials. 'There's no connection to the dark side without the device.' ... Ms. Weinberger, who wrote the smartphone and internet safety book *The Boogeyman Exists: And He's in Your Child's Back Pocket*, said she had surveyed 70,000 children in the last 18 months and found that, on average, sexting began in the fifth grade, pornography consumption began when children turned 8, and pornography addiction began around age 11."

MEDICAL JOURNAL SAYS STATES SHOULD OVERRIDE PARENTS WHO REFUSE TO "TRANSITION" CHILDREN TO ANOTHER GENDER (Friday Church News Notes, February 14, 2020, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The following is excerpted from "Medical Journal," *ReformationCharlotte.org*, Feb. 7, 2020: "A highly respected medical journal is urging the state to override the parents' decision when a child wants to 'transition' to another gender but the parents refuse to do so. *The Journal of Medical Ethics* published an article on December 31 titled 'Medically assisted gender affirmation: when children and parents disagree,' which classifies the refusal to transition a child as 'neglect' and that 'Neglect, as a medico-legal term, can be used to initiate an evaluation by Child Protective Services and remove a parent as a child's legal guardian in the most severe instances.' The article was authored by Dr. Samuel Dubin, a plastic surgeon from the



University of Michigan, along with several colleagues, and published at *British Medical Journal* website. Theologian Robert Gagnon, a Presbyterian pastor and professor of New Testament Theology at Houston Baptist University and former associate professor of the New Testament at the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, comments on the article, stating, 'You can believe that this is coming with the passage of the Dems' Equality Act, which will happen if a Dem becomes President.' We can already see this taking place in several judicial cases around the country. In 2018, a Hamilton County, Ohio, judge ruled that the parents of a 17-year-old could no longer retain custody of their child, instead, giving custody to the grandparents to make medical decisions on behalf of the teen who desired to 'transition' to the opposite sex. Several other cases are currently under litigation. One high-profile case, however, has not worked in favor of the radical sex-change activists as a 7-year-old boy's mother fought in court against her ex-husband, the child's father, who refused to transition his son into a girl at the behest of the boy's mother. The state of Texas ruled against sole custody for the mother and that medical decisions to 'transition' the child could not be made without the father's approval. It turned out that the boy did not have the desire to 'transition' after all—not that it should matter."

BRAIN DISAPPOINTS EVOLUTIONARY THOUGHT

(Friday Church News Notes, February 14, 2020, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The following is from creationmoments.com, November 14, 2019: "According to evolutionary thought, humans came from ape-like creatures. These ape-like creatures came from reptiles through many steps. Likewise reptiles ultimately came from fish, through many steps. Evolutionists say that with each major stage, more parts were added to the brain. The final development, and the greatest of all, is the cerebral cortex. According to this theory, one of the oldest parts of the brain is the part deep inside. Evolutionists claim that this part of the brain, called the basal ganglia, comes from our reptilian past. They have described this part of the brain as "primitive." It controls such simple things as movement and spatial memory. These are basic functions needed by reptiles. Of course, the evolutionary view that the basal ganglia is primitive was never scientifically researched. Then researchers started to examine the workings of the basal ganglia. They have concluded that the deep structures of the brain that are supposed to be primitive are actually quite sophisticated. In fact, these so-called reptilian structures rival the cerebral cortex in sophistication. These structures receive input from all parts of the cortex. And all the neurochemicals found anywhere else in the body are also found in these structures. In other words, there is absolutely no evidence of their being primitive. Once again scientific research has not found what evolutionists expected. The human brain has not developed by adding

parts to reptile brains. It was specially created just for human beings. REF.: Miller, Julie Ann. 1985. 'Deep core of brain gains respect,' *Science News*, v. 128, Nov. 9. p. 297."

**NEW AGE MYSTIC SPEAKS AT BAYLOR UNIVERSITY CHAPEL, PRAYS TO "MOTHER MYSTERY"**

(Friday Church News Notes, February 21, 2020, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

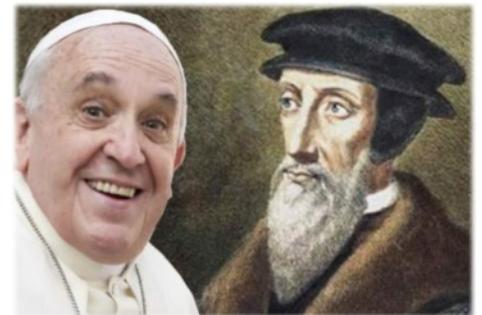
- Kaitlin Curtice spoke at Baylor University chapel on February 12 and prayed to "Mother Mystic." Baylor, the world's largest Baptist university, is affiliated with the Texas Baptist Convention at the state level and the Southern Baptist Convention at the national level. Curtice is a practitioner of New Age contemplative mysticism. She defines "contemplation" as "listening to the Divine/Mystery/Higher Power/God, and letting the overflow of that love stretch into other realms of life" (Curtice, "A Shared Vision of Contemplative Activism," *Sojourners*, Sep. 4, 2019). She is an environmental activist and nature worshipper. In her speech at Baylor she said that she dipped a tobacco leaf into the water of Lake Michigan and "Mother Earth spoke to her" ("BU speaker's prayer sparks campus controversy," KWTX television, Feb. 13, 2020). Baylor University has been welcoming heretics since the early 20th century. In 1921, Baylor professor Grover Dow was teaching

the evolution of man from apes with the textbook *Introduction to Sociology*. "As to his body we have very little exact knowledge, for the skeletons left by him are fragmentary, seldom amounting to more than one or two bones. But from these, by the use of our imagination, we have come to the conclusion that he was a squat, ugly, somewhat stooped, powerful being, half human and half animal who sought refuge from the wild beasts first in the trees and later in caves, and that he was half way between the anthropoid ape and modern man."

PROTESTANTS AND CATHOLICS TO CELEBRATE MASS TOGETHER IN CALVIN'S CATHEDRAL

(Friday Church News Notes, February 21, 2020, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The following is excerpted from "Protestants and Catholics," *Reformation Charlotte*, Feb. 17, 2020: "Ecumenism is ripe and real and many apostate Protestant denominations and churches are headed right back to the harlot they were born from — Rome. On February 29 in Calvin's Cathedral in Geneva, Switzerland, Protestants and Catholics for the first time will celebrate mass together after the mass has been banned from the Cathedral for centuries. The following was translated from protestinfo.ch. In August 1535, the



mass was abolished in Geneva after iconoclasts devastated Saint-Pierre cathedral by breaking statues and slashing images that were not in accordance with the newly reformed ‘cult.’ Since then, no mass has taken place in the building, used for Protestant worship. [This] long dearth will end on Saturday, February 29, 2020, with a mass celebrated, at 6.30 p.m., by Pascal Desthieux, episcopal vicar for the canton of Geneva. ... ‘There was no opposition, which is significant. The idea appealed because it corresponds to our desire to make the cathedral a meeting place for all Geneva Christians. A space that transcends confessional boundaries,’ says Daniel Pilly, president of the Parish Council. ... ‘It is a signal that the climate in Geneva is extremely favorable and fertile with the Roman Catholic Church. We have made notable progress in terms of ecumenism, in particular with the Joint Declaration, signed in 2017, which recognizes our respective ministries,’ specifies Emmanuel Fuchs, president of the Protestant Church in Geneva.”

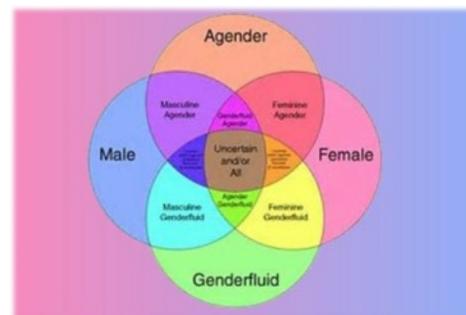
PASTOR WHO HOSTS FILTHY SECULAR ROCK PRODUCTIONS TO SPEAK AT SOUTHERN BAPTIST PASTORS’ CONFERENCE 2020 (Friday Church News Notes, February 21, 2020, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)



- David Hughes, pastor of Church by the Glades in Coral Springs, Florida, is scheduled to speak at the Southern Baptist Pastors’ Conference 2020. Church of the Glades is a Southern Baptist congregation that used to be First Baptist Church of Lake Worth. They have performed a variety of filthy secular rock productions, including the “Stormtrooper Dance,” “Calling All the Monsters” by A.N.T. Farm, “Freedom” by Beyonce, scenes from the sexually-explicit television show *Games of Thrones*, and the wicked song “Bad Guy” by Billie Eilish, the lyrics of which are too vile to quote. All of this filth was performed live during Sunday services in a Southern Baptist church by the church members. David Hughes is not qualified by God’s standards to be a pastor. “For a bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God ... sober, just, holy, temperate” (Titus 1:7-8).

WALL STREET JOURNAL: NO SEX “SPECTRUM” BEYOND MALE AND FEMALE (Friday Church News Notes, February 21, 2020, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The following is excerpted from “WSJ: No Sex ‘Spectrum,’” Breitbart, Feb. 14, 2020: “The *Wall Street Journal* has issued a throwdown to the gender lobby, insisting in an op-ed Thursday that sex is binary and there is no ‘spectrum.’ ‘In humans, reproductive anatomy is unambiguously male or female at birth more than 99.98% of the time,’ note biologists Colin M. Wright and Emma N. Hilton. ... ‘No third type of sex cell exists in humans, and therefore there is no sex *spectrum* or additional sexes beyond male and female. Sex is binary,’ they assert. As the American College of



Pediatricians concurred in 2016, the exceedingly rare disorders of sex development ‘are all medically identifiable deviations from the sexual binary norm, and are rightly recognized as disorders of human design. Individuals with DSDs do not constitute a third sex.’ The WSJ writers are responding to what they call a ‘dangerous and anti-scientific trend toward the outright denial of biological sex,’ which sees male and female as ‘arbitrary groupings.’ While sexual ambiguity does occasionally occur, the authors note, ‘intersex individuals are extremely rare, and they are neither a third sex nor proof that sex is a *spectrum* or a *social construct*.’ The WSJ essay echoes concerns increasingly being voiced that modern society has rushed into a dangerous social experiment based on less than flimsy scientific foundations. ‘The concept of changing one’s biological sex is, of course, nonsense, as sex is determined by unalterable chromosomes,’ wrote researcher Jane Robbins for *Public Discourse* last October. ‘An individual can change his hormone levels and undergo surgery to better imitate the opposite sex, but a male on the day of his conception will remain a male on the day of his death.’ ... The American College of Pediatricians has pulled no punches in condemning this behavior, calling hormone treatment and surgical operations on children with gender dysphoria ‘child abuse.’ ‘The

time for politeness on this issue has passed,' the authors conclude. 'Biologists and medical professionals need to stand up for the empirical reality of biological sex.'"

SILICON VALLEY BUILDING A CHINESE-STYLE SOCIAL CREDIT SYSTEM
(Friday Church News Notes, February 21, 2020,

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

- The following is excerpted from "Silicon Valley Is Building," FastCompany.com, Aug. 29, 2019: "Have you heard about China's social credit system? It's a technology-enabled, surveillance-based nationwide program designed to nudge citizens toward better behavior. The ultimate goal is to 'allow the trustworthy to roam everywhere under heaven while making it hard for the discredited to take a single step,' according to the Chinese government. ... It aims to punish for transgressions that can include membership in or support for the Falun Gong or Tibetan Buddhism, failure to pay debts, excessive video gaming, criticizing the government, late payments, failing to sweep the sidewalk in front of your store or



house, smoking or playing loud music on trains, jaywalking, and other actions deemed illegal or unacceptable by the Chinese government. ... Punishments can be harsh, including bans on leaving the country, using public transportation, checking into hotels, hiring for high-visibility jobs, or acceptance of children to private schools. It can also result in slower internet connections and social stigmatization in the form of registration on a public blacklist. ... A parallel system is developing in the United States, in part as the result of Silicon Valley and technology-industry user policies, and in part by surveillance of social media activity by private companies. ... Airbnb—a major provider of travel accommodation and tourist activities—bragged in March that it now has more than 6 million listings

in its system. That's why a ban from Airbnb can limit travel options. Airbnb can disable your account for life for any reason it chooses, and it reserves the right to not tell you the reason. The company's canned message includes the assertion that 'This decision is irreversible and will affect any duplicated or future accounts. Please understand that we are not

obligated to provide an explanation for the action taken against your account.' The ban can be based on something the host privately tells Airbnb about something they believe you did while staying at their property. Airbnb's competitors have similar policies. It's now easy to get banned by Uber, too. Whenever you get out of the car ... the driver now also gets an invitation to rate you. Under a new policy announced in May: If your average rating is 'significantly below average,' Uber will ban you from the service. ... you can be banned on WhatsApp if too many other users block you. You can also get banned for sending spam, threatening messages ... Not being allowed to use WhatsApp in some countries is as punishing as not being allowed to use the telephone system in America."

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



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