

O Timothy

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

A Monthly Newsletter for Spiritual Protection and Edification

Volume 37 - Issue 6 - June 2020



"(Lancaster Baptist Church) STARTED messing around with CCM openly in about 2010, if not earlier. Lancaster Baptist Church itself has not yet lost all other standards, but many of its graduates and former staff members are far down the road toward that objective." Page 9.

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



WHAT IN THE WORLD IS HAPPENING? ~ By David Cloud

We thank God for His revelation in Scripture. What compassion He has for sinners to give them His Word! What a light in a dark world! Apart from God's Word, we cannot know what is really happening. We cannot rightly understand even those things that we see and hear. We have no power to see the spiritual and eternal things. They are hidden behind a veil that cannot be pierced by our physical senses and natural thinking. The scientists' electron microscopes and space telescopes cannot see them. The greatest thinkers cannot pierce that veil.

God's Word tells us what is happening in spiritual realms behind the veil, and it gives us the wisdom to understand what men themselves are doing.

The devil is using the crisis to work out the mystery of iniquity, which is the plan to put his man on the throne of this world and to have all men worship him by that man (2 Thessalonians 2:1-12). We see this plan moving



forward by the increase in the power of government over men's lives, by the advance of global government, by the breakdown of the old religions and the spread of religious

skepticism, agnosticism, and atheism, by global banking and a cashless society, by creating the desire for a great leader, and many such things. We must understand, though, that the devil's doings are under the hand of God and can only proceed as God allows. God holds the reins of the times, and though the stage is being set for the devil's man, he cannot come until the Restraint be taken out of the way.

"And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time. For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth *will let*, until he be taken out of the way. 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: *Even him*, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders" (2 Thessalonians 2:7-8).

God is using the crisis to work out His eternal plan, which is that "in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are in earth; even in him" (Ephesians 1:10).

Every "time" or age in man's history is a time that God made and in which God is working out this glorious plan. Among the countless things that God is doing, **He is**

using the coronavirus crisis to judge men of this world for their stubborn rebellion to their Creator and their presumption that they can live independently of the One in whom "we live, and move, and have our being."

God is using the crisis as a wake up call to His people and His churches, to chasten them for worldliness, to wean them from trusting in things other than God, to turn their focus to eternal things, from partying and selfie-ing and social media-ing and the wasting of countless precious hours on vanity to surrender and obedience and holiness and separation.

God is using the coronavirus crisis to remind men of their mortality and to bring sinners to repentance and saving faith in Jesus Christ. "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9).

In our church, we have seen ten souls come to Christ in born again conversion during the lockdown. God is using the crisis to finish His business in this present age, which is to call out a people for His name among all nations.

God is bringing things ever nearer to the next big event in His eternal program, which is the Rapture of the church saints, followed by the day of the Lord. Only He knows when this will happen. For God's people, it is always "at hand." The coronavirus pandemic and the strange global shutdown response is a big wake up call from God!

The communists are using the crisis to increase their totalitarian, God-usurping power over men's bodies and minds.

The socialists are using the crisis to increase the power of government and their own power and to make people ever more dependent on government.

The indolent are using the crisis to get more handouts.

The lawless are using the crisis to increase their lawlessness.

The preppers are using the crisis to strengthen their prepper caves and store up more arms and to work

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themselves into a greater frenzy of fear-mongering.

The conspiratorialists are using the crisis to prove their pet conspiracies and to be consumed with them.

The global warming fanatics are using the crisis to push their myopic, mythical agenda.

The gullible think the crisis is simply about caring, selfless leaders who are saving people from coronavirus.

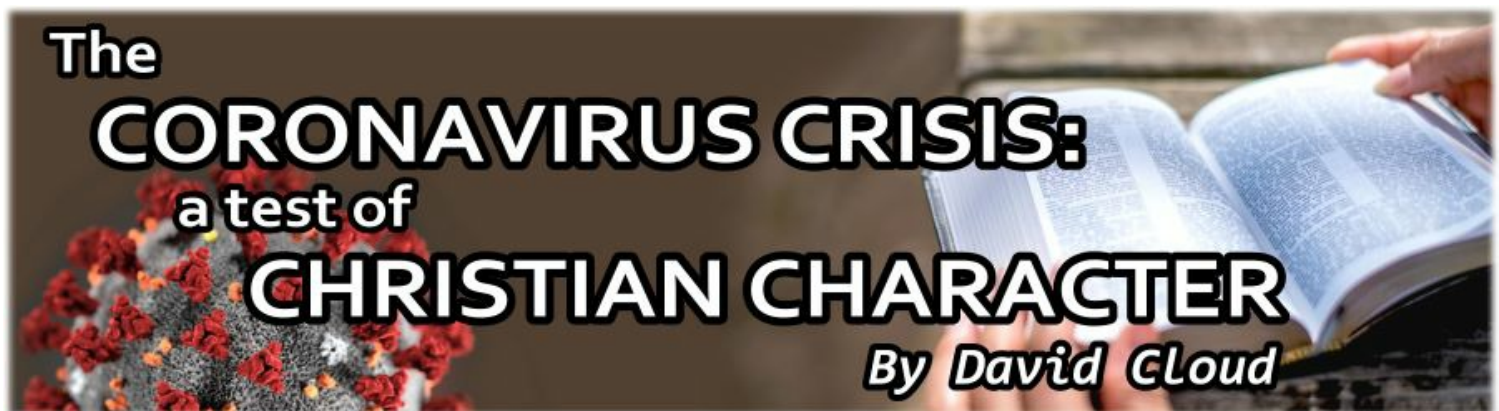
The hopeless are using the crisis as an excuse to commit suicide.

The covetous are using the crisis to get more wealth.

The redeemed of the Lord are using the crisis to stay focused on God's will and the business He has given them, and to listen more intently for "the shout"!

The following solemn command of the eternal Son of God is in force until "the end of the world," and that, my friends, has not yet come.

"And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen" (Matthew 28:18-20).



The coronavirus pandemic is the greatest world crisis since World War II. As it turns out, the world probably shouldn't have been closed down, but that is largely in hindsight.

The way that the events occurred was like the falling of dominoes. There was no stopping it, and it's all water under the bridge. Great damage has been done to the world economy, and the repercussions cannot yet be determined by anyone.

The draconian power of government over the details of people's lives has moved to a new and frightful level even in the "free nations." There is talk of civil wars, rioting, famine, the breakdown of society.

It looks like a trial run for the antichrist, and surely the devil would put his man on the throne of this world *today* if there were not one who withholds him. "For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now

letteth *will* let, until he be taken out of the way" (2 Th. 2:7).

There is a pandemic of highly infectious fear, doubt, uncertainty, confusion, frustration, anger.

For "old-fashioned" Americans, there is the added frustration of seeing a beloved country ruined, constitutional liberties thrown to the ground and trampled in the mire, socialists on the rampage, demagoguery on every hand, good sense thrown to the wind, propagandists in the seat of the news media, haters of the founding Fathers in high places.

So where is my heart in all of this? What has this great crisis shown? As it has tested my mettle, what has been revealed?

Do I really, truly believe that it is God who changes the times and that my times are in His hand? "And he

changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings” (Da. 2:21). “But I trusted in thee, O LORD: I said, Thou *art* my God. My times *are* in thy hand...” (Ps. 31:14-15). Am I acting like this is true, or am I acting like my times are in the hands of the government, the World Health Organization, Bill Gates, China, some prominent medical authority, the banking system, society, or perhaps the devil?

Is my heart focused in heavenly places or on this world? “If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, *who is* our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory” (Col. 3:1-4).

Do I really have the mindset of a pilgrim whose citizenship is in heaven and who is merely journeying through this world as in a strange land? Can I truly sing from the heart, “This world is not my home, I’m just passing through?” Or have I sunk deep roots in this world and do I love this world like Lot’s wife loved Sodom? What flag am I flying the highest? The flag of heaven, or the American or the British or the European Union or some other flag of this world?

Do I glory in tribulation as God tells me to do, understanding its purpose and benefit in God’s will? “And not only *so*, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; And patience, experience; and experience, hope: And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us” (Ro. 5:3-5). “Glory” in Romans 5:3 is the Greek *kauchaomai*, which is translated “rejoice” Romans 5:2. It has the idea of being confident in, boasting in, being sure of. It is the opposite of being discouraged by, frustrated with, overwhelmed by, cast down by, defeated by, angry at.

Am I trusting God’s Word and believing His promises in a real, practical way? Do I really believe that all things work together for good for those who love God (Ro. 8:28), that my times are in His hand (Ps. 31:15), that the Lord is my Shepherd and I shall not want (Ps. 23:1), that surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life (Ps. 23:6), that the righteous is not forsaken nor does his seed beg bread (Ps. 37:25), that God will never leave me nor forsake me (Heb. 13:5)? Is this my testimony? Is this what others see and hear of

me? Or am I doubting, fearing, complaining, confused, frustrated, acting just like the unsaved around me?

Am I truly seeking first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, or do other things have first place?

Can I truly say with Job, “Naked came I out of my mother’s womb, and naked shall I return thither: the LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD. ... What? shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil?” (Job 1:21; 2:10)?

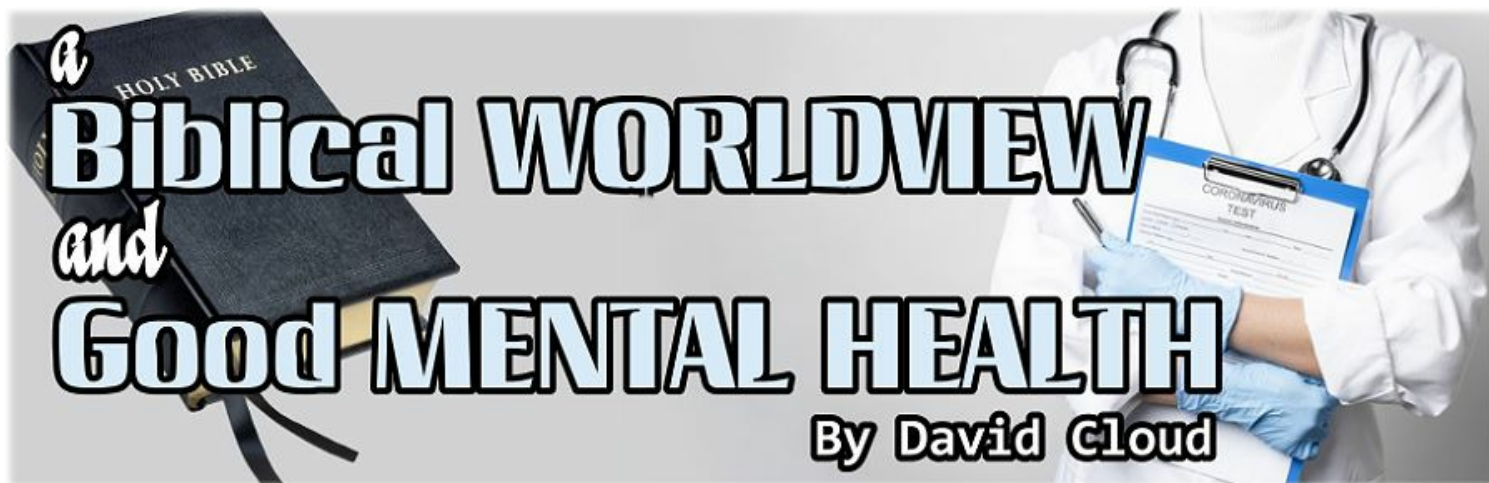
Can I truly say with Habakkuk, “Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither *shall* fruit *be* in the vines; the labour of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and *there shall be* no herd in the stalls: Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation” (Hab. 3:17-18)?

Does this crisis show that I truly do NOT love this world, that I am NOT conformed to this world, that I am NOT the friend of this world? Am I anxious about the closing down of vain things like professional sports? Am I worried about what might happen to my worldly plans?

“And be not conformed to this world” (Ro. 12:2). “Love not the world, neither the things *that are* in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that *is* in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world” (1 Jo. 2:15-17). “Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God” (Jas. 4:4).

What does the way I am spending my time during lockdown show about the character of my Christian life? Have I used the time to immerse myself in prayer and the Word of God and ministry. Have I found special Bible projects to do? Have I spent the time encouraging others in the Word of God and helping them think right about this crisis? Or have I been spiritually depressed, idle, playing, wasting time on social media for no good purpose?

“Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord” (Ro. 12:11).



The born again child of God, who is saved by faith in Jesus Christ, has the privilege of understanding and believing God's Word, and this gives good mental health in an age of unbelief, skepticism, confusion, uncertainty, turmoil, fear, lies, slander, and a bewildering multiplicity of conflicting philosophies.

Of course, the good mental health doesn't come automatically, even for the child of God, simply because the promises of God are available. They must be "owned." I must make them mine by studying them, understanding them properly, meditating upon them, and believing them in the face of adversity. And I must stay in "the place of blessing" by walking in the light, obeying God, and confessing my sin.

Following are a sampling of the benefits of a biblical worldview:

Victory over fear of judgment

"And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; *and* he that hath not the Son of God hath not life" (1 John 5:11-12). "What shall we then say to these things? If God *be* for us, who *can be* against us? He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things? Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? *It is* God that justifieth. Who *is* he that condemneth? *It is* Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us" (Romans 8:31-34).

Victory over fear of losing one's salvation

"My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they

shall never perish, neither shall any *man* pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave *them* me, is greater than all; and no *man* is able to pluck *them* out of my Father's hand" (John 10:27-29).

Victory over fear of the times

"Daniel answered and said, Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are his: And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding" (Daniel 2:20-21). "But I trusted in thee, O LORD: I said, Thou *art* my God. My times *are* in thy hand" (Psalm 31:14-15).

Victory over fear of enemies

"Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies" (Psalm 23:5).

Victory over fear of lack

"The LORD *is* my shepherd; I shall not want" (Psalm 23:1).

Victory over fear of trouble and tribulation

"And not only *so*, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; And patience, experience; and experience, hope: And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us. For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly" (Romans 5:3-6).

Victory over fear of persecution

"Blessed *are* they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are ye, when *men* shall revile you, and persecute *you*, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my

sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great *is* your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you” (Matthew 5:10-12).

Victory over fears in old age

“I have been young, and *now* am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread” (Psalm 37:25).

Victory over fear of death

“We are confident, *I say*, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord” (2 Corinthians 5:8).

Victory over fear in general

“For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind” (2 Timothy 1:7).

Victory over anxiety about today

“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to *his* purpose” (Romans 8:28). “Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you” (1 Peter 5:7). “Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God” (Philippians 4:6). “In the day when I cried thou answeredst me, *and* strengthenedst me *with* strength in my soul” (Psalm 138:3).

Victory over anxiety about tomorrow

“But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day *is* the evil thereof” (Matthew 6:33-34).

Victory over unanswered questions

“The secret *things* *belong* unto the LORD our God: but those *things* *which* *are* revealed *belong* unto us and to our children for ever, that *we* may do all the words of this law” (Deuteronomy 29:29).

Victory over covetousness

“But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into *this* world, *and it is* certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment let us be therewith content. But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and *into* many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For

the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows” (1 Timothy 6:6-10). “*Let your* conversation *be* without covetousness; *and be* content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, The Lord *is* my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me” (Hebrews 13:5-6).

Victory over Satanic defeat

“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world” (1 Peter 5:8-9).

Victory over fretting because of evildoers and their activities and conspiracies

“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).

Victory over loneliness

“for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee” (Hebrews 13:5).

Victory over guilt from an unprofitable, unfruitful life

“For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it” (Luke 9:24). “Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. I am the vine, ye *are* the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same

bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing” (John 15:4-5).

Victory over guilt of sin

“If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:8-9).

Victory over pride and jealousy

“Who then is Paul, and who *is* Apollos, but ministers by whom ye believed, even as the Lord gave to every man? I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase. So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase. Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one: and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour. For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, *ye are* God's building” (1 Corinthians 3:5-9). “Peter seeing him saith to Jesus, Lord, and what *shall* this man *do*? Jesus saith unto him, If I will that he tarry till I come, what *is that* to thee? follow thou me” (John 21:21-22). “For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of *himself* more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith” (Romans 12:3).

Victory over wrong imaginations

“(For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ” (2 Corinthians 10:4-5).

Victory over wrong thoughts

“Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things *are* honest, whatsoever things *are* just, whatsoever things *are* pure, whatsoever things *are* lovely, whatsoever things *are* of good report; if *there be* any virtue, and if *there be* any praise, think on these things” (Philippians 4:8).

Victory over worrying about what people are saying about me

“Also take no heed unto all words that are spoken; lest thou hear thy servant curse thee: For oftentimes also thine own heart knoweth that thou thyself likewise hast cursed others” (Ecclesiastes 7:21-22).

Victory over taking offense

“Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them” (Psalm 119:165).

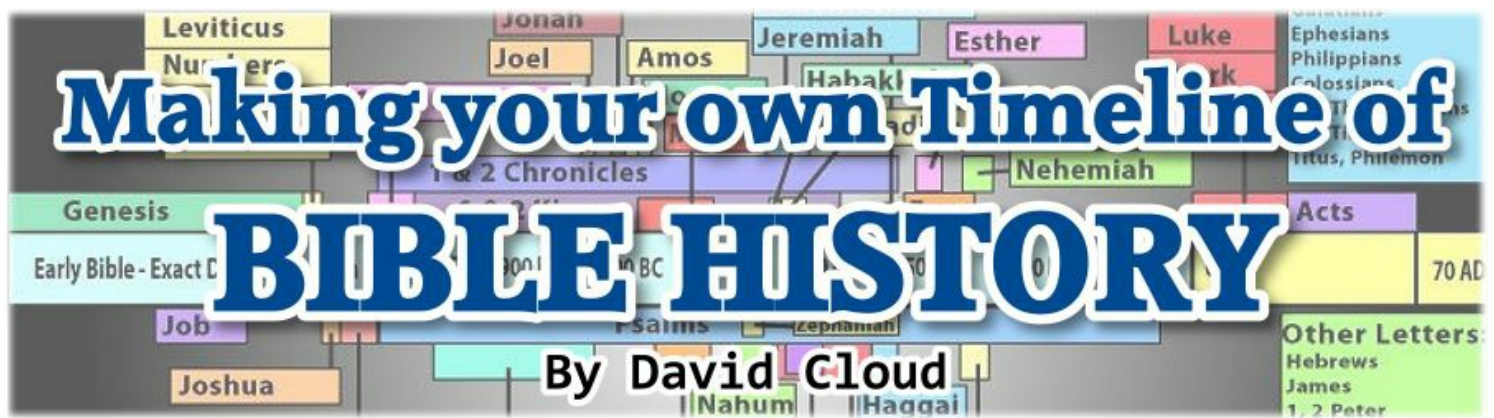
The Bible's Description of a Bad State of Mind vs. a Good State of Mind

“Who *is* a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom. But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth. This wisdom descendeth not from above, but *is* earthly, sensual, devilish. For where envying and strife *is*, there *is* confusion and every evil work. But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, *and* easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy. And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace” (James 3:13-18).

LOOKING FOR CHRIST'S RETURN - THE MARK OF A TRUE CHRISTIAN

(Friday Church News Notes, May 22, 2020, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - “I believe it is a mark, that every true believer should be continually at,--to live so as to be ready to meet Christ. ... It is vain to tell me that a man may be a very good man, and yet not be ready for the kingdom of Christ. I deny it altogether. I say that every justified and converted man is ready, and that if you are not ready you are not a justified man. I say that the standard I put before you is nothing more than the New Testament standard, and the Apostles would have doubted your religion, if you were

not looking and longing for the coming of the Lord. ... Yet a little while and the last sermon shall be preached,--the last congregation shall break up. Yet a little while and carelessness and infidelity shall cease and pass away. The believers among us shall meet with Christ, and the unbelievers shall be in hell. The night is far spent, and the day is at hand” (J.C. Ryle, *Coming Events and Present Duties*, 1879). “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 9:28).



The following is excerpted from the latest edition of [Understanding the Bible for Yourself](http://www.wayoflife.org), www.wayoflife.org.

... ..

After getting introduced to Bible geography as described in the first project, we recommend making your own timeline of Bible history. You can get timelines that men have made and study them, and that is very educational and there is a place for that, but nothing is more beneficial than your own Bible study. You don't really learn at a fundamental level until you dig into the Word for yourself.

Making your own timeline consists of reading the books of the Bible that contain its history and writing down the major events.

Note that for this project, you are reading books of the Bible for one main purpose, and that is to find the major events and enumerate them into your own Bible timeline.

You need to read the books as quickly as you can with good understanding, without getting bogged down into examining the details or trying to figure out difficulties. For this project, keep your focus on the one main goal of understanding the main events of Bible history.

There are 13 books of the Bible that contain the overall history.

For the Old Testament, the history is contained in 11 books (Genesis, Exodus, Numbers, Joshua, Judges, 1-2 Samuel, 1-2 Kings, Ezra, Nehemiah). (What about the other books? Leviticus isn't a history book, and Deuteronomy goes back over the history that is found in Exodus and Numbers. 1 and 2 Chronicles covers the same basic history as 1 and 2 Kings, so Chronicles isn't

necessary for this particular project. The book of Job occurred during the time of Genesis. Psalms, Proverbs, and Ecclesiastes were written during the time of David and Solomon, which is the history found in 2 Samuel - 1 Kings. And the Prophets were written during the time of 2 Kings, Ezra, and Nehemiah.)

For the New Testament, the history is found in the Gospel of Matthew and the book of Acts. (The Epistles were written during the time of Acts; and Revelation isn't a history book, it is prophecy of the future.)

In each study session, first read your chapters for the day (however many you choose, depending on how fast you read and how much time you devote to the project per day). As you are reading, pay close attention to the main events. Then go back and write them out. Thus you must divide your reading/study period into (1) reading and (2) working on your timeline. This will help develop a habit whereby you not only read the Bible, but you also study it.

When you have completed reading the 13 books and have made a timeline, then go back through the timeline and pick out the main events and list them separately. That will help you to further refine your understanding of Bible history. The main events are ones like creation, man's fall, Abraham's call, Israel in Egypt, and Israel's exodus from Egypt.

This project will help strengthen the foundation of your Bible knowledge by putting the whole Bible timeline in your mind. It is like standing back and looking at a forest before you walk in to examine individual trees and other details.

Further Bible reading and study will build on this foundation.



“Lancaster’s Role in the Downgrade” is the title of a new video presentation which is part of the series [The Satanic Attack on Sacred Music](#).

In 2001, Dr. Frank Garlock issued a clear warning: “If a church starts using CCM it will eventually lose all other standards. You need to draw a line concerning your music” (BJU Chapel, Mar. 12, 2001).

Note that Dr. Garlock said that if a church STARTS using CCM--if it starts messing around with CCM, starts using it some--it will eventually lose all other standards. It will eventually depart from its founding biblical principles.

Throughout the world, there are churches that are laboratories to demonstrate the truth of that warning. It cannot be refuted.

One of those laboratories is Lancaster Baptist Church, Lancaster, California, home of West Coast Baptist College.

“Lancaster’s Role in the Downgrade” documents the changes that have been produced at Lancaster through the adaptation of contemporary worship music. The church STARTED messing around with CCM openly in about 2010, if not earlier. Lancaster Baptist Church itself has not yet lost all other standards, but many of its graduates and former staff members are far down the road toward that objective. They are establishing out-and-out contemporary, Christian rock churches in California and beyond. In “Lancaster’s Role” we examine Coastline Baptist Church, Oceanside, California; Rock Hill Church, Fontana, California (founded by Paul Chappell’s son); Grace Gathering, Santa Barbara, California; Ambassador Baptist Church, Fresno, California;

and Citypoint Baptist Church, Tempe, Arizona. We document their philosophy, their music, their dress, their preaching.

Some men who have viewed this presentation told us that they didn’t believe that this was really happening at Lancaster until they saw the fruit with their own eyes in this video.

The Satanic Attack on Sacred Music consists of about 17 hours of teaching. It is packed with photos, graphics, audio and video clips. The video series and the book (255 pages) are available for FREE VIEWING AND DOWNLOADING at:

https://www.wayoflife.org/s3/satanic_attack_on_sacred_music.php

One previewer commented, “The series is broad and deep with serious factual analysis according to properly interpreted Scripture.”



The presentations are as follows:

- Emotions and the Music Issue
- The Spiritual Environment of the Music Issue: The Church and the Home
- Bible Principles of Music (scheduled for later in 2020)
- Music’s Role in the Great Changes among Fundamental Baptists
- Contemporary Music as a Bridge to Dangerous Waters
- Bob Jones, Majesty Music, New Reformed Calvinism, and the Gettys

- The Language of Music Styles
- Lancaster's Role in the Downgrade of Fundamental Baptist Churches
- Congregational Singing and the CCM Issue
- A Plea to Southern Gospel Music Fans (scheduled for later in 2020)
- The Music Issue in a Nutshell

In [*The Satanic Attack on Sacred Music*](#), we study the Bible's most important teachings on the issue of music. We look at the amazing changes that are happening among fundamental Baptists and the role of contemporary music in these changes. We learn about the dangers represented by Contemporary Christian Music: the Pentecostal/charismatic movement, the ecumenical movement, theological liberalism, New Evangelicalism, the Emerging Church, modern Bible versions, contemplative prayer, cultural liberalism, the encyclopedic view of the Bible, the New Reformed Calvinism, the Jesus People movement, theistic evolution, homosexual Christianity, the downgrade in hell, secular rock, Getty-Townend Music, Matt Maher the Roman Catholic apostle of unity, Hillsong, Rick Warren, Robert Webber, William Young and the Shack, C.S. Lewis, Chuck Swindoll's heretical doctrine of grace. We show why that knowing about these movements and people is very important to your life, home, and church.

We show that these things are not "out there" somewhere; they are a very near danger. We document the change in music standard at Bob Jones University and Majesty Music.

We consider the soft style of Christian music vs. the more militant style. We learn how to discern the elements of the world sound of contemporary music. We learn how to discern soft rock. We learn how that chords are used in contemporary music to create an unresolving sound and "feel."

We examine why contemporary music always transforms churches. We consider why using CCM is different than using traditional Protestant hymns.

We show that conservative evangelicals are not safe partners.

We show that the Southern Baptist Convention is more corrupt than ever.

We examine the great changes in Southern Gospel today.

We consider why we should be concerned about "little" changes in music.

We show that trying to deal with the music issue alone won't work well; it won't save the church from apostasy. Unless we have spiritual churches and spiritual homes, the battle is already lost.

And we look at the role of good congregational singing in protecting a church from CCM.

The course also includes a PDF book that contains the entire text. This is a major new book on the issue of contemporary Christian music.

[*The Satanic Attack on Sacred Music*](#): the video series and the book (255 pages) are available for FREE VIEWING and downloading at:

https://www.wayoflife.org/s3/satanic_attack_on_sacred_music.php



In [*The Satanic Attack on Sacred Music*](#), we study the Bible's most important teachings on the issue of music. We look at the amazing changes that are happening among fundamental Baptists and the role of contemporary music in these changes.

Video's may be downloaded via the Vimeo Showcase

To download: Go to Showcase, Click on the TITLE of the video, click the Download Arrow

A Tribute to Pastor Wilbert Unger

By David Cloud ~ May 2020



I want to publicly thank Pastor Wilbert Unger for the very large blessing he has been in my life, personally, and in the lives of a great many others.

I met Pastor Unger in 1991 when Bethel Baptist Church was nine years old and meeting in a storefront. We had returned from Nepal in 1989 because of a change in the visa laws and had settled into our home church in Oak Harbor, Washington. We lost most of our support, of course, and I didn't have the money to continue to publish the monthly *O Timothy* magazine, which we had founded seven years earlier. I decided to drive across the country and visit some churches and see if the Lord might open a door. The trip was a miracle from beginning to end. I had no credit cards in those days and only had the money to get to the first preaching engagement, which was a Wednesday evening service in Salt Lake City. They gave me a \$50 love offering, which wasn't enough to get to my next engagement in Ontario. I called a preacher friend in Colorado and he invited me to preach that Thursday night, and they gave me a nice offering which got me to the east coast. Somehow I got in touch with Pastor Unger and dropped in to preach at a mid-week service. I didn't tell anyone my situation in regard to *O Timothy*. We were looking strictly to the Lord. But Pastor Unger asked me to stop back by that week and talk with him about something that was on his heart. He told me that he had a burden to start a ministry to print sound Bible materials and to send them as far and wide as the Lord would enable. He was planning to approach the church about taking part of the building fund to purchase equipment and set up a shop. He asked me if he could take on the project of printing *O Timothy* magazine. Of course, I said yes, not knowing what would happen. As it turned out, the church did agree with Pastor Unger's plan, and Bethel Baptist Printing was established, and *O Timothy* was saved. They have printed, I guess, hundreds of thousands of copies for free distribution in many parts of the world.

That began a 30 year friendship and ministry association. In 1993, I completed the first edition of the *Way of Life Encyclopedia of the Bible & Christianity*. I was working part time mowing lawns, selling fire wood, and such things, and I didn't have the money to put that book into print. Pastor Unger borrowed the money, had the encyclopedia printed in a nice hardcover binding, and as the first edition sold, he was paid back. Eventually, Bethel was printing all of the Way of Life Literature books.

Whatever fruit *O Timothy* magazine and Way of Life Literature has had since then, and I have reason to believe that it is rich, has been fruit that Pastor Unger and Bethel Baptist Church have shared in as we have ministered together in the Lord.

In 2001, when the Lord called us back to South Asia as missionaries, Pastor Unger invited us to base our missionary work and Way of Life Literature at Bethel Baptist Church. Since then, they have not only printed all of the books but also handled all of the shipping, accounting, and other business associated with our ministry, and they have done it with the highest standard of ethics and diligence. And they supported the gospel preaching/church planting work in Nepal. And they have done even more than that; they have been steadfast friends in Christ.

There is no other man on earth who has been a greater friend to me than Pastor Wilbert Unger, and I thank the Lord for him.

No man is called great in Scripture, only Jesus Christ, but some men are called faithful, and that is what Pastor Unger has been. Steady, faithful, diligent, honest, dependable, persistent, steadfast in the face of difficulties. Falling seven times, perhaps, but getting right back up and keeping on in the right direction, following along after the good Lord (Pr. 24:16; Joh. 10:27).

God called Pastor Unger to preach in 1971 when he was a 31 year-old farmer, and at the end of 1976, at age 36 he stepped out by faith to go to Bible college at Tennessee Temple in Chattanooga, Tennessee. He says, "That was one of the hardest things we have ever had to do in our lives. I knew that when we sold the farm we would never be back. I also knew that my boys would never be able to continue the farming tradition that had been a part of our family history for many generations. That was a very hard time in my life. I felt like I had already been resisting the will of God for my life for a few years, it seemed I couldn't quit the farm. I also knew what God wanted me to do. The call of God to the ministry is not something that you can walk away from, ask Jonah."

At Tennessee Temple, Brother Unger felt the Lord's call to Mexico, so after graduation that is where the family went in 1980. He was 40 years old now and ministry in that foreign culture was a difficult experience in every way. The pressures were so great that his health crashed. He couldn't eat, couldn't sleep, was a "nervous wreck." He arrived back in Canada two and a half years later convinced that he was a complete failure, to his God, his family, and his supporting churches. But these kind of things are under God's control. When a man surrenders to God and seeks His will, God leads, and often He leads into difficult, puzzling circumstances. But the man of God's times is in God's hand (Psalm 31:15) and all things are working together for his good (Romans 8:28). We think of Moses in the backside of the desert for 40 years, Joseph laden with chains in an Egyptian prison, David fleeing from Saul for years on end. God is in control and uses every situation to mold and shape and prepare His people for the ministry that He has for them.

Back in Canada, Brother Unger's pastor encouraged him to go to London, Ontario, and start a church, and that's what he did in November 1982. The spiritual soil of late 20th-century London was very hard. Brother Unger was 42 years old. He had to clear the spiritual land of big rocks and tough, deeply-rooted shrubs. He had to plow that hard-packed ground himself, with the help of his godly wife and a few co-laborers. At the same time, he farmed a small plot of land for a supplemental income and started the Unger Farm Market, which today supports some of his children and grandchildren. He stayed by the stuff through thick and thin. He didn't quit and he didn't back down from doing what God told him to do. God blessed his patient labor and raised up a New Testament church, a great light in the midst of the darkness of this world.

As a result, many souls have been saved, many lives have been changed, saints have been educated, disciplined, protected, godly homes have been built, children have been raised for Christ, the gospel has been preached far and wide.

God wants fruit, and He has gotten fruit from the call He put on Pastor Unger's life. The "pound" that He gave this man has been well multiplied (Matthew 20:1-16). And this is true not only through the ministry of the church in London, but also through the distribution of great amounts of biblical literature throughout the world.

Pastor Unger didn't go along with the crowd, which is a very rare thing. He didn't boast about numbers, didn't count empty professions as "salvations," didn't promote himself, didn't go along with the new Bible or the new music or the new anything, knowing that the newest part of his faith is 2,000 years old.

No New Testament is built without *great* hardships and tribulations. It is serious spiritual warfare to preach the gospel and seek to establish a "pillar and ground of the truth" in the devil's dark territory. The battles are many, never-ended, and not every battle is won.

A church is made of sinners, redeemed ideally, but sinners nonetheless, and sinners sin, and there has never been a church that was not harmed in some way, to some extent, by sinning sinners. Church builders are not answerable to God for "success," but only for faithfulness.

The old farmer just stayed humble before the Lord, depending on the Lord, and just kept plowing. He plowed until he couldn't plow any more, and that is all that the Lord requires.

Pastor Unger retired from the pastorate in 2018, His plowing days in this old world are over. Because of failing health, he does more sitting than plowing these days, but his *days* have barely begun! He is waiting for the shout, hoping for the trumpet call to meet the Lord in the air.

"For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished *my* course, I have kept the faith: 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" (2 Timothy 4:6-8).

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?



HARVARD LAW PROFESSOR SAYS HOMESCHOOLING IS DANGEROUS, PARENTS SHOULD NOT HAVE 24/7 AUTHORITY OVER THEIR CHILDREN

(Friday Church News Notes, May 1, 2020, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The following is excerpted from Erin O'Donnell, "The Risks of Homeschooling," *Harvard Magazine*, May-June 2020: "A rapidly increasing number of American families are opting out of sending their children to school, choosing instead to educate them at home. Homeschooled kids now account for roughly 3 percent to 4 percent of school-age children in the United States, a number equivalent to those attending charter schools, and larger than the number currently in parochial schools. Yet Elizabeth Bartholet, Wasserstein public interest professor of law and faculty director of the Law School's Child Advocacy Program, sees risks for children—and society—in homeschooling, and recommends a presumptive ban on the practice. Homeschooling, she says, not only violates children's right to a 'meaningful education' and their right to be protected from

potential child abuse, but may keep them from contributing positively to a democratic society. ... 'From the beginning of compulsory education in this country, we have thought of the government as having some right to educate children so that they become active, productive participants in the larger society,' she says. ... In a paper published recently in the *Arizona Law Review*, she notes that parents choose homeschooling for an array of reasons. ... surveys of homeschoolers show that A MAJORITY OF SUCH FAMILIES (BY SOME ESTIMATES, UP TO 90 PERCENT) ARE DRIVEN BY CONSERVATIVE CHRISTIAN BELIEFS, AND SEEK TO REMOVE THEIR CHILDREN FROM MAINSTREAM CULTURE. Bartholet notes that some of these parents are "extreme religious ideologues" who question science and promote female subservience and white supremacy. ... 'But it's also important that children grow up exposed to community values, social values, democratic values, ideas about nondiscrimination and tolerance of other people's viewpoints,' she says, noting that EUROPEAN COUNTRIES SUCH AS GERMANY BAN HOMESCHOOLING ENTIRELY and that countries such as France require home visits and annual tests. ... 'The issue is, DO WE THINK THAT PARENTS SHOULD HAVE 24/7, ESSENTIALLY AUTHORITARIAN CONTROL OVER THEIR CHILDREN from ages zero to 18? I THINK THAT'S DANGEROUS,' Bartholet says. 'I think it's always dangerous to put powerful people in charge of the powerless, and to give the powerful ones total authority.'"

TERRIFYING LIBERAL TYRANTS WANT TO BAN HOMESCHOOLING BECAUSE



THEY HATE CONSERVATIVE CHRISTIAN BELIEFS (Friday Church News Notes, May 1, 2020, www.wayoflife.org/fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The following is excerpted from Timothy Carney's response to the *Harvard Magazine* rant against homeschooling, from the *Washington Examiner*, Apr. 22, 2020: "It is important to remember that there exist terrifying liberal authoritarians who think homeschooling is horrible and should be banned because it gives parents, particularly conservative Christians, too much control over their children's education. Harvard Law School hosts a program called the 'Child Advocacy Program,' or CAP, which works on weakening 'parent rights' and diminishing the idea of 'family preservation,' done in the name of fighting abuse. Fighting abuse is good and important. Children often need protection from abusive parents. But the latest crusade by CAP's director, Harvard law professor Elizabeth Bartholet, is basically to abolish homeschooling. ... based on this second-hand anecdotal evidence of some horrific cases, Bartholet tries to create a presumption that homeschoolers are abusers. ... Much of her argument is standard, paranoid 'what's to stop x from y' reasoning. She argues that

under current state laws and enforcement, there are all sorts of bad things some parents *could* be doing. ... But her real worry isn't children getting no education. It's children getting the 'wrong' education. ... she grants there are legitimate reasons to pull your children from school. **But she is really worried about religious parents who don't like public schools teaching their children transgender ideology, moral relativism, or radical feminism. To drive that home, *Harvard Magazine* had an insane picture illustrating the story. Public school children are all running around freely, while the homeschooled child is locked in a literal prison made of books--including the Bible.** (Oh, and *Harvard Magazine* misspelled 'arithmetic' in the illustration.) ... This is Alice-in-Wonderland, truth-on-its-head stuff. ... The notion that public schools provide more meaningful education than the average homeschooler is also insane. The idea that homeschoolers are, de facto, not exposed to 'community values, social values, democratic values' is also totally unfounded. Unless, again, by 'social values,' she means the values of the secular Left. ... If you live in a state with a Democratic legislature, you need to

worry about these people. They will craft an agenda to make it illegal to homeschool your children unless you can prove good reason. They will do this precisely because they don't want conservative Jewish, Muslim, and Christian parents passing down their values. And while these activists will lead by focusing on the rare and horrific abuses, they clearly believe that religion and conservative values count as 'maltreatment.' These people have a dangerous agenda. We shouldn't ignore their work."

HARVARD TO HOST PRO-HOMESCHOOL FORUM (Friday Church News Notes, May 1, 2020, www.wayoflife.org/fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The following is excerpted from "Harvard to Host Pro-Homeschools," Townhall, Apr. 24, 2020: "Amid outcry from homeschooling advocates and allies [against the 'Homeschooling Summit: Problems, Politics, and Prospects for Reform'] Harvard announced on Friday that they would be hosting a virtual discussion that would effectively counter the suggestions being put forward by the original summit. Titled, 'The Disinformation Campaign Against Homeschooling,' the May 1 event will precede the summit hosted by Harvard Law and being presented by the Kennedy School of Government. The event is also organized by the student-run group, Ideological Diversity. 'Speakers will discuss the dishonest attacks on homeschooling that have been pervasive in the media and academia and also address the failures of public education,' the event website states. The discussion will take place via virtual call host Zoom and is open to all, no RSVP required. Speakers include the Director of

School Choice at the Reason Foundation Corey DeAngelis, author of *Unschooling*, Kerry McDonald, education scholar Peter Gray, homeschooling advocate Patrick Ferenga, and documentary filmmaker Cevin Soling.”

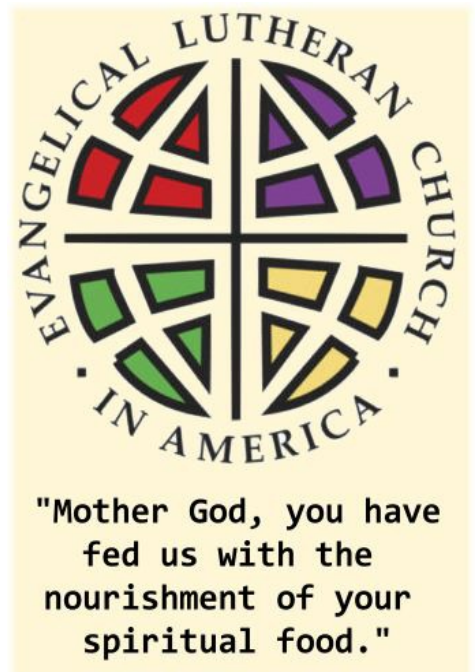
HOMESCHOOL ADVOCATE ANSWERS ANTI-HOME SCHOOLING HARVARD PROFESSOR

(Friday Church News Notes, May 1, 2020, www.wayoflife.org/fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from Michael Farris, “Harvard Law Professor Attacks Homeschoolers, as She Envisions Them,” Townhall, Apr. 22, 2020. Farris is president of Alliance Defending Freedom and founder of the Home School Legal Defense Association. “Should homeschooling be banned? *Harvard Magazine* and one of Harvard’s law professors, Elizabeth Bartholet, think so. This is despite the fact that Harvard University admits an appreciable number of homeschooled students to both its undergraduate and graduate programs every year. ... Bartholet argues that homeschooling denies children a meaningful education. In so doing, Bartholet fails to demonstrate any familiarity with valid social science research. The literature demonstrates that

homeschooling works very well academically—including in some ways that many would find surprising. In public schools, family income is a strong predictor of a child’s academic success. In homeschooling, children from lower-income levels not only outscore their public school socio-economic counterparts, but they also score comparably to homeschool students from higher income levels. ... I personally know two homeschool students who are Harvard Law grads and clerked for the U.S. Supreme Court. Another Harvard alum is the current solicitor general of West Virginia. I taught constitutional law to all three at Patrick Henry College. And two more of my PHC students, who were also homeschooled, clerked for the Supreme Court after graduating from the University of Virginia Law School. Moreover, dozens of homeschooled students in my personal sphere of friends have been elected to state and local offices. ... Thousands of homeschooled students actively participate in the electoral process every cycle through a program called Generation Joshua. ... Perhaps the most troubling thing found in this article is a clear display of bigotry by Professor Bartholet. She argues that a chief evil at hand arises from the fact that as many as 90 percent of homeschooled children live with conservative Christian parents ‘who seek to remove their children from mainstream culture.’ ... Any form of bigotry coming from one of its professors should cause Harvard trustees to be concerned.”

LUTHERANS PRAY TO MOTHER GOD FOR HELP

(Friday Church News Notes, May 8, 2020, www.wayoflife.org/fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)



- On April 28 the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America posted a prayer tweet addressed to “Mother God,” asking her to “raise us up to salvation ... so we may share the sweetness of your holy word with all the world.” This was one of the ELCA’s #Bread4theday Twitter posts. The ELCA is the largest Lutheran denomination in America, and it is obviously apostate. The ELCA Publishing House has printed countless volumes which promote unbelief. For example, in 1988 an ELCA book by Ragnar Leivestad, entitled *Jesus in His Own Perspective*, goofily claimed that Jesus never invoked for himself a special position and did not claim messianic titles. The World Council of Churches, of which the ELCA is a member, is filled with mother goddess worship. ELCA women participated in the WCC’S “Re-imagining Conference” in 1993 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The *Star Tribune* reported that “throughout the conference worship experiences will celebrate Sophia, the biblical goddess of creation” (Nov. 3, 1993). On



THE EYE OF AN OCTOPUS

(Friday Church News Notes, May 1, 2020, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is from creationmoments.com, February 3, 2020: "The eye is a very complex organ. A vertebrate eye, such as that possessed by humans, contains a number of separate parts, all of which have to work together. It is easy, therefore, to show that an eye could not have evolved. Our eyes contain a lens, which is transparent and convex, like the lens of a camera. But, unlike the camera lens, the eye lens can have its focal length altered by being stretched thinner, or squashed fatter, by tiny muscles. If the lens had evolved without the muscles, it would have been useless. The lens needs to focus light on to the

retina, where the photo-receptors are found. The retina would have been useless if it had evolved with no lens, and there would be no evolutionary advantage to an organism with a lens, but no retina. And none of these

features are useful without a nerve to take the signals of these images to the brain. A further blow that the eye gives to evolution is when we examine the eyes of cephalopods, like the octopus. The eyes of these mollusks are pretty much the same as vertebrate eyes. Are we expected to believe that they evolved separately to the same design? Cephalopods are



supposedly less evolved than humans. Yet their eyes seem to be more advanced, as they do not possess the blind spot of the vertebrate eye. None of these issues is difficult to understand when we realize that these features were designed by God, just as He said. Ref: *Encyclopedia Britannica*, 'Science: Photo Reception.'"

Sunday morning, the conferees joined together in repeating a prayer to their female goddess, including these words, "Our maker Sophia, we are women in your image. ... With the honey of wisdom in our mouths, we prophesy a full humanity to all the peoples." At the WCC's Seventh Assembly in 1991 South Korean Presbyterian Chung Hyun-Kyung evoked a female Holy Spirit (Religious News Service, Mar. 5, 1991). The WCC publication *No Longer Strangers*, a joint project with the Lutheran World Federation, which includes the ELCA, suggested that God be addressed as "The Source, Lady of peace, Lady of wisdom, Lady of love, Lady of birth, Lord of stars, Lord of planets, Mother, Home, Presence, Power, Essence, Simplicity." Consider the poem

"Bakerwoman God," which is to be used in church services: "Bakerwoman God, I am your living bread. Strong, brown, Bakerwoman God ... Put me in your fire, Bakerwoman God ... Break me, Bakerwoman God. ... Bakerwoman God, remake me." The hour is very late, folks!

ONE MARIJUANA JOINT CAN CAUSE PSYCHOTIC SYMPTOMS

(Friday Church News Notes, May 8, 2020, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from "One Joint," UPI, Mar. 18, 2020: "Smoking just one joint of marijuana is enough to trigger psychotic, depressive and anxiety symptoms in otherwise healthy people, British

researchers report. The review of data involved 331 people with no prior history of psychotic or other major psychiatric disorders. It found that there's enough THC (tetrahydrocannabinol)--the main psychoactive ingredient in pot--in one joint to cause serious psychiatric symptoms. 'Our finding that THC can temporarily induce psychiatric symptoms in healthy volunteers highlights the risks associated with the use of THC-containing cannabis



products,’ said study leader Oliver Howes, of King’s College London. ... Their conclusions were published March 17 in *The Lancet Psychiatry* and were based on data from 15 previously published studies. ... As Howes’ team pointed out, the link between marijuana and psychotic symptoms--such as hallucinations and paranoia--isn’t new. The first study to find such a connection was published more than 150 years ago. But the new review is one of the first systematic analyses of data collected since then. ... Symptoms such as depression, anxiety, apathy, delusions and hallucinations were included in the study. ... The study found an uptick in risk among marijuana users for all the psychiatric symptoms on their list. ... None of the findings came as a surprise to Dr. Scott Krakower, who specializes in substance abuse treatment for teens and young adults. Prior studies ‘have demonstrated that cannabis may be linked to future onset of psychotic and other mental health symptoms,’ said Krakower, who is assistant unit chief of psychiatry at Zucker Hillside Hospital in Glen Oaks, N.Y. He said the connection is especially strong for younger pot users, those who use the drug frequently, and people at genetic high risk for psychosis. ‘What is especially concerning are the psychotic symptoms, which are least transient in nature, and may be difficult to predict,’ Krakower said, and ‘patients may not realize that even a one-time use of marijuana may cause symptoms.’”

MAJORITY OF YOUNG AMERICANS FAVOR LEGALIZATION OF MARIJUANA (Friday Church News Notes, May 8, 2020, www.wayoflife.org)



fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - According to a 2019 poll, 79% of Americans aged 25-44 support the legalization of marijuana. The poll was conducted by *Investor’s Business Daily* and *TechnoMetrica*. Overall, 63% favor legalization (“Americans Embrace Marijuana Legalization,” *TechnoMetrica*, Aug. 2019). Ten states and Washington, D.C. have legalized marijuana for recreational use for adults older than 21, while 33 states have legalized medical marijuana. Others states have decriminalized the possession of small amounts of the drug. The legalization of recreational marijuana in America began in in 2012 with Colorado and Washington setting the pace. In 2018, Canada became the second country to fully legalize recreational marijuana, after Uruguay. Proponents of recreational marijuana use typically ignore proven dangers such as addiction, psychosis, marijuana as a gate-way drug, long-term effects on learning, cognition, and personality, “amotivational syndrome” (lethargy and loss of interest in achievement), bronchitis and respiratory infections, and increased risk of cardiovascular disease. A study published in the *Lancet* in March 2019 found that “smoking high-potency cannabis, used daily, has been linked to diagnosis of conditions like schizophrenia, paranoia and other psychosis disorders” (UPI, Mar. 20, 2019). **This is the latest in a long**

line of evidence that marijuana is not an innocent relaxation drug. We are convinced that the legalization of recreational marijuana is a foolish experiment that will have serious repercussions. I know this all too well, having been a drug user before I was saved, beginning with my Army tour in Vietnam in 1970-71. After I was discharged, I was immersed in the hippy culture. Marijuana is a psychoactive drug with hallucinogenic properties. It can mess with the depths of a man’s soul. It affects people differently, but depression, intense anxiety, and paranoia are common side effects, and acute psychosis is not infrequent, as the previously cited study proves. It was definitely a “gateway” drug for me and for a lot of my friends. And the marijuana of today is vastly more powerful than the marijuana of the 1960s and 1970s, typically containing 15-20% THC (the psychoactive ingredient), and going as high as 37%, compared to 3 and 4 percent in the past. The rush to legalize marijuana is the fruit of the rock & roll pop culture that has been taking shape since the jazz era and came into full bloom in the 1960s. At its heart is the licentious philosophy of live as you please. It is the product of a filthy entertainment industry, an educational system devoted to moral relativism, a society that celebrates unrestrained self-expression, and the gross lack of wisdom typically reflected in mainstream media reporting. God’s command that His people be “sober” is repeated 12 times in the New Testament Epistles. It means to be in control of one’s mind and spirit so that nothing but God is in charge. “Sober” is the opposite of being under the influence of alcohol or drugs or anything else.



THE BRAIN HAS MORE MEMORY THAN THE INTERNET

(Friday Church News Notes, May 8, 2020, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The human brain has about 1 quintillion (1,000 trillion) synapses and each synapse functions like a microprocessor (“What Is a Neuron?” faculty-washington.edu). That is about how many stars are in 10,000 Milky Way galaxies (each one containing 100 billion stars)! New research shows that the synapses don’t operate like a computer transistor, with a simple on or off function. Rather, they communicate by at least 26 levels of electrical signal strength so that they are vastly more complex than previously thought. The following is excerpted from “Your Brain Has More Memory” by Brian Thomas, Ph.D., Institute of Christian Research, icr.org, Feb. 4, 2016: “Synapses occur at junctions between nerve cells, like two people holding hands. EACH CELL CAN HAVE A THOUSAND ‘HANDS’ CONTACTING AS MANY NEIGHBORS TO FORM A DIZZYING 3-D ARRAY WITH BILLIONS OF CONNECTIONS AND PATHWAYS. Each junction transfers information between cells by passing along tiny chemicals called neurotransmitters. ... They store and transmit information not

with the simplistic 0s and 1s of computer code, but with degrees of synapse strength. In other words, THEY DON'T TRANSFER INFORMATION WITH A SINGLE INPUT SPIKE, BUT RECOGNIZE 26 DISTINGUISHABLY DIFFERENT LEVELS OF SYNAPTIC STRENGTH (“Nanoeconnectomic upper bound,” *eLife*, 2015). ... Terry Sejnowski, co-senior author of the *eLife* study, told the Salk Institute, ‘We discovered the key to unlocking the design principle for how hippocampal neurons function with low energy but high computation power. OUR NEW MEASUREMENTS OF THE BRAIN'S MEMORY CAPACITY INCREASE CONSERVATIVE ESTIMATES BY A FACTOR OF 10 TO AT LEAST A PETABYTE, IN THE SAME BALLPARK AS THE WORLD WIDE WEB (“Memory Capacity of Brian,” *Salk News*, Jan. 20, 2016). What’s a petabyte? 8,000,000,000,000,000 bits of information. The mind-boggling levels of organization and necessary regulatory protocols in synapses refute all notions that brains evolved from single cells through merely natural processes. The strategies, algorithms, and design principles brains employ could only have come from an otherworldly Architect whose genius mankind can only dream of copying.”

NEITHER CALVINIST NOR ARMINIAN (Friday Church News Notes, May 8, 2020, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- We are convinced that biblical theology is neither Calvinist nor Arminian. We refuse to be forced to make a choice between John Calvin

or James Arminius. Both were fallible men who attempted to describe biblical truth in a systematic theology. Both believed in the gross heresy of infant baptism and rejected biblical baptism. Neither man understood the New Testament church. Neither understood Bible prophecy. We have no obligation to follow either of these men. The only infallible systematic theology is the Bible itself. We believe in the everlasting consolation of the born again believer because this is what the Bible teaches, not because it is what John Calvin believed. We believe that Christ died to make it possible for all men to be saved and that all men *can* be saved, because that is what the Bible teaches, not because it is what James Arminius taught. We believe that God is sovereign and “worketh all things after the counsel of his own will,” because the Bible teaches it, and we praise Him for it, and we believe in the wonderful doctrines of election and predestination, but we don’t believe what John Calvin taught as a disciple of the fifth century heretic Augustine. Calvinists claim for themselves the right to examine Calvinism and to define it in a multitude of ways. We claim for ourselves the same right, and we reject all of it.

HILLSONG DEPICTS ONE OF THE THREE WISE MEN AS A WOMAN (Friday Church News Notes, May 15, 2020, www.wayoflife.org)



fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)
 - In a Christmas production (probably from 2019), Hillsong Australia depicted one of the wise men as a woman (“Hillsong Depicts,” *Reformation Charlotte*, May 9, 2020). This feminization of the wise men fits Hillsong’s passion to conform Christ to modern culture in direct disobedience to God’s Word, and Hillsong represents the heart and soul of contemporary worship music. It is a Christianity that is very much at home in this world. “And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God” (Ro. 12:2). For more about Hillsong, see [The Directory of Contemporary Worship Musicians](#), available as a free eBook from www.wayoflife.org.

IRVING BERLIN’S GOD BLESS AMERICA (Friday Church News Notes, May 15, 2020, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)
 - The following, which is a shocking reminder of how dramatically America has changed, is adapted from “Irving Berlin and ‘God Bless America!’” by Bill Federer, *American Minute*: In 1940, Kate Smith sang the patriotic hymn “God Bless America” before Democratic campaign rallies at the request of the Democratic National Committee. The hymn was written by popular song writer Irving Berlin, who was born in Russia in 1888, the son of a Jewish rabbi. The family immigrated to New York in 1902 to escape anti-Jewish persecution, and Irving served in the U.S. Army in World War I as an infantry sergeant. Berlin gave all the royalties of “God Bless America” to the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts. The



original scout oath said, “On my honor I will do my best: To do my duty to God and my country...” Irving was granted the Congressional Gold Medal “in recognition of his services in composing many popular songs, including ‘God Bless America.’” The bill was signed by President Dwight Eisenhower. Upon receiving the medal in February 1955, Berlin told the president, “To me, ‘God Bless America’ was not just a song but an expression of my feeling toward the country to which I owe what I have and what I am.” The lyrics go like this: “While the storm clouds gather far across the sea, let us swear allegiance, to a land that’s free. Let us all be grateful, for a land so fair, as we raise our voices, in a solemn prayer. God Bless America, land that I love, stand beside Her, and guide Her, through the night, with the Light from Above, from the mountains, to the prairies, to the oceans white with foam, God Bless America, My Home Sweet Home, God Bless America, My Home Sweet Home!”

JIM BAKKER SUED FOR BOGUS CORONAVIRUS CURE (Friday Church News Notes, May 15, 2020, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)
 - Jim Bakker, disgraced former host of *The PTL Club*, is being sued by the

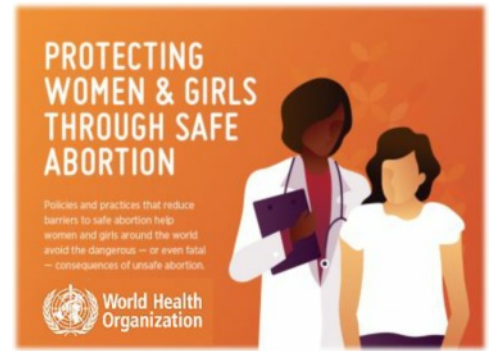
state of Missouri for selling a bogus coronavirus cure called *Silver Solution*. After spending five years in prison for defrauding his followers out of \$158 million to support a lavish and immoral lifestyle (including the famous air-conditioned doghouse), Bakker launched a new career with *The Jim Bakker Show*. He sells survival food and equipment for preppers who, we suppose, plan to hide from the Antichrist. Bakker also has been selling *Silver Solution*, though it has conveniently disappeared from his web site. This is one of the many brands of colloidal silver (tiny silver particles suspended in a liquid) that are marketed as a health product. On his Feb. 12 broadcast, Bakker’s guest Sherrill Sellman, a “natural health expert,” said, “[I]t has been tested on other strains of the coronavirus and has been able to eliminate it within 12 hours. Totally eliminate it. Kills it. Deactivates it. [*Silver Solution*] has been proven by the government that it has the ability to kill every pathogen it has ever been tested on, including SARS and HIV” (“Missouri Sues Televangelist,” NPR.org, Mar. 11, 2020). Four 4-ounce bottles are a mere \$80. On its very face, *Silver Solution* has all the hallmarks of snake oil quackery by claiming to be a cure for just about anything. Not only does it kill bacteria and viruses, it boosts the immune system, and is an effective treatment for cancer, arthritis, diabetes, and other things. Bringing everything back to reality and bursting the *Silver Solution* bubble, the Mayo Clinic says, “Colloidal silver isn’t considered safe or effective for any of the health claims manufacturers make. Silver has no known purpose in the body. Nor is it an essential mineral, as some sellers



of silver products claim. It's not clear how much colloidal silver may be harmful, but it can build up in your body's tissues over months or years. Most commonly, this results in argyria (ahr-JIR-e-uh), a blue-gray discoloration of your skin, eyes, internal organs, nails and gums. While argyria doesn't usually pose a serious health problem, it can be a cosmetic concern because it doesn't go away when you stop taking silver products. Rarely, excessive doses of colloidal silver can cause possibly irreversible serious health problems, including kidney damage and neurological problems such as seizures. Colloidal silver products may also interact with medications" (mayoclinic.org). So silver won't cure coronavirus, but it might turn your skin blue if you want to look like a Martian! Since it appears that Bakker no longer sells *Silver Solution*, you can always get the Keto Hydrolyzed Collagen Powder or the Fermented Green SupremeFood made of fermented vegetables and grasses and enzymes. Bakker's wife and former co-host of the PTL Club, Tammy Faye, divorced Jim while he was in prison and married Roe Messner, an old family friend whose company helped build PTL's Heritage USA resort complex. She had a second wind evangelistic ministry, too, before she died in 2008.

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION, A MAJOR PROMOTER OF ABORTION AND SEX EDUCATION

(Friday Church News Notes, May 15, 2020, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from "World Health Organization," *The Stream*, Apr. 27, 2020: "The World Health Organization, the 'watchdog' of the global health, is a lot more than the world's disease and infection police. It's also, as more Americans are starting to learn, one of the biggest promoters of abortion and peddlers of radical sex ed. At this point, it's undeniable. And it's been its agenda for many years. If Americans are upset about anything, it shouldn't be that the president temporarily cut the WHO's funding. It should be the incredible injustice that's been done to taxpayers by sending billions of dollars to a group that doesn't share most people's values. Sharon Slater of Family Watch International exposes this shameful history in a recent publication on the WHO. According to Family Watch: 'In 2018, WHO co-published with other UN agencies and the help of International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) the radical *International Technical Guidance on Sexuality Education*. This guide purports to set the sexual health education standards for all of the world's children. Please note that WHO defines "sexuality" to encompass "sex, gender identities and roles, sexual orientation, eroticism, pleasure, intimacy and reproduction," and thus, WHO supports such controversial topics being taught to children. If you're still not convinced, Slater offers additional damning evidence from the WHO-supported learning



objectives for children from the *International Technical Guidance on Sexuality Education* that encourage everything from gender and sexual experimentation to abortion, shocking acts of sexual pleasure, and departures from their parents' more traditional views. Slater also explains that "the WHO's CSE standards for European children, which are even worse, start by teaching toddlers about [sexual experimentation]. They also refer 9-year-olds to [the International Planned Parenthood Federation] to learn about their "sexual rights," which is further evidence of WHO's deep partnership with IPPF.' ... Slater adds: '[WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus] also has worked toward the decriminalization of cross-dressing, same-sex behaviour, sex work and drug use.' She points to the WHO's *Values and Preferences of Transgender People Study* as further evidence, and a 'WHO fact sheet reveals that the organization has bought into unscientific transgender ideology, stating it is important to recognize identities that do not fit into the binary male or female sex categories.'"

WORLD'S FASTEST CAMERA CAN SHOOT 70 TRILLION FRAMES PER SECOND, PROVES THE BIBLE IS TRUE (Friday Church News Notes, May 15, 2020, www.wayoflife.org

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- "A team of researchers at Caltech have developed (yet another) camera capable of capturing over a trillion images every second. The previous 'world's fastest camera' could shoot 10 trillion fps; the new camera can capture up to 70 trillion, smashing the previous record. This latest breakthrough is an evolution of previous 'trillion+ fps' cameras from Caltech, all of them some form of 'Compressed Ultrafast Photography' or (CUP). The latest iteration is called CUSP, which stands for Compressed Ultrafast Spectral Photography, and it comes from the same minds at Caltech that were recently able to capture 1 trillion fps images of transparent phenomenon like neuron pulses and shockwaves. ... For those who enjoy back-of-the-napkin math, the speed of light is (just under) 300 billion millimeters per second. Now, take 70 trillion frames/s and divide it by 300 billion mm/s, and you get ~233.3 frames for every millimeter the light travels. Put another way: *this camera can capture about 230 frames in the time it takes light itself to move one millimeter*" ("New World's Fastest Camera," *PetaPixel*, May 7, 2020). **CONCLUDING**

NOTE: This amazing camera demonstrates exactly what the Bible says about man: he is not an animal, and he is made in the image of God. The gap between man and ape is nearly infinite. David Berlinski, Ph.D. in philosophy from Princeton University and a post-doctoral fellow in mathematics and molecular biology at Columbia University, is not a creationist. He is a "secular Jew and an agnostic," but he is sensible enough to know that man is not an advanced ape, and he is courageous enough to say so publicly in his inimitable way. Commenting on the

attempt to teach apes sign language, Berlinski observes, "After years of punishing trials, a few of them have been taught the rudiments of various primitive symbol systems. Having been given the gift of language, they have nothing to say. When two simian prodigies meet, they fling their signs at one another. ... Simian social structures are often intricate. Chimpanzees, bonobos, and gorillas reason; they form plans; they have preferences; they are cunning; they have passions and desires; and they suffer. The same is true of cats, I might add. In much of this, we see ourselves. **But beyond what we have in common with the apes, we have nothing in common, and while the similarities are interesting, the differences are profound**" (*The Devil's Delusion*, p. 156). "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth" (Genesis 1:27-28).

DARLENE ZSCHECH SOLD HER SEASIDE MANSION FOR \$4 MILLION (Friday Church News Notes, May 22, 2020, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Darlene Zschech, former worship



leader of Hillsong Sydney, has sold her seaside mansion for a reported A\$4-\$4.4 million. The cliffside property, with a nearly 360 degree view of the ocean, is 1,258sqm with three levels, multiple entertainment areas, private movie theater, pool, and several cliff facing balconies ("Former Hillsong Church Leader," *Warwick Daily News*, May 13, 2020). Zschech was "worship pastor" at Hills Christian Life Centre, Sydney, for 25 years, and published many of the most popular contemporary worship songs, including "Shout to the Lord," "This Is Our God," and "Mighty to Save." In 2010, Darlene and her husband became the senior pastors of Hope Unlimited Church, but she continues to be involved in music projects with Hillsong. *The New York Times* reported that Hillsong is "without a doubt the most influential producers of worship music in Christendom" ("Megachurch with a Beat Lures Young Flock," Sept. 9, 2014). Hillsong pushes one-world church ecumenism. Zschech says, "There is a new sound and a new song being proclaimed across the earth. It's the sound of a unified church, coming together, in one voice to magnify our magnificent Lord" ("You Shine" album cover). Zschech and Hillsong performed for the Roman Catholic World Youth Day in Sydney on July 18, 2008. Pope Benedict XVI was present and conducted a papal mass. In July 2015, Darlene Zschech and Hillsong joined hands with the pope at the Convocation of the Renewal of the Holy Spirit at the Vatican. On her Facebook page, Zschech said: "Honoured to be singing this week, with Andrea Bocelli, Don Moen, Noa [Israeli singer], with Pope Francis and thousands of worshippers gathering in St. Peter's Square at the

Vatican. This is a celebration of unity and peace in the Renewal of the Holy Spirit. Amazing days for the Body of Christ.” Sadly, she doesn’t know the “body of Christ” from a pineapple, has zero spiritual discernment, yet she has vast influence among all denominations, including independent Baptist. In January 2019 and 2020, Hillsong Phoenix hosted the annual Alpha Conference which featured a Catholic mass. Fundamental Baptists and Bible-believing churches that use charismatic contemporary praise music are playing with fire. They will learn, probably too late, that this music brings with it a philosophy that will change the character of any fundamentalist church. It builds bridges to the “broader church,” which is progressing toward the formation of a “one-world church.”

WHEN HEBREW WAS PROPOSED AS THE LANGUAGE OF AMERICA

(Friday Church News Notes, May 22, 2020, www.wayoflife.org/fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from “How Hebrew Almost Became the Language of America,” *Israel Today*, May 5, 2020: “William Gifford, an English poet and essayist, received a report that ‘In the rebellion of the Colonies, a member of that state seriously proposed to Congress the putting down of the English language by law, and decreeing the universal

adoption of Hebrew in its stead.’ Some believe this was intended as a mockery of the mutinous colonists, but there is sufficient evidence to show that this was a very real and serious consideration. New England Puritans held a profound connection with Israel, the Hebrew language and the Jewish people. In their conviction that the Bible is the inerrant Word of God, they held the original Hebrew in great reverence and of particular importance in interpreting and understanding Scripture. ... William Bradford (1590-1657) was a Puritan separatist who immigrated to the Plymouth Colony on the Mayflower in 1620. Bradford, who went on to serve as governor of the new colony for 25 years, taught himself Hebrew because he wanted to read the Scriptures in their original language. On his gravestone he had inscribed in Hebrew, ‘The LORD is the help of my life’ ... Their love of Hebrew led these early New England Christian ministers to develop relationships with Jewish rabbis. Rev. Ezra Stiles, who was driven out by the British in 1776 and immigrated to New England, struck up a close friendship with Rabbi Haim Isaac Carigal. ... With his knowledge of Hebrew, Stiles translated large portions of the Hebrew Old Testament into English. As did many Christian ministers at the time, he understood that knowledge of the original Hebrew was crucial to the proper interpretation of Scripture and even the basis upon which one could properly understand the New Testament as well. Credit is sometimes given to Stiles for proposing that Hebrew replace English as the official language of the newly forming United States. When Stiles was elected president of Yale University, he initiated a course in

Hebrew as a freshman requirement. The Hebrew words *Urim* and *Thummim* worn on the breastplate of the High Priest, perhaps signifying ‘Light and Perfection,’ became part of Yale’s official seal along with the Latin *Lux et Veritas* (light and truth).”

DUTCH SUPREME COURT RULES THAT DOCTORS CAN EUTHANIZE ELDERLY WITHOUT THEIR CONSENT

(Friday Church News Notes, May 22, 2020, www.wayoflife.org/fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from “Dutch Supreme Court Rules,” *Reformation Charlotte*, May 6, 2020: “If abortion against the unwilling infants still inside the mother’s womb isn’t bad enough, why not legalize abortion against elderly patients with dementia against their will? In a landmark ruling last month, the Dutch Supreme Court said that a doctor who committed euthanasia on an elderly patient with dementia while her family physically restrained her is not legally responsible for any wrongdoing. *The Guardian* reports: ‘Doctors in the Netherlands are able to carry out euthanasia on patients with severe dementia without fear of prosecution even if the patient no longer expresses an explicit wish to die, the country’s highest court has ruled. The supreme court’s decision followed a landmark case last year in which a doctor was acquitted of wrongdoing for euthanizing a woman



in 2016 with severe Alzheimer's who had requested the procedure before her condition deteriorated.”

NINTH CIRCUIT COURT REVIVES CHURCH'S LAWSUIT AGAINST CALIFORNIA ABORTION INSURANCE MANDATE (Friday Church News Notes, May 22, 2020, www.wayoflife.org/fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The following is excerpted from “Ninth Circuit,” *Christian Post*, May 15, 2020: “A three-judge panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit has revived a California church’s lawsuit against a state law mandating insurance coverage for abortion. Skyline Wesleyan Church of La Mesa sued the California Department of Managed Health Care over letters



from 2014 stating that insurance companies could not limit abortion coverage. ... The [Ninth Circuit] panel vacated the earlier district court ruling in a unanimous decision released Wednesday, sending the case back to the lower court for further proceedings. Circuit Judge Michelle Friedland authored the panel’s opinion, concluding that ‘Skyline has suffered an injury in

fact. Before the Letters were sent, Skyline had insurance that excluded abortion coverage in a way that was consistent with its religious beliefs,’ Friedland wrote. ‘After the Letters were sent, Skyline did not have that coverage, and it has presented evidence that its new coverage violated its religious beliefs. There is nothing hypothetical about the situation.’ The Alliance Defending Freedom, a conservative law firm that represented the church before the Ninth Circuit, celebrated the panel’s decision. ‘The agency has unconstitutionally targeted religious organizations, repeatedly collaborated with pro-abortion advocates, and failed to follow the appropriate administrative procedures to implement its abortion-coverage requirement,’ said ADF Senior Counsel Jeremiah Galus.”

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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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