

O Timothy

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

A Monthly Newsletter for Spiritual Protection and Edification

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"God has told us what this age is all about and what His people are to be doing. It is the church age. It is Christ's Great Commission age. God is calling out a people for His name from among the Gentiles (Acts 15:14). They will bring glory to Him through all ages (Ephesians 3:21). The calling out is by means of global gospel preaching, as Christ commanded" Page 7.

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



FOR THOSE FRUSTRATED BY CORONAVIRUS AND RIOTING ~ By David Cloud

These are definitely times that try men's souls. Following are three suggestions that could make a major difference in your attitude and fruitfulness these days, and I suspect that a very large percentage of the friends on this mailing list need this exhortation. These kind of things bring real change, to individuals, to homes, to churches, to nations. Let's stop fighting spiritual battles with weapons of the flesh.

First, take a fast from secular news and political commentary.

Stop browsing Breitbart, the Washington Times, the Drudge Report, Rush Limbaugh, Fox News, the New American, Red State, the Blaze, Newbusters, RealClearPolitics, WorldNetDaily, etc. None of these conservative news sources have a clue about spiritual realities. They see symptoms, but they don't understand the underlying fundamentals and they have no real



answers. They are frustrated, and they will make you frustrated if you spend much time with them. They don't know God in born again salvation; they don't have the

Spirit of truth; they don't hold the Bible to be the infallible Word of God, the sole authority for faith and practice; they don't live by a biblical worldview; they aren't looking for the imminent return of Jesus Christ; they don't believe Bible prophecy so they have no idea about the future. They don't know a New Testament church from Adam's house cat. "Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners" (1 Corinthians 15:33). At the very least, cut way, way down on the consumption of political news and commentary.

Second, cut your social media time way, way down, if not cut it off entirely, and cut your entertainment time way, way down.

The average American Bible-believing Christian spends an *inordinate* amount of time with social media and entertainment. In our experience, the average Bible-believing Christian's daily life has a *little* Bible and a *little* prayer and a *whole lot of* party, party. This is not New Testament Christianity, even if the party, party is wholesome. Life is too short for this, and God's business is too large and pressing. Pastor Simeon Western of Adelaide, South Australia told me recently, "Our staff, office bearers and their wives agreed to stay disconnected from popular social media sites such as Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. We are happy to allow the use of instant messaging Apps such as WhatsApp for communication

purposes, but our desire is to set a good example on a leadership level and encourage a culture in the church of separation from digital platforms. I believe social media is one of the biggest tools the devil is using to destroy Fundamental churches beneath the surface."

Third, take all of those precious hours that you gain from cutting way down on political news and social media and playing and spend them immersing yourself in the Word of God and prayer.

I'm not talking about a daily devotional and a few minutes of prayer. I'm talking about immersion. This is the path to real revival. It will change your life, your home, and your church. I think you will be amazed at the difference this type of thing can make.

I recommend the following, which are the types of things that our own people are doing, so that they have remained encouraged and growing under one of the most draconian lockdowns you can imagine.

- Go through the course [Understanding the Bible for Yourself](http://www.wayoflife.org). This is for beginning Bible students and for advanced. It is for teenagers, for parents, for grandparents, for new Christians, and for pastors. It is available from www.wayoflife.org. Go through it carefully and prayerfully. Read every verse that is referenced. Practice the things you learn. Don't tell me that you took a course in Bible study in Bible college, so you don't need this. Over the past 47 years, I have gone through about 30 courses in Bible study and interpretation, and I'm learning more today than ever before. This course is packed with practical things.

- Make your own timeline of Bible history. There are 13 books of the Bible that contain the overall history. These are Genesis, Exodus, Numbers, Joshua, Judges, 1-2 Samuel, 1-2 Kings, Ezra, Nehemiah, the Gospel of Matthew, and the book of Acts. There are 352 chapters in these 13 books, so the project can be done in one month by reading and outlining 12 chapters a day or two months by reading and outlining 6 chapters day. In each study session, first read your chapters for the day (however many you choose). 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. For this project, keep your focus on the one main goal of

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finding the major events of Bible history and enumerating them into your own 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.

When you have completed the reading of 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. This is not just for new Bible students. I designed this project after seeing that people can read the Bible for years and still not have a good overall picture.

- After that, read the entire Bible twice in six months, which requires about 14 chapters a day. One pastor who read the Bible multiple times per year for a few years said, "That study helped me more than anything else in establishing the Bible in my mind, not as a volume of books, but as one Book, with one Author, and being able to discern from the pages of scripture the beautiful tapestry God has woven through history. It really helped with seeing the Bible from a dispensational perspective. The discipline of reading the Bible through twice in a year didn't allow me to stop and spend a lot of time in one passage, so I didn't get bogged down with too many details. I wouldn't necessarily recommend that regimen forever, since it is critical to examine 'every word of God,' but in establishing the 'big picture,' I found it incredibly helpful in my understanding of God's word, and in my walk with Him."

- There are many other suggested Bible study projects in [*Understanding the Bible for Yourself*](#).

- Engage in memorizing and meditating on Bible verses. The [*Scripture Memory Verse Journal*](#), available for free from Way of Life Literature, has a memory verse program and teaches an effective way to meditate. Of course, you can choose your own verses to memorize.

The important thing is to learn how to meditate on the verses so that it is not mere rote.

- Increase the time you spend in intercessory prayer and in seeking wisdom from God. I spend at least a half hour a day in focused intercessory prayer while walking in a private place, and that is a small part of my daily prayer. Some of our Bible school girls spend two and three hours a day in intercessory prayer.

- Make sure you are having daily family prayer. It is easy to let this slip. If it has slipped, re-establish it, and if it hasn't slipped, look for ways to increase its effectiveness.

- Get a prayer partner and meet daily for prayer, or as regularly as possible. In fact, get multiple prayer partners. Your husband or wife should be your first prayer partner. Paul believed fervently in prayer partners. Paul taught the importance of this by his frequent, earnest requests for prayer (Ro. 15:30; Eph. 6:19; Col. 4:3; 1 Th. 5:25; 2 Th. 3:1). In 2 Co. 1:11 Paul gives one of the reasons why prayer partners are important. When multiple people are praying for something and God answers, there is multiple thanks to God.

- Spend more time in congregational prayer. Whatever prayer times your church has, be there, and be engaged! And encourage more prayer! Pastor Simeon Western of Adelaide, South Australia, says, "In addition to our regular Wed. night prayer meeting, we now have a prayer meeting before soul-winning on Saturday and a Sunday afternoon prayer meeting at 5pm for an hour before the evening service. We have a weekly prayer chain that runs from 8pm Sat night to 8am Sun morning. People commit to an hour of prayer in their homes in that 12 hour period. We have regular all nights of prayer, about one every two months on average. We divide the night into three-hour segments and have teams come and pray throughout the night. We usually assign a prayer leader and we use a prayer guide. We usually have a key theme we focus the prayer night around (e.g. lost souls, revival, missions)."

These kind of things bring real change, to individuals, to homes, to churches, to nations. Let's stop fighting spiritual battles with weapons of the flesh.





I received the following important response to the article (which begins on page 7) “Churches Must Address Fundamentals, Not Symptoms,” June 15, 2020:

Thank you for sending this. One thing that I am struggling with is what is my responsibility as an American Christian in all of this? Are we to sit idly by and watch our country fall to this communist backed chaos? ----- from where I live a small town was invaded by BLM & Antifa protesters on Friday night. They were threatening a local business owner who was also on the school board. He refused to bow to their social justice demands by apologizing for statements that he made against them. Heavily armed militia groups surrounded his place of business.

The BLM protesters issued threats of intimidation on social media and said they were coming to town armed. In the middle was ----- who was on the police swat team. In the past month he has been to two riots and seen one of his fellow police officers brutally gunned down by two black thugs who car jacked an innocent woman <https://www.clickondetroit.com/news/local/2020/05/25/monroe-police-officer-shot-during-traffic-stop-rushed-to-hospital/>. None of this of course made the national news.

The weekend prior to this in a small town close to where I live nearly a thousand protesters from Detroit were bused in by Antifa and BLM. ----- who is a firefighter and EMS medic was on standby for trouble all weekend. He trains with the county SWAT team as a medic. In both of these cases we prayed much for peaceful resolutions. So far, that has been the outcome, however my patience with doing nothing is wearing very thin. These groups are openly using intimidation tactics and receive praise for doing so.

I am an ex paratrooper and I know many Christian veterans who are struggling with watching this mess unfold and doing nothing. My first allegiance is to Christ. I am willing to do whatever His will is concerning this matter even if it means watching our country fall to communism. Unfortunately as a nation we have chosen the path that we are on and God had been no where near us for a long time.

That said, is there a responsibility as an American Christian to bear arms to defend our freedom in such a time as this? I have asked this question to many a preacher and have never received a straight answer. I am not looking for a green light to follow my flesh. What I would like is a Biblical answer in relation to the God given right to bear arms and free speech that we were granted by our founding fathers. Do we have a Christian responsibility to stand up against tyranny?

Like I said my first allegiance is to Christ. I just don't want to watch my country fall to communism having not done anything to try and stop it if I should have. I hope this makes sense.

I also totally agree that prayer is the greatest weapon that we have, and that is has been the most under utilized.

Thank You,

REPLY FROM BROTHER CLOUD

Following is an edited edition of my reply to this man:

I appreciate the response. You have expressed the issue very well. There is not one answer to your question for everyone, but Scripture gives us some clear truths that provide light in these times.

Following is how I understand the practicality of the Bible's teaching for today:

1. Americans do still have some rights to bear arms, and they should be used to defend life and property insofar as possible. Legal firearms have stopped multitudes of rapes, beatings, thefts, and murders. Legal firearms have stopped would-be mass murderers, even in church services. Many churches have appointed armed guards within the membership, and that is wise. The citizens of most nations today don't have this liberty, and Americans should use it as long as they have it. But beyond that, what can be done with arms? Shall conservative Christian militias go to war with Antifa, BLM, *et al*? You know very well that it would only make matters worse and it would be very short-lived. The U.S. government today is much more likely to side with Antifa/BLM than any Christian militia.

2. We do have some free speech, and it is a precious, hard-won right that we should use. I would love to see more pastors and Christians speak out publicly to give a biblical perspective on prevailing issues. In my experience, most pastors are hiding and not even speaking out much when they are behind the pulpit itself. They are truly the silent majority. Some write to me and say, "I support what you are saying, but please don't use my name." Cowards! I thank the Lord for men who are outspoken, but they are certainly in the extreme minority. Speak out for truth and righteousness, brethren!

3. We have the responsibility to obey God when man's laws contradict God's. "Then Peter and the *other* apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men" (Ac. 5:29). Many churches exercised that responsibility during the coronavirus lockdowns when some state governments put Walmart before churches and tried to force unreasonable conditions on the assemblies. We have to be ready to pay the price, of course, but this is legitimate Christian duty.

4. Personally, I'm not going to spend time with demonstrations and sign waving and politicking, because God has given me much more important things to do, as I have described in the report "Churches Must Address Fundamentals, Not Symptoms." I'm going to spend my fleeting time in prayer, lots of prayer, serious Bible reading/study/meditation, preaching/teaching

God's Word, building New Testament churches, building up godly homes, discipling youth, training preachers, preaching the gospel. There is infinitely more life-changing, community-changing, nation-changing power in those things than standing on a corner holding a sign or waving the flag or going face-to-face with BLM. Others can do those things.

5. We have to understand the times. "And of the children of Issachar, *which were men* that had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do" (1 Chronicles 12:32). The 21st century is not the 18th. Taking up arms as a patriot in the 1770s was an entirely different thing than taking up arms today. I am convinced that it is God who is judging America, and I have no intention of fighting against God. We could wish that America could be split into two parts, one that holds to its founding principles and the other a leftist state, but it's nothing going to happen. It's not time to build nations; it's time to build churches. It's time to focus like a laser on the imminent return of Christ and let loose of this old world and be ready to go, to make sure we are not like Lot's wife, whose heart was so attached to Sodom that she could not bear to leave it. "And that, knowing the time, that now *it is* high time to awake out of sleep: for now *is* our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light. Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to *fulfil* the lusts *thereof*" (Romans 13:1-14).

6. The America of today, and the American government of today, is not that of the Founding Fathers; it is not that into which I was born in 1949; it is not even that which I served in the U.S. Army in the late 1960s and early 1970s, including a tour in Vietnam. I love America and thank the Lord for what it has stood for and for the blessings and liberties I have enjoyed as an American citizen. The flag still thrills me, but I can't wave it very passionately today. It stands for too many things that are evil and wrong-headed: abortion on demand, moral license, homosexual rights (the Supreme Court strengthened those rights just recently), socialism (even the Republicans are redistribution-of-wealth socialists, as far as I'm concerned), the welfare state, vast corruption and insane waste, unsustainable debt, speech control (is there

freedom of speech in the public schools, law enforcement, the military?), among others. **America's real problem is not systemic racism, it is systemic wickedness.**

7. There has been a militarization of the city, county, state, and federal police forces in the last few decades that I find disturbing. I realize that the drug phenomena and the increased violence of American society has required corresponding changes in law enforcement, but when you see hyper-armed, militarized agents make heavy-handed arrests of non-violent people (such as for possession and distribution of some supplement or for simple possession of an illegal firearm or for disobeying a medical lockdown order or for homeschooling or for trumped up charges of child abuse or for assisting a mother who fled the country to protect her daughter from being forced to live with a lesbian--the Lisa/Isabella Miller Case--and other things). Why dress like and act like SS troopers in such cases? Consider the intimidating SWAT personnel who lined up against a peaceful "reopen California" demonstration in May that was composed of families in Sacramento, California, who were rebuked by a former Marine.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Psdn92cjiiq>

8. There has been increase in unlawful harassment of street preachers and churches by law enforcement in many parts of the country. Many cases occurred during the coronavirus lockdown. A recent example occurred at a Black Lives Matter protest in Clovis, New Mexico, where police threatened to arrest preachers for "inciting a riot" when all they were doing was preaching that Jesus Christ desires to save all men of all colors. The inciters are the BLM crowd, not preachers of the gospel! We have reported many cases like this, including actual arrests of law-abiding street preachers.

<https://reformationcharlotte.org/2020/06/17/no-gospel-allowed-at-black-lives-matter-protest-cops-try-to-make-evangelists-leave/>

9. I hope you will treat the report "Churches Must Address Fundamentals, Not Symptoms" seriously and not just skim it. We must address the fundamentals, and God has given us the resources to do so: the frightful condition of the churches, the spiritually weak condition of the families, the issue of a regenerate church

membership, the issue of the weak biblical character of the churches, the general lack of skill in handling God's Word, the prevailing worldliness in homes and churches, the lack of vision and real passion for evangelism in most churches. You mentioned prayer and said it is our greatest weapon and it has been under utilized. But this needs to be *emphasized* and *corrected*. Until our individual believers, our homes, and our churches are the *prayer warriors* they need to be, we shouldn't be thinking about anything else. I doubt that there are 50 truly praying churches in America. (A true praying church must not only be engaged in a lot of prayer, but it must be on "praying ground," which requires a holy, pilgrim, separated lifestyle.)

I am trying to say that these are the things that most of God's people are not doing very well, yet these are the very things God has told us to do. Any fleshly person can sit around and grumble about Antifa and BLM and socialism and coronavirus, etc., but only spiritual people can do the things God has told us to do that would make a real difference. You mentioned soldiers, firefighters, medics, and police. They usually take their jobs very seriously and do their very best, train hard, seek to improve. We need that type of energy focused on spiritual things, but very few members of fundamental Baptist churches are doing this. For the most part, they love sports and fishing and hunting and guns and barbecue and video games and politics and their jobs and Rush Limbaugh and Fox News and Breitbart, but they don't have *that passion* for the Bible and prayer and holiness and ministry. A few do. But a few real disciples in the midst of a bunch of half-hearted and lukewarm is not a New Testament church. It is a mixed multitude of little power.

10. Unless you are a very, very unusual Christian today, you would do well to follow the counsel in the recent article "[For Those Frustrated by Coronavirus and Rioting.](#)"

- (1) Take a fast from secular news and political commentary.
- (2) Cut your social media time way, way down, if not cut it off entirely, and cut your entertainment time way, way down.
- (3) Take all of those precious hours that you gain from cutting way down on political news and social media

and playing and spend them *immersing* yourself in the Word of God and prayer.

Following are some suggestions for this:

Go through the course [Understanding the Bible for Yourself](#). Make your own timeline of Bible history. After that, read the entire Bible twice in six months, which requires about 14 chapters a day. Engage in memorizing and meditating on Bible verses. Increase the time you spend in intercessory prayer and in seeking wisdom from God. Make sure you are having daily family prayer. Get a prayer partner and meet daily for prayer, or as regularly as possible. Spend more time in congregational prayer. These kind of things bring real change, to individuals, to homes, to churches, to nations.

Let's stop fighting spiritual battles with weapons of the flesh.

How is your prayer life? How is your home? How are your children doing? How is your church doing? How many are hearing the gospel by your efforts?

I would urge you to focus on these things like a laser and up your game in these matters no matter where you might currently be.

More than paratroopers and SWAT, America needs real Christian soldiers. Paul was a special forces spiritual soldier, and he said, "Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample" (Philippians 3:17).



Black Lives Matter has a pro-Marxist agenda to tear down traditional America and replace it with a socialist state. Its platform calls for remaking the current U.S. political system, end to capitalism, collective ownership of property, redistribution of wealth, universal basic income, slashing military spending by 50%, and ending all aid to Israel. It is only one of countless organizations and movements with similar agendas. A large portion of the Democratic party today shares that agenda. The "old" America, as reflected in the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights and as represented by its Founding Fathers, is the target. Their "useful idiots" aside, these people have proven that they will go to any lengths, tell any lie, commit any violence, break any law, make any alliance toward destroying traditional America. They only tear down; they never build up. They cannot point to a showcase nation or community built upon Black Lives Matter or Leftist principles that has better justice, equality, economic opportunity, and liberty than America.

But these things are only symptoms, and God's people should be wiser than to target symptoms. Let the conservative Right fight "the Left." Rush Limbaugh, Shawn Hannity, Daniel Horowitz, Ben Shapiro, George Will, Thomas Sowell, Michael Savage, Dennis Prager, Ann Counter, Matt Drudge, Steve Bannon, Mark Levin, Walter Williams, Laura Ingraham, Tucker Carlson, Dan Bongino, Jeanine Pirro, Breitbart, RealClearPolitics, the American Spectator, Blaze, Fox News, the National Review, the Daily Beast, Human Events, Newsmax, Townhall, *et al.* America has a lively conservative voice that does not exist in most other places, and we are thankful for it.

But God has told us what this age is all about and what His people are to be doing. It is the church age. It is Christ's Great Commission age. God is calling out a people for His name from among the Gentiles (Acts 15:14). They will bring glory to Him through all ages (Ephesians 3:21). The calling out is by means of global

gospel preaching, as Christ commanded (Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15; Luke 24:46-48; Acts 1:8).

We also know from God's Word that the hour is late. On every hand we "see the day approaching."

THE HISTORY OF CONSERVATIVE CHRISTIAN SOCIAL/POLITICAL ACTION

Bible-believing churches have been focused on symptoms and have fought spiritual battles with carnal weapons since the 19th century.

Charles Finney (1792-1875) had a major role in turning the churches from Christ's Great Commission to social reform. "In the nineteenth century, the evangelical movement became increasingly identified with political causes--from abolition of slavery and child labor legislation to women's rights and the prohibition of alcohol. In a desperate effort at regaining this institutional power and the glory of 'Christian America' (a vision that is always powerful in the imagination, but, after the disintegration of Puritan New England, elusive), the turn-of-the century Protestant establishment launched moral campaigns to 'Americanize' immigrants, enforce moral instruction and 'character education.' Evangelists pitched their American gospel in terms of its practical usefulness to the individual and the nation" (Michael Horton, "The Disturbing Legacy of Charles Finney," monergism.com).

This program continued to gain steam in the days of Billy Sunday in the early 20th century. His message focused on Christianizing America. He advertised his campaigns as "civic clean-ups." He preached against dancing, card playing, gambling, theater-going, commercial dishonesty, drinking, not just for the sanctification of individual believers and churches, but for the conversion of America. Sunday's preaching and campaigning was a major force in the passage of the 18th Amendment in 1919, prohibiting the manufacture, transportation, and sell of intoxicating liquor. He invited his hearers to become better Americans and to make America a better country. He said, "Do you want God's blessing on you, your home, your church, your nation, on New York? If you do, raise your hands. ... How many of you men and women will jump to your feet and come down and say, Bill, here's my hand for God, for home, for my native land, to live and conquer for Christ? ... Come on down

and take my hand against booze, for Jesus Christ, for your flag" ("Era of the Evangelist," Christianity.com, Apr. 28, 2010; William McLoughlin, *Modern Revivalism*, p. 434).

The program of social reform toward the Christianization of America has continued among fundamentalists. It received great impulse with the founding of the American Council of Christian Churches in 1941 by Carl McIntire. Participants included T.T. Shields in Canada, the General Association of Regular Baptist Churches led by Robert Ketcham, Bible Presbyterian Churches, the Independent Fundamental Churches of America (IFCA), the Associated Gospel Churches, and the World Baptist Fellowship. The ACCC was supported by Bob Jones, Sr., Francis Schaeffer, Jerry Falwell, Tim LaHaye, and a great many other fundamentalist leaders, both non-denominational and Baptist.

Not content to fight against theological liberalism and heresies in churches and schools, to preach the gospel and teach the Bible and disciple believers, McIntire increasingly became fixated on political action pertaining to pro-Americanism and anti-communism. McIntire determined that his calling was to lead a nation-building campaign to "save America."

The cause seemed to be right. McIntire's generation witnessed disturbing changes in American society and government. Beginning with President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal, there was an ever-increasing move toward socialism. The power of the federal government had been increasing dramatically since the end of the Civil War in 1865, but Roosevelt took it much farther. He claimed that men should be guaranteed "four freedoms" by the government: freedom of speech, freedom of worship, freedom from want, and freedom from fear. Thus he specifically put the government in the role of God in men's lives. In *The Rise of the Tyrant: Controlled Economy vs. Private Enterprise* (1945), McIntire rightfully warned that a centralized government that attempts to deliver men from want and fear is idolatrous and will have "tragic and far-reaching results." He rightfully warned that "America is in greater danger of losing her freedom today than at any time since the Declaration of Independence." Social forces such as feminism, abortion rights, and the "free love" unisex movement of the 1960s were turning American society upside down and removing the remnants of biblical influence. The Supreme Court removed prayer and Bible

reading from the public schools. Communists were infiltrating universities and government. Crime was exploding. America was embroiled in a self-inflicted military quagmire in Vietnam. The Cold War threatened to break out into World War III. International Communism was on the march. The League of Nations, followed by the United Nations, appeared as forerunners of a one-world government.

McIntire published reports warning of the inroads of socialism, etc. He created broad-based political alliances. He led public demonstrations. He sought for access to the White House and Congress. He raised money from millionaires regardless of their spiritual condition and doctrinal soundness. An example is J. Howard Pew, retired Sun Oil executive who was a member of the Federal Council of Churches, which McIntire had identified as enemy number one. McIntire's constant refrain was that if God's people don't rise up and become active in his alliance, "we are doomed," but, "If the Christian people of America will wake up and assert themselves, we can save our land" (*The Rise of the Tyrant*).

McIntire called for an alliance with Roman Catholicism. He said, "The chasm separating the Roman Catholic church from the Protestant church is a small one compared to that indefinitely large chasm which separates the modernists from the fundamentalists" (*Christian Beacon*, May 26, 1938). But that is nonsense. A false gospel is a false gospel; one type of false gospel is as dangerous as another; and God's people are forbidden to yoke together with false gospelers of any persuasion (Gal. 1:8; 2 Co. 6:14-18). McIntire worked closely with John T. Flynn, a Roman Catholic opponent of the New Deal and author of *The Road Ahead* (1949), which was publicized and sold by the ACCC. In fact, McIntire had secretly edited this book (Markku Ruotsila, *Fighting Fundamentalist*). McIntire also worked closely with and promoted the Roman Catholics William F. Buckley, Jr., Phyllis and Eleanor Schlafly, the founders of the Cardinal Mindszenty Foundation, as well as with Jewish Rabbi Benjamin Schultz.

Other influential Save America communist fighters who worked closely with McIntire were **Edgar Bundy** (Church League of America), **Billy James Hargis** (a Church of Christ preacher turned communist fighter, founder of the Christian Crusade), **Frederick Schwarz** (founder of the Christian Anti-Communism Crusade),

and **Robert Welch** (Unitarian founder of the John Birch Society).

There is no biblical authority for the ACCC or any ministry like this. There is no biblical authority for its parachurch organization, for its ecumenical alliances, for its focus on political action, for the identification of America with the kingdom of God. McIntire disobeyed clear Scripture in the pursuit of these pragmatic objectives (e.g., Ro. 16:17-18; 2 Co. 6:14-18; 2 Ti. 3:5; Jude 3; 2 John 7-11). "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in *them*; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean *thing*; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty" (2 Co. 6:14-18).

Carl McIntire's ecumenical "save America" movement was superseded by **Jerry Falwell's Moral Majority** in the 1970s and 1980s with an even broader coalition. Falwell, associated with the Baptist Bible Fellowship International (BBFI), began his political action campaign with a series of "I Love America" rallies in 1976.

But far from being saved by conservative political action, America has descended deeper into spiritual and moral darkness with each passing decade since the founding of the ACCC. They have lost the vast majority of their battles. They lost the battle against Roosevelt's New Deal and Johnson's Great Society War on Poverty, the battle against pulling America out of the United Nations and against evolution taught in public schools. They lost the battle *against* prayer and Bible reading being removed from public schools, followed by the battle *for* it being restored. They lost the battle against the federalization of the public school system and the formation of the Department of Education, the battle against sex education in the public schools, the battle against the radicalization of the universities, the battle against the removal of the Ten Commandments from courtrooms, the battle against the politicization of the

courts, the battle against the repeal of prohibition, the battle to overturn *Roe v. Wade*, etc.

STOP FOCUSING ON SYMPTOMS AND ADDRESS ROOT ISSUES

The only real solution for America's ills is to address the root problem. Cancer is not healed by addressing symptoms.

The root of America's ills is the condition of the nation's churches: unregeneracy, unqualified leaders, cowardly leaders, worldliness, carnality, lukewarmness, the priority of tradition over God's Word, pragmatism, heresy, and apostasy, worldly homes, worldly youth. That wretched condition has become the status quo in vast numbers of "fundamentalist," "Baptist," "Bible-believing," etc., churches. America doesn't fear God because her churches do not preach and live the fear of God.

The root problem is addressed by doing *exactly* what God has told His people to do in this present time, which is to build biblical churches as the pillar and ground of the truth and to focus on the church's great business, which is thorough-going discipling and aggressive world evangelism. This the mandate that the risen Christ emphasized by repetition (Mt. 28:18-20; Mr. 16:15-16; Lu. 24:44-48; Ac. 1:8) and which we see the first Christians obeying in Acts and the Epistles.

Where did the apostles and early churches get heavily in politics? They kept their attention on doing what Christ told them to do, and they turned the world upside down.

STOP FIGHTING SPIRITUAL BATTLES WITH CARNAL WEAPONS

"For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (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 10:3-5).

"For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in

high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand" (Ephesians 6:12-13).

God's Word plainly tells us that our warfare is not against flesh and blood. Conservative political action and conspiratorial hand-wringing won't defeat "spiritual wickedness in high places."

But we do have weapons against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world.

Consider some of the mighty weapons that God has given His people. These are the things we need to focus on like a laser.

THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH. The New Testament church is the "house of God, the pillar and ground of the truth" (1 Timothy 3:15). "I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it" (Matthew 16:18). The greatest need of any nation is New Testament churches. No other institution can replace it. Only the New Testament church can proclaim the gospel, baptize the saved, disciple and discipline the saints, build godly homes, shine as a light of righteousness and truth in the darkness. We are talking about churches after the fashion of Acts 2:41-42; 1 Corinthians 5:7-8; Ephesians 4:11-16; Philippians 2:14-16; 1 Thessalonians 1:9-10; and 1 Peter 2:5. What black communities need above all else is New Testament churches. The lack of such churches is their fundamental problem. The same is true for every community. Let's not get sidetracked to lesser things. Conservative political action can't build a New Testament church. The vast majority of prominent conservative political activists don't have a clue about the New Testament church.

THE BIBLICAL FAMILY. The biblical family is the family as it was founded by God at the dawn of man's history. (We don't use the term "nuclear family," as this is a sociological, evolutionary construct.) The biblical family is one man and one woman living in holy matrimony (Genesis 2:20-25; Matthews 19:3-6). Biblical marriage sanctifies the sexual relationship (Hebrews 13:4). Children produced within holy matrimony are given by God for the purpose of producing a godly seed. "And did not he make one? Yet had he the residue of the spirit. And wherefore one? That he might seek a godly seed. Therefore take heed to your spirit, and let none deal

treacherously against the wife of his youth” (Malachi 2:15). The New Testament church and the biblical family are designed to work in harmony. The church builds up the family, and the family builds up the church. God’s instruction for godly homes is given to churches that the churches might use that instruction to build such homes (Ephesians 5:22 - 6:4; Colossians 3:18-21; Titus 2:3-5). All of the instruction of the New Testament epistles is useful in building godly homes. There is nothing that America needs more than New Testament churches and godly homes. This must be our chief priority.

REGENERATION. When people are truly saved, they are changed, but it happens one-by-one, but by groups. A spiritually powerful church begins with a regenerated membership. It is described as a spiritual house made of living stones (1 Peter 2:5). A vast number of churches have been incredibly careless about this matter, adopting cheap salesmanship evangelistic methodologies, accept empty “professions” and “sinner’s prayers” in the place of supernatural conversion, accepting people into membership without clear evidence of a born again experience, being careless in dealing with children about salvation. In about 1980 I wrote “Does Salvation Make a Difference?” to warn about this. I saw it in the Southern Baptist church in which I grew up, and I have seen it permeate fundamental Baptists and others. A church that really wants to make a difference in America will get back to the Bible in the matter of a regenerate church membership.

THE BIBLE. The mightiest spiritual weapon God has given to men is the divinely-inspired Scripture, which is “quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and *is* a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart” (Hebrews 4:12). A spiritually powerful church is a church immersed in the Bible. It is a church that aims for every member--from the youngest to the oldest--to be an effectual, serious Bible student, able to study it and interpret it for himself or herself, able to apply it to his or her daily life, able to use it to be led in God’s will, able to use it for spiritual and moral protection. It is a church that not only has a Bible institute, it *IS* a Bible institute. A church that really wants to make a difference in America will double down on immersing the people in the quick and powerful Word of God. And it must be the right Bible, for all Bibles are not created equal. It must be a Bible based on the right

Hebrew and Greek text and a Bible translated by the formal literal method. In English, the most powerful Bible is the King James or Authorized Version. It has been changing lives, building homes and churches, and blessing nations for 400 years. Loosey-goosey versions like the New Living and the Message and the Good News are powerless, and even literal versions based on the critical or modern Greek text are corrupt and therefore lacking in life-changing power.

HOLY, PILGRIM, SEPARATED LIVING. A spiritually powerful church is a holy church, which is the opposite of a worldly church. “That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world” (Philippians 2:15). “For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world” (Titus 2:11-12). “But ye *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light” (1 Peter 2:9). Spiritual power is not in being conformed to the world around us, it is in living as holy pilgrims in a foreign world and thus shining the light of a holy God into a dark society. Spiritual power is in being different, which is the opposite of the contemporary philosophy. And we aren’t talking about external hypocrisy; we are talking true Spirit-wrought holiness that changes people from the inside out. Christ described true disciples as those who “hunger and thirst after righteousness” and are “pure in heart” (Matthew 5:6, 8). We should ask, then, “What do our church members hunger and thirst for?” What are they passionate about? What do they love to do? What about the fathers? the mothers? the youth? the elderly? A church that really wants to make a difference in America will focus on holy, pilgrim, separated living and will make major warfare on worldliness in all of its aspects.

ZEALOUS SPIRITUAL GROWTH. A spiritually-powerful, community influencing, nation-impacting church is a church that is zealous for spiritual growth, which is the opposite of a half-hearted, lukewarm church. “And beside this, GIVING ALL DILIGENCE, ADD to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly

kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you, and ABOUND, they make *you that ye shall* neither *be* barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins” (1 Peter 1:5-9). A church that really wants to make a difference in America will focus on zealous spiritual growth and make war on half-heartedness, lukewarmness, nominal, prayerless, powerless, never-progressing, complacent, “Sunday morning” Christianity.

THE GOSPEL. A spiritually powerful church is a gospel preaching church. “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith” (Romans 1:16-17). A vast number of churches have grown very lax in evangelism. There is no campaign, plan, push. There is no burden and zeal. It is done by rote. There is little prayer for souls. A church that really wants to make a difference in America will get back to the gospel, really get itself on fire for evangelism.

PRAYER. A spiritually powerful church is a praying church. “And they continued stedfastly in PRAYERS”

(Acts 2:42). “ I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, *and* giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and *for* all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty” (1 Timothy 2:1-2). “Pray without ceasing. ... Brethren, pray for us” (1 Thessalonians 5:17, 25).

A church that really wants to make a difference in America will get back to prayer, serious prayer, fervent prayer, persistent prayer, targeted prayer, prayer in God’s will, real prayer in the services, real prayer meetings, multiple prayer meetings, 24-hour prayer meetings, prayer meetings before services, individual prayer, family prayer, prayer partners, prayer chains, prayer with fasting. Prayer will be a major, major focus. It will be a way of life. The people will be taught how to pray effectively. They will be reminded constantly of the importance of prayer. Oh, the power of prayer! There’s power to change individuals, homes, churches, communities, and nations.

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21 Steps To A Stronger Church For The 21st Century

By David W. Cloud

In a time when the average Baptist church is getting steadily, shockingly weaker, moving farther down the contemporary path with each passing year, we are intent on moving in a much stronger direction, and we are thankful for the churches that we know of personally that are on the same path. We have no intention of following the crowd, and we are not afraid of being in the minority.

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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?



ANOTHER CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP MUSICIAN

DECLARES ATHEISM (Friday Church News Notes, May 29, 2020, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- Jon Steingard of the Christian rock band Hawk Nelson has declared on Instagram that he no longer believes in God. This follows a similar statement in August 2019 by Marty Sampson, song writer and worship leader for Hillsong. Steingard says, "After growing up in a Christian home, being a pastor's kid, playing and singing in a Christian band, and having the word 'Christian' in front of most of the things in my life--I am now finding that I no longer believe in God." He said that he did not enjoy going to church, reading the Bible, praying to God, or worshipping God, and that renouncing God is "refreshing and a weight being lifted." These are the words of a man who has professed faith in Christ and played around with the things of Christ without knowing Christ in born again salvation. I didn't enjoy going to church, reading the Bible, and praying before I was saved at age 23. **Steingard said that many of his acquaintances share his doubts.** "I am stunned by the number of people in visible positions within Christian circles that feel the same way as I do. Like me, they fear losing everything if they're open about it." These hypocrites are using Christ only for personal profit! As for atheism, it is

nonsense. There is no such thing. The Creator is written in man's very conscience and soul. Man knows there is a God and he knows he is going to meet God. The evidence for God is written on the face of the entire creation, from the DNA of the living cell to the infinite starry universe. All bears evidence of breathtaking Intelligent design! The brilliant apostle Paul, who was an enemy of Christ before his supernatural conversion, said that the creation leaves all men "without excuse" (Romans 1:20). In typical "atheist" fashion, Steingard complains on his social media that God should not allow bad things to happen in this world, etc., etc., as if weak little man, who has created nothing, who comes into this world as a helpless infant, who is dependent upon God for "life, and breath, and all things," can be the judge of his Creator. It is ridiculous. Steingard questions the goodness of God, but the goodness of God was settled forever at the cross of Calvary when the Son of God suffered and died in the place of wicked sinners, thus demonstrating the love of God before the whole creation, irrefutably, permanently, eternally. Steingard asks, "Why does Jesus have to die for our sins?" It is obvious that he has never understood even the ABCs of theology and soteriology. He doesn't understand the cross, because he doesn't understand God's holiness and justice and the wickedness of man's sin against his Creator. He doesn't understand the love of God, because he does not understand the awful righteousness of God. What ignorance! Yet he has no shame to reveal his gross ignorance before the world. Of course, such things as God's holiness and justice are typically downplayed in the world of CCM.



THE EXCEEDINGLY DANGEROUS WATERS OF CONTEMPORARY CHRISTIAN MUSIC (Friday Church News Notes, May 29, 2020, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - As we have warned so repeatedly and loudly, the waters of Contemporary Christian Music are exceedingly dangerous. There you can encounter any heresy, from charismatic mysticism to atheism. Once you enter those waters, there is no telling where you will end up. **In those waters you will not find the anchor of God's infallible Word.** Even those who hold theologically that the Bible is the infallible Word of God, have no infallible Bible in reality but rather are drifting on the seas of a multiplicity of contradicting versions and strange "dynamic equivalency" paraphrases like The Message. These are not the pure Word of God and are therefore not the solid basis for faith and the pure food for spiritual growth and the effectual armament for spiritual warfare. **In the waters of CCM, salvation is not loud and clear.** Most of the CCM artists don't even include a salvation testimony on their web sites and Facebook pages. Any flimsy "I believe in Jesus" will do. Generally speaking, there is

nothing about repentance, no clear definition of saving faith, no clear delineation of the true Christ from false ones, no clear understanding of justification and sanctification. Multitudes of young people have grown up in churches and made professions of faith of some sort, but they are not supernaturally born again. They love CCM because it represents the "live after your own lusts" way of life that they delight in, but it is apostasy. "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away *their* ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables" (2 Timothy 4:3-4). **Wake up, fundamental Baptists! Wake up, fundamentalist Bible churches!** Take a clear stand. Educate and warn your people, from the children to the elderly, about the great danger of Contemporary Christian Music, so called. Protect them. Pastors, don't you care for your flocks? Don't you fear the God to whom you are going to give an account?

[THE SATANIC ATTACK ON SACRED MUSIC](#) FREE VIDEO SERIES AND BOOK (Friday

Church News Notes, May 29, 2020, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - This new series consists of about 17 hours of teaching. It is packed with photos, graphics, audio and video clips. It consists of a video series as well as a major new book. The presentations are as follows: **I. Emotions and the Music Issue. II. The Spiritual Environment of the Music Issue: The Church and the Home. III. Bible Principles of Music** (available in the book; scheduled as a video for later in 2020). **IV. Music's Role in the Great Changes among Fundamental Baptists. V. Contemporary Music as a Bridge to Dangerous Waters. VI. Bob Jones, Majesty Music, New Reformed Calvinism, and the Gettys. VII. The Language of Music Styles. VIII. Lancaster's Role in the Downgrade of Fundamental Baptist Churches. IX. Congregational Singing and the CCM Issue. X. A Plea to Southern Gospel Music Fans** (scheduled for later in 2020). **XI. The Music Issue in a Nutshell.** We study the Bible's most important teachings on the issue of music. We look at the shocking 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 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 to every Christian home, every church. 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's sound in contemporary music. We learn how to discern soft rock. We examine vocal styles. 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 from 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 consider why we should be concerned about "little" changes in music. We show that trying to deal with the music issue alone won't save a church from apostasy. Unless we have spiritual churches and spiritual homes, the battle is already lost. [The Satanic Attack on Sacred Music](https://www.wayoflife.org/s3/satanic_attack_on_sacred_music.php): 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

REMARKABLE SOAP (Friday Church News Notes, May 29, 2020, www.wayoflife.org,



fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is from creationmoments.com, April 20, 2020: "We all know that oil and water don't mix. But both oil and water will mix with similar chemicals, especially by dissolving certain solids. Water molecules are polar--that is, they have negatively charged and positively charged ends. They easily dissolve most ionic compounds, as the positive and negative ions get separated, each being surrounded by polar water molecules. Non-polar covalent solids, like grease, will dissolve in oils, which have long non-polar organic molecular chains. Soap can function in both these worlds. It is ionic, so the positive ion--usually sodium or potassium--is easily dissolved by water. But the negative ion is left with its negative end, which wants to dissolve in water, but it contains a very long organic chain, which wants to dissolve in oil. Therefore, one end dissolves in water, and the other in the dirt on your hands, which is usually oily or greasy in nature. What's cool about this? Such a phenomenon could not have developed by chance. It is a feature that shows all the hallmarks of design by God. Ref: *Encyclopedia Britannica*, www.britannica.com/science/soap, accessed 3/30/2019."

CHURCHES THAT COULDN'T BLOW THE FUZZ OFF OF A

PEACH (Friday Church News Notes, May 29, 2020, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - "[With] churches that are so anemic and lacking in power that they couldn't blow the fuzz off a peach, is it any wonder that it appears that God has washed his hands of us. When we have to go back a hundred years or more to come up with a great prayer warrior, it's obvious that we are the least praying people of all times" (Lawrence Hufhand).

PESTILENCES AND LOCUSTS - IS IT THE END OF THE WORLD? (Friday Church News Notes, June 5, 2020, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The coronavirus pestilence has caused a reported 365,000 deaths worldwide. At the same time, a locust plague is devouring tens of thousands of acres of cropland and pasture in Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Iran, Pakistan, and India. "In Kenya, the locusts are eating in one day the amount of food consumed by all Kenyans in two days" ("Locusts attack crops," *The Times of India*, May 26, 2020). "Iranian officials say the current swarm has already attacked more than 494,000 acres of orchards and farmland in seven of Iran's 31 provinces, and caused damage exceeding \$7 billion" (*Israel Today*, May 23, 2020). But this is not the Day of the Lord. The wars and pestilences and locusts of the Day of



the Lord will make the current problems seem like a picnic. At the very beginning of the Day of the Lord one-fourth of the earth's population will die from "sword, hunger, and death [pestilence]" (Revelation 6:8). Currently the world population is 7.8 billion, so the death toll would be 2 BILLION! Global health care and emergency systems will be completely overwhelmed. The locusts of the Day of the Lord that are described in Revelation 9 are not ordinary locusts. They are demonic. They don't hurt the grass of the earth, they attack men with a tormenting sting like a scorpion, but the torment lasts five months and is so terrible that men will "desire to die, and death shall flee from them" (Revelation 9:5-6). There will be no vaccination. After this, one-third of the remaining world population will be killed by a rampaging two million-man army spewing out fire and brimstone (Revelation 9:16-19). That will be another 1.7 BILLION. And those are only some of the judgments that will fall on the earth during the Day of the Lord. The Lord Jesus Christ described it as follows: "For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened" (Mt. 24:21-22).

TWITTER EXECUTIVE WHO IS CENSORING PRESIDENT TRUMP IS MASSIVELY BIASED AGAINST CONSERVATIVE POLITICAL VIEWS (Friday Church News Notes, June 5, 2020, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Twitter's "Head of Site Integrity," Yoel Roth, boasts of being in charge



of "developing and enforcing" Twitter's censoring rules. Twitter placed a warning label on two of President Trump's tweets concerning mail-in balloting on May 26 and a tweet about the racial violence in Minneapolis on May 29. Roth should not be in charge of such things. He is a braggart who is incredibly biased against conservative thinking. "Roth has previously referred to Trump and his team as 'ACTUAL NAZIS,' mocked Trump supporters by saying that 'we fly over those states that voted for A RACIST TANGERINE for a reason.' ... Roth compared senior Trump adviser Kellyanne Conway to Nazi propagandist Joseph Goebbels" ("Twitter exec," *Fox News*, May 27, 2020). Roth has no business doing this type of thing, but, in fact, no one at Twitter should be censoring political speech. Who has appointed Twitter as a speech censor or "fact checker"? Our concern here is not politics. Our concern is freedom of speech in an age when the majority of social media is owned by a few extremely biased, activist-oriented, anti-Christian companies. If they will censor the President of the United States, they will definitely censor you.

FACEBOOK CEO CRITICIZES TWITTER'S WARNING LABELS ON TRUMP'S POSTS (Friday Church News Notes, June 5, 2020, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- Mark Zuckerberg went on record criticizing Twitter's decision to apply warning labels on President Donald Trump's posts. Zuckerberg told Fox News's "*The Daily Briefing*" that privately-owned digital platforms should not act as the 'arbiter of truth. We have a different policy than, I think, Twitter on this. I just believe strongly that Facebook shouldn't be the arbiter of truth of everything that people say online. Private companies probably shouldn't be, especially these platform companies, shouldn't be in the position of doing that.' To that we say a loud Amen! But Facebook has a massive censorship program. It has 15,000 "content moderators" who search through Facebook pages and determine whether or not the content is acceptable. In December 2018, a Facebook employee "leaked more than 1,000 pages of documents detailing its content moderation policies and how it polices speech on a global scale" ("After Facebook apologizes for ban," *Fox News*, Dec. 31, 2018). In December 2018, Facebook temporarily blocked Franklin Graham's Facebook account because in 2016 he supported North Carolina's state law HB2 that banned cities from requiring businesses to allow transsexuals to use the bathroom of their choice ("After Facebook apologizes for ban," *Fox News*, Dec. 31, 2018). One of Facebook's 15,000 "content moderators" judged this to be



“dehumanizing language,” which shows how much they have capitulated to the homosexual rights agenda. Simply to speak out in support of a state law is considered some kind of hate toward homosexuals. Graham said the social network is “trying to define truth. They’re making the rules and changing the rules. Truth is truth. God made the rules and His Word is truth. Actually, Facebook is censoring free speech. The free exchange of ideas is part of our country’s DNA. ... I think it was just really a personal attack towards me” (Ibid.). In December 2018, Facebook censored pro-life advocate Obianuju Ekeocha who had posted a link to an article about her pro-life work. Facebook said it “goes against our community standards” (“Big Problems with Big Tech,” *The Stream*, Dec. 20, 2018). Obviously Facebook’s “community standards” support the murder of unborn children. Recently Facebook and Instagram (owned by Facebook) have threatened to ban permanently the account of Olga Shirnina, a professional German-Russian translator and one of the world’s best colorizers of historic black-and-white photos. Why? For posting beautifully colorized photos of historic World War II events such as the iconic photo of Russian soldiers raising the Soviet flag over the Reichstag in Berlin in 1945. It’s a ridiculous policy, to say the least. Anyone who can’t distinguish properly between the promotion of violence and violent organizations today and the innocent posting of historic photos has no business in the role of censor.

CHINA FORCES SCHOOL TEACHERS TO RENOUNCE CHRISTIAN FAITH (Friday



Church News Notes, June 5, 2020, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from “Teachers Forced to Renounce,” *Bitter Winter*, May 18, 2020: “After President Xi Jinping stressed during a national education conference on September 10, 2018, that the fundamental task for education is to train builders and successors of socialism, the pressure on teachers to indoctrinate students increased significantly. In June last year, a primary school in the northeastern province of Heilongjiang threatened to dismiss a teacher after finding out that she also preached in a house church. She was told to stop doing that, or the government would punish the entire school. In August, authorities investigated a kindergarten teacher in Shenyang, the capital of the northeastern province of Liaoning, because she is a practicing Protestant. She was forced to quit her job. In November, Chen Qiufa, the CCP Committee secretary of Liaoning Province, demanded to suppress ‘religious influences’ on teachers and students at a meeting for Party members and provincial government officials. In December, at a training event for local Party members in Liaoning’s Anshan city, participants were demanded to carry out ‘four investigations’—scrutinize schools, teachers, students, and their actions—to ensure that no CCP members, teachers, and students in

kindergartens, primary or middle schools hold religious beliefs. Similar measures have been implemented at the end of last year in many counties and cities in the northeastern province of Heilongjiang and the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region. A teacher from the eastern province of Shandong told *Bitter Winter* that last July, local education departments carried out investigations targeting newly employed middle school teachers. The primary focus was to find out if they hold religious beliefs and support the Communist Party.”

LOVERS OF PLEASURES CHURCHES (Friday Church News Notes, June 5, 2020, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Paul’s prophecy of the last days in 2 Timothy 3 describes apostates as **“lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God”** (2 Ti. 3:4). This is a perfect description of last days society, which is pleasure mad. There has never been more economic prosperity and there have never been more avenues for pleasure. Even most professing Christians love pleasures more than God. There is some love of God, but there is more love of pleasure. Consider the test of time. How much of one’s time is spent on God compared with how much is spent on pleasures? Consider the test of money, energy, and enthusiasm. A great many Christians, even in the staunchest Bible-



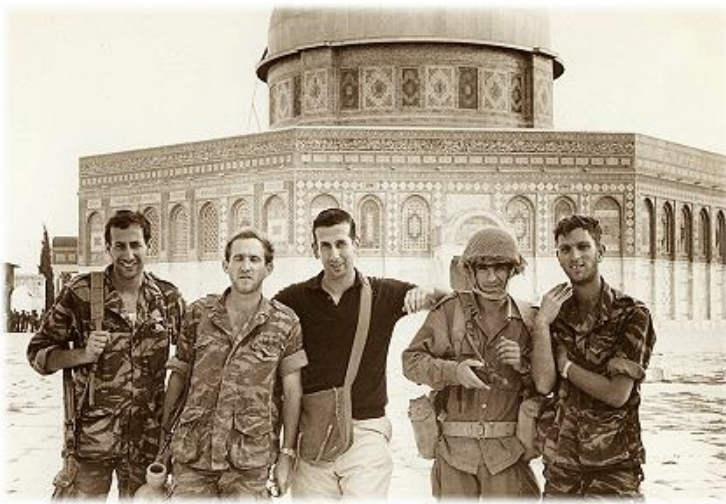
believing churches, are as sports mad as the secular crowd. Christian youth are as much in love with video games and rock & roll and hip hop and mature-rated movies and Facebook self-expression as the secular crowd. Consider the typical church's calendar, which is filled to the brim with entertainment, not only for children and teens, but also for the "senior citizens." Over the pleasure program is a thin veneer of God. Think of the average evangelical or even "fundamentalist" Christian home. There is a *little* prayer, a *little* Bible, a *little* evangelism, a *little* ministry, perhaps, but there is a *whole lot of* pleasure. This is accepted as normal Christianity, but it is actually apostasy.

WHAT IS WRONG WITH AMERICA? WHAT CAN WE DO? (Friday Church News Notes, June 12, 2020, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The root of America's problem is not politics or economics, it is sin. "Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people" (Proverbs 14:34). Racism isn't the problem. The Bible is color blind. According to the Bible, all men are children of Adam. There is only one race, and that is the human race. Skin colors are simple variations in genetic pigmentation (melanin). Skin color is skin color, but only the heart has moral and spiritual significance, and man's heart is universally corrupt. "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?" (Jeremiah 17:9). That is the white man's heart, the black man's heart, the brown man's heart, *et al.* The Bible doesn't specify a sin called "racism." It describes, rather, idolatry, hate, pride, envy, covetousness, theft, kidnapping,



murder, malignity, boasting, disobedience to parents, blasphemy, fornication, lying, false witness, and other such things. Jesus said that these come from man's heart and defile him (Matthew 15:18). All colors of men are made by God, all live and move and have their being in God, and all are accountable to God. The only thing that can change hearts is the gospel of Jesus Christ, and this is the business of the New Testament church, which is the only institution on earth that is called "the pillar and ground of the truth" (1 Timothy 3:15). The thing that made America strong once upon a time was New Testament churches, and the only thing that can help America today at the most fundamental level is strong New Testament churches. Yet even the churches that consider themselves to be staunch Bible-believing "fundamentalist," "Baptist," etc., are as weak as water, for the most part. They are party churches, not power churches, not prayer churches. They are entertaining the saints, not disciplining them, coddling them, not reproving them. They are so eager for members and pew sitters and tithers that they care almost nothing for maintaining a regenerate membership, though that is the first mark of a true New Testament church (Acts 2:41-42). The fathers aren't the spiritual leaders

of the homes. The mothers aren't the keepers of the home. The children aren't properly disciplined. The families are worldly. The youth are worldly. Even the elderly are worldly. The members aren't true pilgrims; they are settled down in the world, flowing along comfortably with the world. Just look at their social media. The pastors are so backslidden and cowardly that they accept this as the status quo, yet still consider their churches to be true churches. The only thing that can really help America is for Bible-believing churches to take the eternal Word of God seriously, stop playing games, stop partying, stop focusing on politics, shut down the gym and open up the prayer rooms, stop the feasting and start the fasting, start rebuking and disciplining sin, start building godly homes, start requiring *serious* Christianity of anyone who serves in *any* ministry, get serious about the requirements of church membership, get really zealous about getting the gospel to every soul as far afield as possible, training leaders, starting new churches, emphasizing the imminent return of Christ, preaching the judgment seat of Christ, caring more about God's feelings than man's, fearing God more than man. I'm very glad that I know of churches that are doing exactly this, and they are prospering, but they are in the very extreme minority.



ANNIVERSARY OF THE TEMPLE MOUNT CAPTURE

(Friday Church News Notes, June 12, 2020, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- On June 7, 1967, Israel recaptured the Temple Mount at the end of the Six-Day War at the hands of the 55th Paratrooper Brigade. Commander Mordechai Gur broke radio silence to announce, "The Temple Mount is in our hands!" It was the first time in nearly 2,000 years that Israel controlled the real estate where her ancient temples stood. The second temple was destroyed in AD 70 by the Roman legions under the general Titus. The Six-Day War recaptured not only the Temple Mount, but also Samaria and the Golan Heights (ancient Bashan) overlooking the Sea of Galilee. The return of Israel to her land in an unregenerate state is necessary for the preparation for Daniel's 70th Week, which begins with a covenant with the Antichrist by a spiritually-blind Israel and the building of the third temple, which will be desecrated by the Antichrist when he presents himself as God and demands global worship. "And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the

abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:) Then let them which be in Judea flee into the mountains. ... For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be" (Mt. 24:15, 16, 21). Revelation 11 describes the measuring of the third temple and the preaching of the two prophets of God during the first half of the Antichrist's reign.

A PRAYING CHURCH IN THE PAST (Friday Church News Notes, June 12, 2020, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- In my experience, fundamental Baptist churches today are typically not praying churches. A mid-week prayer meeting in which the people actually pray is rare. Special prayer meetings before the services and before Bible conferences and "revivals" is exceedingly rare. And if a church does have real prayer meetings, they are poorly attended. Metropolitan Tabernacle of London, England, during Charles Spurgeon's pastorate (1854-1882) is an example of a praying church. Thousands were saved with changed lives as evidence. The preaching was powerful and the

overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate" (Da. 9:27). "When ye therefore shall see the

church was very aggressive in evangelism (e.g., street preaching, aggressive tract distribution, 27 Sunday Schools and Ragged Schools ministering to over 8,000 children with 612 teachers). But Spurgeon attributed the life-changing power largely to prayer. "Spurgeon regarded the prayer meeting as 'the most important meeting of the week.' He often said that it was not surprising if churches did not prosper, when they regarded the prayer meeting as of so little value that one evening in the week was made to suffice for a feeble combination of service and prayer meeting. ... A.T. Pierson, who ministered at Tabernacle during Spurgeon's last illness, said, 'This Metropolitan Tabernacle is a house of prayer most emphatically ... prayer is almost ceaselessly going up. When one meeting is not in progress, another is. ... There are prayer meetings before preaching, and others after preaching. ... No marvel that Mr. Spurgeon's preaching has been so blessed. He himself attributes it mainly to the prevailing prayers of his people'" (*Wonders of Grace: Original testimonies of converts during Spurgeon's early years*, p. 14). Spurgeon warned about the prayerlessness that characterized many of the Baptist churches of his day and he attributed the "Downgrade" in doctrine in the Baptist Union to the weak spiritual condition of the churches. He wrote, "Are churches in a right condition when they have only one meeting for prayer in a week, and that a mere skeleton? Churches which have prayer-meetings several times on the Lord's-day, and very frequently during the week, yet feel their need of more prayer; but what can be said of those who very seldom practice united supplication? Are there few

conversions? Do the congregations dwindle? Who wonders that this is the case when the spirit of prayer has departed?" (*The Sword and the Trowel*, Aug. 1887).

A PRAYING CHURCH TODAY

(Friday Church News Notes, June 12, 2020, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- Northside Baptist Church in Adelaide, South Australia, was founded in 1977 by Ian Western. In 2015, Ian's son, Simeon, was called to be the pastor. In recently communication with me, he said, "NBC was built on prayer for the Holy Spirit's power for witness and tireless soul-winning efforts. Repentance and faith were emphasized in the preaching of the Gospel in distinction from some of the 'quick' methods that were common at the time. One of the steps I have sought to take, with God's help, to strengthen the church since becoming pastor is to emphasize prayer. In addition to our regular Wed. night prayer meeting, we now have a prayer meeting before soul-winning on Saturday and a Sunday afternoon prayer meeting at 5pm for an hour before the evening service. We have a weekly prayer chain that runs from 8pm Sat night to 8am Sun morning. People commit to an hour

of prayer in their homes in that 12 hour period. We have regular all nights of prayer, about one every two months on average. We divide the night into three-hour segments and have teams come and pray throughout the night. We usually assign a prayer leader and we use a prayer guide. We usually have a key theme we focus the prayer night around (e.g. lost souls, revival, missions)." (This communication was in the context of material I am gathering for the last chapter of our new book *The History and Heritage of Fundamentalism and Fundamental Baptists*.)

PRAY FOR AMERICA (Friday Church News Notes, June 12, 2020, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- Prayer is the only thing that will have a significant effect on America's terrible spiritual and moral condition. Almighty God, who is in control of all earthly authorities, has specifically instructed His people to pray for their governments. Surely, we can pray such a prayer in perfect faith that He will answer and help us. "I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet

and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty" (1 Timothy 2:1-2). God's Word says, "The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD, as the rivers of water: he turneth it whithersoever he will" (Proverbs 21:1). That goes for presidents and

congressmen and governors and mayors and justices, etc. Effectual prayer on the part of God's people will do far more for the nation than political activity. Forty years of conservative political action has gained what? A vilely immoral, bitterly divided nation. Where are the praying churches? We have a praying church, and I know some others. How about your church?

HUMAN LIBERTY AND THE LIMITATION OF

GOVERNMENT POWER (Friday Church News Notes, June 12, 2020, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- "Ronald Reagan stated at St. John's University, NY, March 28, 1985: 'Government that is big enough to give you everything you want is more likely to simply take everything you've got.' Woodrow Wilson warned in New York, 1912: 'The history of Liberty is a history of limitations of governmental power, not the increase of it. When we resist, therefore, the concentration of power, we are resisting the powers of death, because concentration of power is what always precedes the destruction of human liberties'" (cited from William Federer, *Change to Chains: The 6,000 Year Quest for Control*).

FAMILIES OF GEORGE FLOYD AND TRAYVON MARTIN SPEAK OUT AGAINST DEFUNDING POLICE

(Friday Church News Notes, June 19, 2020, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The families of George Floyd and Trayvon Martin, two high-profile cases that have been used by Black Lives Matter, have come out in opposition of BLM's call for defunding the police. Trayvon was





shot to death in 2012 by George Zimmerman, a neighborhood watch volunteer. Trayvon's mother, Sybrina Fulton, who is running for county commissioner in Miami-Dade County, Florida, said, "I think we need more police. We need police with better standards, and police with better ethics and better work habits. I want residents to feel safe. I want to bridge the gap between the law enforcement and the community" ("Trayvon Martin's Mother," *Washington Examiner*, June 11, 2020). George Floyd was killed by a Minneapolis police officer who brutally knelt on the helpless man's neck for nearly nine minutes. George's brother, Philonise, told a House Judiciary Committee hearing on police accountability and *Fox News Sunday*, "What I would like is for all police around America to get their jobs and do it the right way, the correct way." Floyd family attorney Ben Crump added, "What we want is people from both sides of the aisle, people from communities of color, community partners to get with law enforcement and come up with solutions. That (defunding the police) has not come from Philonise Floyd's family or anybody working with us. We need to try and work together. We need to restructure and work together. This is not a black problem or a white problem. This is an American problem and the only way we can heal this country is by working together" ("Floyd family

attorney," *Fox26 Houston*, June 15, 2020).

THREE BLACK CONSERVATIVE AMERICAN VOICES (Friday Church News Notes, June 19, 2020, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - **HORACE COOPER**, Project 21 co-chair and the author of *How Trump is Making Black America Great Again* -- "There is a class of Americans whose entire livelihood is based on the existence of victims. If people got a good education, if people had great jobs, if people controlled their own lives, a whole large number of people [whose income is based on victimization] couldn't get that new auto, they couldn't go off to Aspen for their ski trip. There is a strong sentiment among the so-called problem-solving class to keep things as they are. We've spent \$22 trillion [on social spending] and all we've done is enriched the problem-solving class and we've not done the basic kinds of things that would be good for Americans black, white or brown. ... We had a president, a black man, a man who came from circumstances of struggle, rose up and got to be president. He is an example of what's possible in America. And instead of telling people that, he said, 'America,

it's a place where you don't have a chance.' He said, 'You can try all you want, but it's not going to work out for you.' And that has taken hope away" (*Tucker Carlson Tonight*, June 9, 2020). **DAVID CLARK**, retired sheriff of Milwaukee County, Wisconsin -- "The biggest losers in all this [the calls for defunding police] will be poor black people in crime-ridden ghettos. The police are the only thing standing between them and violent criminal predators. You'd have to loathe black people to do that to them. ... [It] isn't a serious public policy proposal, it's buffoonery. Police departments are already underfunded. Why not just turn policing into a 9 to 5, Monday through Friday operation? That is all they'll have money for. The first thing we need to do is a self-examination of our black community. Leave white men out of this for now. Look at the cultural dysfunction, the growing underclass, the ineffective parenting, the fatherless homes, the school failure, dropping out of school early, joining gangs, drug and alcohol abuse, teenagers having kids. ... We're going to burn the United States and call for huge policy changes from an anomaly?" (*WorldNetDaily*, June 8, 2020). **WALTER E. WILLIAMS**, professor of economics at George Mason University -- "While it might



not be popular to say in the wake of the recent social disorder, the true plight of black people has little or nothing to do with the police or what has been called 'systemic racism.' Instead, we need to look at the responsibilities of those running our big cities. Some of the most dangerous big cities are: St. Louis, Detroit, Baltimore, Oakland, Chicago, Memphis, Atlanta, Birmingham, Newark, Buffalo and Philadelphia. The most common characteristic of these cities is that for decades, all of them have been run by liberal Democrats. Some cities--such as Detroit, Buffalo, Newark and Philadelphia--haven't elected a Republican mayor for more than a half-century. On top of this, in many of these cities, blacks are mayors, often they dominate city councils, and they are chiefs of police and superintendents of schools. Democratic-controlled cities have the poorest-quality public education despite their large, and growing, school budgets. Consider Baltimore, Maryland. In 2016, in 13 of Baltimore's 39 high schools, not a single student scored proficient on the state's math exam. In six other high schools, only 1% tested proficient in math. Only 15% of Baltimore students passed the state's English test. That same year in Philadelphia only 19% of eighth-graders scored proficient in math, and 16% were proficient in reading. In Detroit, only 4% of its eighth-graders scored proficient in math, and 7% were proficient in reading. It's the same story of academic disaster in other cities run by Democrats. ... White liberals and black politicians focus most of their attention on what the police do, but how relevant is that to the overall tragedy? According to Statista, this year, 172 whites and 88

blacks have died at the hands of police. To put police shootings in a bit of perspective, in Chicago alone in 2020 there have been 1,260 shootings and 256 homicides with blacks being the primary victims. That comes to one shooting victim every three hours and one homicide victim every 15 hours. Three people in Chicago have been killed by police. If one is truly concerned about black deaths, shootings by police should figure way down on one's list--which is not to excuse bad behavior by some police officers" ("The True Plight of Black Americans," *Townhall*, June 10, 2020).

POWERLESS CHURCHES HAVE PRODUCED A WICKED NATION (Friday Church News Notes, June 19, 2020, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)



- America's fundamental problem is not systemic racism; it is systemic wickedness. And we are convinced that the root problem is the nation's corrupt, worldly, lukewarm churches. That is the root problem in the black communities and in every community. "Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away" (2 Timothy 3:5). "Nevertheless I have *somewhat* against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen,

and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent" (Revelation 2:4-5). **Since the church is the pillar and ground of the truth (1 Timothy 3:15), the New Testament church is the most important institution on earth. The greatest need of every community and every nation is New Testament churches. Nothing can take its place.** But in fulfillment of Bible prophecy, the vast majority of churches today are entirely apostate. I think of Roman Catholic, Greek Orthodox, Unitarian, Seventh-day Adventist, Jehovah's Witness, Mormon, World Council of Churches and all of their affiliates, and many others. **What about "evangelicals"?** Most are leavened with rock & roll worldliness and cultural liberalism (they are friends with, and conformed to, the world, which is spiritual

adultery), charismatic and contemplative mysticism, nothing versions (e.g., The Message, the New Living, the Good News), textually corrupt versions (e.g., the NIV, the ESV), kingdom now theology, the social justice gospel, positivism and judge not-ism. They have renounced "separatism" even though it is a clear Bible doctrine. **But what about "fundamentalists"?** A few exceptions notwithstanding, most of the old non-denominational fundamentalist churches are New

Evangelical today. The fight is gone; lines are moving. The outspoken have become silent. The holy have become worldly. The black of an unhesitating stand for the truth of God's Word is blending into evangelical gray. **That leaves fundamental Baptists.** But they, too, *overall*, are morphing into a wishy-washy, "Baptist-flavored" evangelicalism. And most, in our experience, are **NEARLY POWERLESS.** They might still have the right Bible and be sound in doctrine and even have "separation" in their church covenant and still hold to sacred music. *But they are so pathetically powerless.* An older preacher, who founded and pastored a large church with a Bible college and has preached in hundreds of churches, said, "I'm sure I couldn't join 50 churches in America, and I'm being generous. Even many pastors who have [good] music and dress standards are weak and won't 'rock the boat' for anything. It's a sad day. Most of the churches that I could recommend are new works pastored by young men." Consider a simple test. How many churches in America could pass this very basic biblical test, and in truth the test should be much expanded. **(1) The test of conversions.** How many churches have regenerating power? A massive number of "Bible-believing"



churches are seeing frighteningly few life-changing, "turn around and go the other way," biblical conversions. If the baptismal waters are stirred, it is for children who, when they reach maturity, launch right out into the world, thus demonstrating their unregeneracy. **(2) The test of the family.** How many churches have the power to build godly homes? A New Testament church is tasked with building godly homes that can raise a godly seed for Christ. Yet a great number of Bible-believing churches don't have the power to make fathers who are the spiritual leaders of their homes and mothers who are the spiritual keepers of the home. Look at the worldly character of the homes. Look at the entertainment, the social media, the conversation, the priorities. Those homes are the products of churches. **(3) The test of discipleship.** How many churches

have the power to produce real disciples of Jesus Christ? God's Word plainly states that every church member is to be equipped to observe all things that Christ has commanded and to be presented perfect in Christ (Matthew 28:20; Col. 1:28). That is the work of a New Testament church, and if a church can't do what Christ has commanded there is something deeply, fundamentally wrong. Where are the churches that are taking this seriously and where this is really, effectually happening? **(4) The test of Bible skill.** How many churches have the power to produce passionate, skillful Bible students? The Bible plainly says that every saint is to be skillful in Scripture, both in ability to use it and to apply it to daily living so that he or she has a biblical testing mindset (Hebrews 5:12-14). **(5) The test of the youth.** How many churches have the power to win the hearts of youth to Christ and holiness? Youth are the product of the church and the home; neither institution can escape responsibility. I often ask pastors, "How many of the young people are on fire for the Lord? Are they passionate to become skillful Bible students? Are they surrendered to seeking God's perfect will by the standard of Romans 12?" Powerless churches have produced a wicked nation.

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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)
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