

O Timothy

“Keep that which is committed to thy trust...”

A Monthly Newsletter for Spiritual Protection and Edification

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“Contemporary worship music is designed to create an emotional experience, a sensual experience, as opposed to a sacred music style that edifies through the understanding. Toward this end, contemporary musicians use music with sensual dance rhythms, non-resolving chord cadences, repetition, electronic modulation, and other elements so that people will get carried away emotionally.” **Page 9.**

Digging in the Walls: A month's worth of news items, republished from Friday Church News Notes. **Page 14.**



THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY IS THE PARTY OF SLAVERY & SEGREGATION ~ By David Cloud

Politics is compromising, dirty business, at best, and we aren't flag wavers for any political party. None of them are godly, to say the least. But truth in history is important.

The Republican Party was formed largely on an anti-slavery platform. It emerged in 1854 to combat the expansion of slavery into American territories and new states. The theme was “Free Soil, Free Labor, Free Men,” with “Free Soil” referring to granting western land to farmers.

The first Republican Party president was Abraham Lincoln, who led the Union's war against the Southern Confederacy, a war that was not wholly about slavery, but slavery was a fundamental aspect.

In 1865, the Republicans passed the Thirteenth Amendment abolishing slavery.



In 1868, Republicans passed the Fourteenth Amendment granting citizenship to former slaves and equal protection under the law.

Under President Ulysses Grant (1868-1876), Republicans, backed by federal troops, sought to “Reconstruct” the South and enforce federal laws granting liberties to blacks. They formed “Union Leagues” and fought the Ku Klux Klan and other segregationist forces.

In 1872, the first seven black members of the United States Senate and House of Representatives were Republicans.

In 1873, Democrats won control of the House of Representatives at the federal level and formed “Redeemer” coalitions that gradually gained control over the state governments in the South.

In 1877, federal troops were removed from the Southern states and the era of Reconstruction ended. Democratic-controlled southern governments enacted segregation policies, called “Jim Crow Laws,” which effectively disenfranchised blacks and segregated all aspects of society. (Jim Crow was a black face comedy routine.) “The region then became the *Solid South*, giving overwhelming majorities of its electoral votes and Congressional seats to the Democrats

through 1964” (“History of the United States Republican Party,” *Wikipedia*).

“The timing of the agreement was prompted by the presidential election of 1876 between Democrat Samuel B. Tilden, governor of New York, and Republican Rutherford B. Hayes, governor of Ohio. When the votes were counted, Tilden led Hayes by one vote in the Electoral College. But the Republicans accused the Democrats of voter fraud, saying they intimidated African-American voters in three Southern states, Florida, Louisiana and South Carolina, and prevented them from voting, thus fraudulently handing the election to Tilden.

“Congress set up a bipartisan commission made up of five U.S. representatives, five senators and five Supreme Court justices, with a balance of eight Republicans and seven Democrats. They struck a deal: The Democrats agreed to allow Hayes to become president and to respect the political and civil rights of African-Americans if the Republicans would remove all remaining federal troops from Southern states. This effectively ended the era of Reconstruction in the South and consolidated Democratic control, which lasted until the mid-1960s, nearly a century.

“Hayes kept his side of the bargain and removed all federal troops from Southern states within two months of his inauguration. But Southern Democrats reneged on their part of the deal.

“With the federal presence gone, disenfranchisement of African-American voters in the South became widespread and Southern states passed segregationist laws governing virtually all aspects of society--called Jim Crow--that remained intact until the Civil Rights Act of 1964, passed during the administration of President Lyndon B. Johnson. The Voting Rights Act of 1965 followed a year later, finally codifying into law the promises made by Southern Democrats in the Compromise of 1877” (“The Compromise of 1877 Set the Stage for the Jim Crow Era,” ThoughtCo.com).

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The following is excerpted from a speech by Dinesh D'Souza, Stanford University, March 2019

<https://www.dineshsouza.com/news/stanford-leftists-battle-dinesh/>

The fascists [in Europe], for their part, were deriving and drawing ideas from the United States. This is not known, and I want to give a single example which I have dramatized in my movie *The Death of a Nation*. ...

Leading members of Nazi Germany, 1935, are in a room and they are drafting the so-called Nuremberg laws. These are the laws that make Jews into second class citizens, and they do three things: they segregate Jews into ghettos, they forbid intermarriage between Jews and other Germans, and they condone confiscation of Jewish property. In other words, state-sponsored discrimination against Jews. The Nazis are sitting there, and basically they are saying, 'We want to make these laws, but there is no international precedent for them. Nobody has done this type of thing.' Then one of the Nazis who had studied in the United States said, 'Actually, gentlemen, you are wrong. Somebody has beaten us to the punch. The Democratic party in the United States has laws that do all of the three things that we want. The Jim Crow laws of the American south have segregation, anti-miscegenation laws outlawing intermarriage, and they condone state-sponsored discrimination. All we have to do is take the laws of the Democratic party, cross out the word *Black*, write in the word *Jew*, and we are home free.' What am I saying here? I'm not saying that the Nazis got a parallel idea. I'm saying that actual Nazis had in their hands the blueprints of the Democratic laws and they used it to create the Nuremberg laws, and this fact has been completely suppressed in progressing historiography in the United States.

Now I said the Nazis were talking about the Democratic laws, and you might be thinking, 'Democratic laws? Aren't you talking about the southern laws?' See, the Nazis actually knew something that we don't know, namely, **every**

segregation law in the United States, from the 1880s to the 1950s was passed by a Democratic legislature, signed by a Democratic governor, enforced by Democratic officials, and there is not a single exception to this rule. ... I want to pull back and say just a word about slavery. When I speak on campuses, it is not atypical to tell students that the Democratic party was the party of slavery, and I say it so matter of factly that the students are a little puzzled because they have always heard that slavery was done by the white man, or by America. And I say, Look, America didn't do anything. Some Americans did it, and other Americans stopped them. We need to distinguish who did it, and who did it was the Democratic party in the north and the south. That's the key. The whole idea of knocking Confederate monuments is essentially a strategic stage tactic to fool you into thinking that the slavery debate was north-south. But Abraham Lincoln knew better. When he identified the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse, the four bad guys of slavery, he mentioned Roger Taney, who wrote the Dred Scott decision. He was a southerner [Democrat] from Maryland. Then Lincoln mentions Franklin Pierce, the former President from New Hampshire, northern Democrat; James Buchanan from Pennsylvania, northern Democrat; and Stephen Douglas, Lincoln's supreme antagonist, from Illinois, northern Democrat. So three of the four pro-slavery champions are northerners.

Inevitably when I tell students this, the following happens. Some professor ... stands up and says, 'Mr. D'Souza, you are misleading the audience by pointing a finger of blame solely at one party, whereas we all know that there was plenty of blame to go around.' Very interesting statement. First of all it retreats from the position that the Republicans are the bad guys. It now tries, sort of with a squid-like cloud of obfuscation, to spread the blame so broadly so that no one really knows what's going on. So it is really important at this time to unfurl what I call 'the crushing fact.' It is the fact that settles the argument at one blow. **This is the time for me to point out that in 1860, the year before the Civil War, no Republican owned a slave.** Think about this for a moment. I'm not saying that no Republican leader owned a slave. I'm saying

no Republican in the United States owned a slave. ... All you have to do is name one Republican who owned a slave, and I would have to take this back. And yet from the time I made this statement well over two years ago not a single valid counter-example has surfaced. Several months ago I got an email from a demographer at the University of Michigan who said, "Dinesh, I've been working this. I've got you. Ulysses S. Grant inherited a slave on his wife's side." I said, Well, that is an impressive riposte. I need to point out to you that at the time this occurred, Ulysses S. Grant was a Democrat. He became a Republican later.

What am I getting at? We have a really strange phenomenon. If you look at what's going on now, you have Democrats, on the left, pointing the finger of racism at the very people who fought racism from the beginning of this country's history, while suppressing the fact that the actual racism came from their party. This is not just about slavery. The Democrats were the party of slavery, of segregation, of founding the Ku Klux Klan, of reviving the Ku Klux Klan, of racial terrorism, and of opposition to the civil rights movement of the 1960s. The opposition to the civil rights act of 1964, the voting rights act of 1965, the fair housing bill of 1968 came mainly from the Democratic party, and that's a fact.

Faced with this crushing history, we have a puzzle. First of all, the very guys who have poisoned the waters are now showing up pretending to be the water commissioner. They did it! They have never admitted it. They have never apologized for it. They haven't paid one penny of restitution for it. And yet they presume to lecture the rest of us who are completely innocent on this score of being the real culprits. This is really funny. My wife, Debby, is Latina. Her father is Venezuelan, her mother Mexican, and we were at Dartmouth: an east Indian and Latina. And a bunch of white guys were screaming at us, 'Racist!' What is this, *Saturday Night Live!* And this is an Ivy League college.

I want to address one final point. This is a very important point for the Left. It is the idea that the two

parties switched sides. ... The main thrust of the argument is that racist Dixiecrats (those who voted against the civil rights acts) all became Republicans.

If true, this would vindicate the idea that the Democrats may have once been the bad guys but now the bad guys have sort of moved over. The beauty of this kind of statement is the fact that it is empirical. It's not one of those, 'Who's to say what's true?' No, all you have to do is do a web search for 'Dixiecrat' and then you count how many of the racist Dixiecrats became Republican. The correct answer, which I will tell you now, is two. In the House, one guy Albert Watson, and in the Senate, one guy Strom Thurmond, and all the other racist Dixiecrats lived and died in the Democratic party. They are lionized to this day. There are buildings in Washington D.C. named after them. So this notion of a party switch is a big lie.

The racists stayed in the Democratic party. Their tactics shifted over the years. Where does this leave us today? Very sadly, some of these terrible things from history--bigotry, a fascist streak--we still have it in America. But where is it coming from? People say, 'Trump's the fascist. He hates democracy. He won't tolerate dissent.' I'm thinking, 'If Trump is a fascist and he won't tolerate dissent, how come you are dissenting? Trump is bashed on every platform every minute of the day. He is bashed on the Emmys. Broadway shows are interrupted to bash Trump.

If this was Mussolini he would send a bunch of goons and beat those guys up and that would be the end of that. That's how dictators actually behave. I saw Cher complaining that Trump beat her up on Twitter. on Twitter! That being said, there is a streak of bullying and intimidation and intolerance. I would argue that simple empirical evidence shows that it is coming from the Left.



The previous is excerpted from a speech by Dinesh D'Souza, Stanford University, March 2019
<https://www.dineshsouza.com/news/stanford-leftists-battle-dinesh/>



Recently I asked a well-known Baptist historian, “Did Calvin ever renounce the baptismal regeneration teaching of his own infant baptism?”

His reply follows.

Biblical salvation is not a process. Though a process of hearing the gospel, conviction, and spiritual enlightenment precedes it, salvation itself is a birth (Joh. 3:3). It is a conversion (Mt. 18:3). It is to be made alive from spiritual death (Eph. 2:1). It is to be delivered from the power of darkness and translated into the kingdom of Christ (Col. 1:13). No other type of salvation is described in the book of Acts. We think of the 3,000 on the day of Pentecost, the Ethiopian eunuch, Saul, Cornelius, Lydia, and the Philippian jailer.



The answer to your question is “No.”

In his Gallican Confession (1559), John Calvin asserts, “We condemn the papal assemblies.... Nevertheless, as some trace of the [true] Church is left in the papacy, ... and as the efficacy of baptism does not depend upon the person who administers it, we confess that those baptized in it do not need a second baptism” (Art. 28). Thus, Calvin never ceased to embrace his Roman Catholic baptism.

Calvin’s writings teach that salvation is progressive. He was strongly influenced by Augustine’s life and works. Augustine describes his so-called “garden experience” and water baptism as initial stages of a lifelong, progressive conversion. See David Beale, “Augustine: His Life and Influence,” in *Historical Theology In-Depth* (2013), 1:334-50.

John Calvin’s single mention of his conversion, in the preface of his *Commentary on the Book of Psalms* (1557), says, “God by a sudden conversion subdued and brought my mind to a teachable frame.”

Such conversion sounds to me like a mere intellectual enlightenment. Calvin may have regarded his “conversion” as one of many stages in a lifelong progressive salvation. Be that as it may, by equating the terms *conversion*, *repentance*, and *regeneration*, Calvin clearly teaches progressive salvation.

He speaks of a “commencement of conversion,” whereby “God begins his good work in us” (Calvin, *Institutes of the Christian Religion* 2.3.6). “The whole of *conversion*,” says Calvin, “is understood under the term *repentance*” (Calvin, *Institutes*, 3.3.5). “In one word, then, by *repentance* I understand *regeneration*.” To those professing Christ, “God assigns *repentance* as the goal towards which they must keep running during the whole course of their lives” (Calvin, *Institutes*, 3.3.9.).

It is unfortunate that Calvin’s usage of such important terms are incredibly muddled.

The Puritan doctrine of progressive salvation emerged from Calvin. The English Reformation was initiated by Royal fiat, with no requirement of instant, personal conversion testimonies. This resulted in many Puritans preaching a legalistic-sounding, sacramental gospel that offered no assurance of salvation. (See Edmund Morgan, *Visible Saints: The History of a Puritan Idea*.)

Reformed theology is shot thru with baptismal regeneration. Here is the teaching of baptism from the eight major Reformation creeds and confessions found in Philip Schaff, *The Creeds of Christendom* (Vol. 3):

1. Heidelberg Catechism (1563) (Q and A 69-74):

“The Scripture calls Baptism the washing of regeneration and the washing away of sins.”

Question 74: Are infants also to be baptized?

Answer: Yes; for since they, as well as their parents, belong to the covenant and people of God, and both redemption from sin and the Holy Ghost, who works faith, are through the blood of Christ promised to them no less than to their parents, they are also by Baptism, as a sign of the covenant, to be ingrafted into the Christian Church, and distinguished from the children of unbelievers, as was done in the Old Testament by Circumcision, in place of which in the New Testament Baptism is appointed.”

2. John Calvin’s Gallican Confession (1559):

“We condemn the papal assemblies.... Nevertheless, as some trace of the [true] Church is left in the papacy, ... and as the efficacy of baptism does not depend upon the person who administers it, we confess that those baptized in it do not need a second baptism” (Art. 28). “Baptism is given as a pledge of our adoption; for by it [baptism] we are grafted into the body of Christ” (Art. 35).

3. The Belgic Confession (1561) (Art. 34):

“We believe that every man who is earnestly studious of obtaining life eternal ought to be but once baptized with this only Baptism, without ever repeating the same: since we cannot be born twice.... We detest the error of the Anabaptists, who are not content with the one only baptism they have once received, and moreover condemn the baptism of the infants of believers, who, we believe, ought to be baptized and sealed with the sign of the covenant, as the children in Israel formerly were circumcised upon the same promises which are made unto our children.”

4. The Scotch Confession (1560) (Ch. 21):

“We utterly damn the vanity of those who affirm Sacraments to be nothing else but naked and bare signs. No,

we assuredly believe that by Baptism we are ingrafted in *Christ Jesus*, to be made partakers of his justice, by which our sins are covered and remitted.”

5. Canons of the Synod of Dort (1619) (First Head Art. 17):

“The children of believers are holy, not by nature, but in virtue of the covenant of grace, in which they together with the parents are comprehended, godly parents have no reason to doubt the election and salvation of their children whom it pleaseth God to call out of this life in their infancy.”

6. The Westminster Confession (1647) Ch. 28:

This Confession equates the water of John 3:5 with water baptism: “Except a man be born of water and the Spirit he cannot see the kingdom of God.” Water “baptism is a sacrament ... a sign and seal of the covenant of grace,” of “ingrafting into Christ,” of “regeneration,” and of “remission of sins.”

7. The First Helvetic Confession (1536), written by Heinrich Bullinger:

Water “baptism, this holy bath, is a bath of regeneration” (Art. 21).

“The washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Spirit” in Titus 3:5 is the water of baptism.

8. The Second Helvetic Confession (1566) (Ch. 19-21):

Water Baptism “is a perpetual sealing of our adoption unto us. For to be baptized in the name of Christ is to be enrolled, entered, and received into the covenant and family, and so into the inheritance of the sons of God; yea, and in this life to be called after the name of God; that is to say, to be called a son of God; to be purged also from the filthiness of sins, and to be endued with the manifold grace of God” (Ch. 20).





By David Cloud

I recently received the following descriptions of Pensacola Christian College from two students and have confirmed them with present and past students. This communication is slightly edited only for the sake of protecting the identity of the writers:



TESTIMONY # 1

“My overall assessment of PCC is that there are still lots of godly and conservative men in the leadership, but that there are a number of weak spots and gradual compromises, and that the condition of the student body does not bode well for the future as my generation takes the helm. Some of the younger professors and staff (most of which were once students) seem to lack teaching and conviction. Some of the older generation would never go contemporary and it is well known that the rules still ban CCM (anti-CCM, pro-KJV, skirts, and intense academics are what students know PCC for), but is nearly impossible to enforce them when the floor leaders in the dorms are themselves students.

“PCC mixes hymns and adapted contemporary ‘hymns.’ Usually the adapted stuff is from the Gettys, Bob Kauflin, or older contemporary like ‘He Has Made Me Glad’ and ‘As the Deer.’ The worst has been a toned down version of ‘Amazing Grace: My Chains Are Gone,’ ‘Behold Our God,’ and ‘Here I am Lord’ by Romanist Dan Schutte (which was written for a Deaconate Mass and contains a vague reference to the wafer that apparently no one caught when they made it the theme song for missions conference). When there is a backbeat, it is subtle. If it is a special on the organ side of the platform, then the musical accompaniment is a recording and you might hear more of a beat.

“The Getty songs are brought down to the point where I have a hard time saying if there anything wrong with the music itself. Still, if the backbeat is gone, there is still this mystic sound which could be created by un-resolving chords (I’ve not yet wrapped my head around that concept really).

“Besides music, I see cracks in dress standards (girls can wear shorts as of last summer), love of the gym, video games, and encouraging dating.

“As for the students, I came expecting everyone to be perfect Baptists. Now I realize there are thousands of Baptists in the States and that just because a church is fundamental does not mean it isn’t lukewarm. If the 4,500 strong student body is mostly from IFB churches, that does not bode well for the future of IFB churches. Contemporary and secular music is common, others admit they’ve had no teaching, dress convictions are exceedingly rare, and dating is almost universally accepted. Of course, many students came because of prices or because they were floundering for direction. They all get the Word in classes, but so many take it lightly. While there are some really zealous, godly young people here, as the majority take over positions in the college and in their home churches in the years to come, I fear for where they will steer the ship. There’s no teaching. There’s no knowledge. There’s no conviction. Some college rules (like music and dress) have a biblical basis, but it seems that many or most students do not realize that it is so.”

TESTIMONY # 2

“Sadly, the overall spiritual state of the campus of PCC is worldly in my opinion. Most students seem to be backslidden and complacent. I’m assuming that probably

a rough percent of the student body that is worldly and not interested in the things of God is approximately 75%. Of the remaining 25% that are interested in spiritual matters, probably 23% are sold-out contemporary in their personal lives. And the remaining 2% of PCC care deeply about the things of God and are trying to live separated from the world.

“The real issue of PCC is the lack of separation from the world which is the result of the heart of the students and the leaders. From their lukewarmness naturally comes other issues in many different areas. Their dress standard is definitely getting worse while it never really has been as strict as it should have been. Girls are still required to wear skirts for class dress and church but while it is required they are rarely modest. I would definitely agree that over all the school's standards are diminishing and it will only be a matter of time before PCC gives up most of its core standards and beliefs.

“One of the biggest and definitely most recent issues of PCC is their lack of stand for the right kind of music. The music has really taken a bad turn. While PCC has always outwardly stood against CCM, the church has for many years incorporated songs that are CCM. They are now starting to really infiltrate more and more modern CCM ‘hymns’ as well as praise and worship style choruses. The new Rejoice hymnal by Majesty Music is used in Campus Church and has several songs by Sovereign Grace, the Gettys, and Townend. In addition to ‘Amazing Grace, My Chains Are Gone’ and ‘Behold, Our God,’ other music specials have been songs written by Casting Crowns, Amy Grant, Michael W. Smith, and Matt Papa. While these songs are definitely CCM, Campus Church does tone down the music and makes it sound more sacred. It is now getting to the point that these types of songs are being sung in nearly every service. Campus Church's new pastor is really doing a lot to take the church and PCC in a more contemporary direction.

“There are definitely many great professors in the Bible department that seem to have a Biblical stand and are still fundamental in their beliefs.

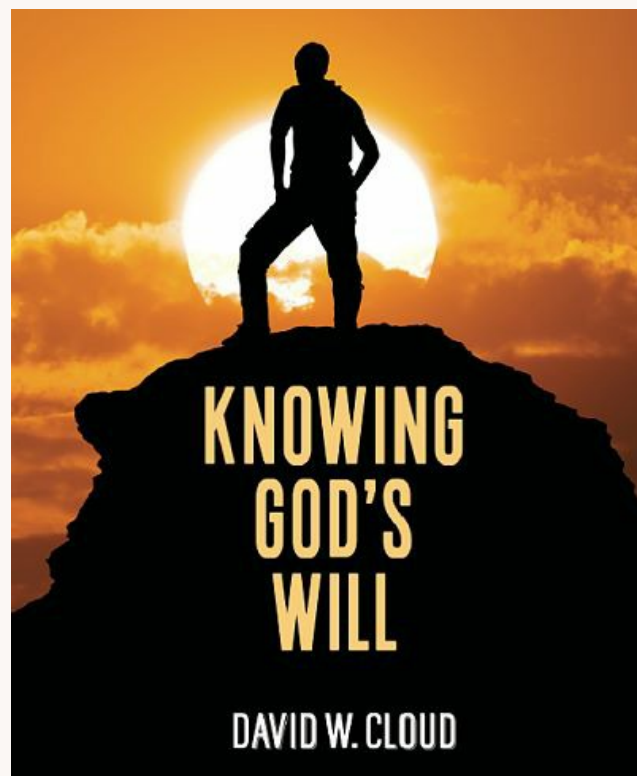
“It was very encouraging to see the letter that you sent me from another student from PCC that also sees the extreme danger of the choices that PCC is making and understands the bridge philosophy that is being adopted.

There are of course many students that understand that these songs are CCM and love this new change. There are also many other students that are from conservative IFB churches that have never heard of these songs and don't know that they are CCM and therefore are being led astray unknowingly which is really frustrating to see.

“I have been in much prayer for PCC to stand strong and to not compromise while also praying for the leaders and for Campus Church. I have really hoped for the school to change and be convicted of their worldly decisions. PCC does have a lot of ministry opportunities. The college does still stand strong on the KJV and is faithful to the fundamental teachings of God's Word. While PCC is strong in some areas, they are compromising in many other major areas.”

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By David W. Cloud



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STANDARDS of Church Music

By David Cloud

The following standards are summarized and abbreviated from “Biblical Principles of Music,” one of the chapters in [The Satanic Attack on Sacred Music - The Book](#). There we find the full teaching on these points, plus references to further explanation and training. [The Satanic Attack on Sacred Music](#) is also a video series. The book and the videos are available for free viewing and downloading –

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

Churches need to train the people in music so well that they can test it by biblical standards. They must be able to discern such things as soft rock, honky-tonk, dance rhythms, chords as used in CCM, and worldly vocal styles.

It is not enough to publish a list of unacceptable music. Such lists are helpful, but any list will be obsolete in a short time. Further, no list is exhaustive.

The music must be sound in doctrine (Col. 3:16).

The words of the songs must be theologically sound according to the teaching of the Bible. A great deal of Contemporary Christian Music is unacceptable because it represents ecumenical charismatic doctrine or it presents a vague message that lacks doctrinal clarity and strength. God’s people must weigh every song and hymn by the absolute standard of God’s Word. Just because a song is in a good hymnbook doesn’t mean that it is sound theologically. Just because it has a pleasant tune and people like it doesn’t mean that it is acceptable.

We want more than just theological soundness, we want theological depth. We want richness of truth that will edify deeply and broadly. This is why we don’t want only a diet of revivalist songs. These were written for a mixed-multitude evangelistic forum, such as those written by Ira Sankey for a D.L. Moody crusade, and therefore lack depth. “Sankey’s songs were simple and direct, appealing to the heart and leading to a decision.” Examples are “Tell Me the Old Old Story,” “There’ll Be No Dark Valley,” “Throw out the Life Line,” “Wonderful Words of Life,” “I Need Thee Every Hour,” “The Cleansing Fountain,” “Faith Is the Victory,” and “Trusting Jesus.”

The Sword of the Lord’s Soul Stirring Songs and Hymns is in the Sankey revivalist tradition. These are all good hymns and have their place, but there is also a need for hymns of greater spiritual and doctrinal depth to challenge the people and better educate them and to build them up to a higher level.

“Godly music is word-enriched and loaded with sound doctrine. Godly music packages Bible doctrines in memorable format” (Chris Starr).

The music must emphasize “melody” (Eph. 5:19).

Melody is the simplest part of music. It is the basic tune. It is the part that can be sung and hummed and whistled.

A good melody reinforces the words and helps God’s people remember the words and edify themselves with the words all during their days.

By emphasizing melody, God's Word is teaching us to keep the music simple so that it doesn't distract from the message of the words. There should be a good singable melody and the rest of the music should never overwhelm the melody. The music must never become so complicated or harmonic or loud that it drowns out the simple melody. In sacred music, a simple musical arrangement is superior to an overly complicated one.

The music must be spiritual and non-worldly in sound (Ro. 12:2; Eph. 4:17-19; 5:19; Col. 3:16; Jas. 4:4; 1 Pe. 2:11; 1 Jo. 2:15-16).

"Spiritual" means set apart for God, different from the world. Spiritual is that which is under the control of the Spirit of God, as explained in the verse previous to Ephesians 5:19. "And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit." Spiritual is the opposite of carnal, fleshly. "And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ." Spiritual is the opposite of the unfruitful works of darkness that are mentioned in Ephesians 5:11. Spiritual is the opposite of worldliness.

Paul is saying that God's people are to sing songs that are holy, that are sacred, that are set apart for God, that are not carnal and fleshly, that are different in quality from the songs of the world, that are morally pure, that are of a heavenly flavor rather than a worldly.

The church's music will not sound like the world's pop music and the music that the world uses for dancing and drinking and partying. The music of a holy God should contain no aspect of the world's sensual ways.

Some styles of music that we purposefully avoid are dance syncopation (e.g., the backbeat, beat anticipation), honky-tonk styles (ragtime, boogie woogie, etc., that are popular in Southern Gospel), sensual vocal styles (e.g., scooping, sliding, breathiness, vocal fry), soft, overly emotional styles that are created by the wrong use of chords (e.g., unresolving chord cadences). The "soft sound" that weakens the power, dynamism, majesty, spiritual conviction, and militarism of sacred music.

We avoid the use of drums and electric guitars, because they are so totally identified with rock music and so easily used in a pop music fashion. (An exception is the use of drums in a timpani section of an orchestra.) (We must

realize, of course, that rock can be played easily on a piano or an acoustic guitar.)

See "The Language of Music Styles" for a basic education on how to judge styles of music. This is one segment of [The Satanic Attack on Sacred Music](#), a video series available at www.wayoflife.org.

The music must edify (1 Co. 14:26).

"Edify" means to build up in the faith by means of hearing and understanding the truth of God's Word.

All things being done unto edification means that sacred music must emphasize the message. The message must be clear so that it speaks to the people's minds and hearts and thus edifies. Nothing must be allowed to detract from this. The musical instruments can be too loud and drown out the message. The music can also be so complex that it hinders the message. If the harmonies, for example, are so complex that the message is not clear, that is not good sacred music.

All things being done unto edification means there is no place for entertainment in sacred music. We want to purposefully and emphatically avoid anything that speaks of entertainment. This is why we do not applaud special music. This is why we don't use sensual vocal techniques that draw attention to the singer (scooping, sliding, breathiness, vocal fry). This is why we don't use video cameras to spotlight the singers and musicians and highlight them on video screens. These things are the way of performance and entertainment, not the way of true worship. It is carnally distracting.

All things being done unto edification means that each song should be selected because of its message. If the message is theologically wrong (e.g., "The Battle Hymn of the Republic") or weak (e.g., "Church in the Wildwood"), there is no edification.

The music must not produce a charismatic style mystical experience ("be sober," 1 Peter 1:13; 5:8).

Contemporary worship music is designed to create an emotional experience, a sensual experience, as opposed to a sacred music style that edifies through the understanding. Toward this end, contemporary musicians use music with sensual dance rhythms, non-resolving

chord cadences, repetition, electronic modulation, and other elements so that people will get carried away emotionally.

We reject any church music that is designed to create a highly emotional state or that produces any sort of hypnotic effect.

The music must not borrow from and thus build bridges to the world of contemporary Christian music (Ro. 16:17-18; 1 Co. 10:21; 15:33; 2 Co. 6:14-18; Eph. 5:11; 2 Ti. 3:5; Re. 18:4).

Contemporary Christian Music is a major element of building the apostate one-world church and represents this world with all of its doctrinal, spiritual, and moral dangers.

In former times, God's people were not in much danger of being influenced by the authors of songs and hymns. But the Internet has changed that dramatically. Now if a song is sung in a church, the people can go online and find the author and communicate quite intimately with him or her and his associates and his "world."

We reject any music that is written by contemporary musicians in order to avoid building bridges to these people and to their associates and to the dangerous ecumenical world that they represent.

The music must aim for excellence (Php. 1:10; 1 Co. 10:31).

Everything about the church's music must be done on purpose, with biblical and spiritual wisdom, always aiming for the very best, the very highest, never satisfied with mediocrity, progressing in excellence. This is not for the glory of man, but for the glory of God.

We will aim for excellence in the standards for singers and musicians, in the selection of every song and hymn, in the conducting of every aspect of the song service, and in the quality of the singing and playing.

The music must be unquestionably right and safe (1 Th. 5:21-22).

To hold fast only that which is good, avoiding even the very appearance of evil is the highest possible standard

for music. The standard is not just the bare minimum, not mediocrity, not borderline, not questionable in any way.

This is one reason why we avoid the use of drums and electric guitars. Even if they are used to play the right kind of sound, they are too intimately identified with rock music, and we want to avoid all such identity.

This is our fundamental music standard. If a song or hymn is questionable, we want to avoid it. If we aren't sure if it is right, sound, and healthy, we want to avoid it. There is a wealth of unquestionably sound, doctrinally correct, spiritual, non-worldly, non-charismatic music. To avoid a piece of questionable music never harms a church, but using questionable music can definitely bring harm.

This requires constant testing of the church music.

This is the standard of wisdom and safety.

The music must avoid incrementalism (1 Co. 5:6; Ga. 5:9).

When it comes to church music, little can be big. The wrong music usually enters a church gradually, not overnight. One way it enters is through specials, choruses, and youth ministries. When this happens, the church is doomed to continue moving away from spiritual and toward contemporary unless there is a dramatic move to stop the progression, which rarely happens.

The music must be overseen by the pastors (Ac. 20:28; Heb. 13:17; 1 Pe. 5:2).

The pastors will oversee the music themselves and/or they will appoint the *right people* to be in charge of the church's music. They will approve all special music.





The following is excerpted from [Spiritual Safety in the Facebook Age](#), available from www.wayoflife.org:



TikTok was launched in 2016 and by 2019 had half a billion users. It is the most downloaded Apple app and the sixth most downloaded app in the world. “With 315 million downloads in the first three months of 2020, TikTok set a new record for the most installs by any app in a single quarter” (*Business Insider*, Apr. 16, 2020).

TikTok is especially popular in Asia. It has 124 million users in America, 173 million in China, and 466 million in India. It is also very popular in Japan, Malaysia, Thailand, and Vietnam. As for June 2020, it is the most popular app in the U.S., the U.K., and Spain in consumption time.

41% of TikTok users are aged 16-24, but there is a trend toward increased use among adults.

“TikTok is especially popular among teens, who typically use it to post videos of themselves singing along to their favorite songs, short comedy sketches, or a variety of viral ‘challenges’” (“Does TikTok Allow Strangers,” Snopes.com, Feb. 18, 2019).

TikTok is an app for creating and watching 15 second videos. It is a self-expression forum. “TikTok might be described as a repository of canned content to be

conveniently remixed with user-created videos, a viral meme generating machine that makes users feel like rock stars” (“TikTok,” *Forbes*, June 28, 2020).

“It’s very user-centric.” “What makes it so attractive is that practically anyone can become a content provider because of the simplicity of using the app.”

“It is a way to express themselves and create short-form video clips to gain a following and build a community around their passions. It also features some great special effects that users can apply to their videos to make them more unique. You can also cross-post the content on other platforms to share it with more people” (“TikTok app safety,” Internetmatters.org, Dec. 3, 2019).

“TikTok has the video prowess of YouTube, the immediacy of Snapchat, and the concise artistry of Instagram, making it an ample playground for aspiring influencers” (“TikTok Tricks,” *Kim Kimando Show*, Mar. 1, 2020).

“TikTok trends are spilling over onto Instagram, YouTube, and TV shows like Saturday Night Live. Its stars are appearing in Super Bowl ads and late-night talk shows. And songs that become popular on TikTok are topping Billboard charts--the music artist Drake recently used TikTok to release his latest single, ‘Toosie Slide’” (“TikTok is breaking download records and taking over pop culture,” *Business Insider*, Apr. 16, 2020).

It was initially launched in China as Douyin, and in 2017 it was renamed TikTok and launched by ByteDance for

markets outside of China. ByteDance purchased Musical.ly and merged it with TikTok.

TikTok tries to cannibalize its user's contacts by asking users to sync their contacts and sending notifications to the contacts announcing new videos.

Like all youth-oriented social media, TikTok is facilitating the sexualization of society.

“The fame-seeking, music-video ethos of the app has given rise to an uncomfortable trend of young teens engaging in sexually suggestive dancing and behavior” (Snopes.com, Feb. 18, 2019).

“[M]ost TikTok users are girls 13 or less who record themselves dancing and lip syncing to their favorite songs, often trying to be the most provocative or daring. ... Now, if you put a whole bunch of videos of pubescent girls dancing to their favorite music on a social network with recommendation tools it's going to become a magnet for sexual predators who are likely to try to contact them through the app's chat feature; what's more, it even helps users find videos of a certain type. ... the FTC has already fined TikTok \$5.7 million for storing profiles and personal information of children aged under thirteen without their parents' consent, as well making those profiles public and even for allowing, until October 2016, to share their location... What could possibly go wrong?” (“TikTok: A Lesson in Irresponsibility,” *Forbes*, July 4, 2019).

It was reported in 2020 that TikTok has become a dating app. Users are posting “cute, short videos sharing a little about themselves” with hashtags such as #datemeplz, #someonedateme, #wouldyoudateme, \$reasontodateme, and #plsdateme. These receive millions of views. Interested parties can leave comments, follow them, or send a direct message (DM).

“Users flirt through comments and DMs on TikTok, then they might switch over to another platform (like Snapchat) to talk further, and then make their grand entrance back on TikTok as a new couple” (“TikTok is the Latest Dating App,” Axis.org).

“The possibility of receiving unwanted DMs from older people, even predators, is always within ques-

tion when it comes to the internet, but openly inviting others to reach out with their interest in dating you obviously leaves a wider chasm for inappropriate behavior to occur” (Axis.org).

Like all social media, TikTok has the potential to be a massive time waster. “Sometimes it's funny, sometimes it's cringey, but it's definitely addictive” (“10 TikTok Statistics,” Oberlo.com, Nov. 22, 2019). 90% of TikTok users access the app on a daily basis.

TikTok recommends videos based on AI (artificial intelligence) algorithms that study the user's behaviour, and by swiping down the user keeps watching whatever is offered. “It gives them a sense of mystery and makes them excited ... it's easy to stay in the loop of watching more and more videos” (“Why Is TikTok Sweeping over the World?” UXDesign.cc, Mar. 13, 2019).

In June 2020, TikTok users signed up for hundreds of thousands of tickets for President Trump's campaign rally in Tulsa, Oklahoma, as a prank, tricking the campaign chairman into announcing that more than a million people had registered and formulating plans for a non-existent overflow crowd.

The United States military banned TikTok from government-issued smartphones and strongly discouraged them from keeping the app on personal devices. This is due to the possibility of TikTok being used by the Chinese government for spying purposes. Reddit CEO and co-founder Steve Huffman, warns, “Because I look at that app as so fundamentally parasitic, that it's always listening, the fingerprinting technology they use is truly terrifying, and I could not bring myself to install an app like that on my phone. I actively tell people, ‘Don't install that spyware on your phone’” (“Reddit CEO: TikTok is ‘fundamentally parasitic,’” Techcrunch.com, Feb. 27, 2020).

In July 2020, Liu Lipeng, who worked as a Chinese internet censor for ten years, warned that TikTok is monitoring and policing videos posted by users. He described ByteDance Technology as “the largest and most terrifying censorship machine” (“TikTok Hires Internet Police to Monitor American Users,” *The Epoch Times*, July 17, 2020). He was interviewed in 2018 for a job as content manager to inspect overseas speech on TikTok. He moved to the United States in March 2020.

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?



TWITTER CENSORS U.S. PRESIDENT'S WARNING TO VIOLENT PROTESTORS

(Friday Church News Notes, July 3, 2020, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The following is excerpted from "Again Twitter Censors President's Tweet Calling for Law and Order," *Reformation Charlotte*, June 23, 2020: "Twitter has once again censored the president of the United States by citing violations of the 'Twitter Rules about abusive behavior.' Earlier today, President Trump tweeted that violence, vandalism, and destruction would be met with the full force of the law if rioters came to Washington, D.C. to attempt their destructive behavior in the nation's capital. 'There will never be an 'Autonomous Zone' in Washington, D.C., as long as I'm your President. If they try they will be met with serious force!' Who would have known that a warning to criminals against their criminal behavior would violate Twitter's rules? Anyone in their right mind would agree with the president that it's time to put a stop to this chaos that is wreaking havoc all over the nation--but especially in the city that would put the nation's leader in physical danger. Twitter issued the following statement: 'We've placed a public interest notice on this Tweet for violating our policy against abusive behavior, specifically, the presence of a threat of harm against

an identifiable group.' Last month, Twitter censored the president's tweet when he warned that looters and criminals would be met with the full force of the law if city officials did not step up their game to stop the chaos in their cities. ... Twitter later acknowledged that the tweet did not violate any of the Twitter rules, but continued to censor him anyway."

COMEDY WRITER BANNED FROM TWITTER FOR SAYING "MEN AREN'T WOMEN"

(Friday Church News Notes, July 3, 2020, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The following is excerpted from "Comedy Writer Banned," *Pulpit and Pen*, June 28, 2020: "TV sitcom writer Graham Linehan has been permanently banned from Twitter after he tweeted 'men aren't women tho' in response to a Women's Institute post that wished a happy Pride Month to men who think they are women. Twitter said Linehan, who has hundreds of thousands of followers and wrote and created *Father Ted* and *The IT Crowd* 'has been permanently suspended after repeated violations of our rules against hateful conduct and platform manipulation.' This is not the first time Linehan has run afoul of Twitter, as he's posted extensively about Trans issues in the past, with a particular focus on discussing children who transition and the parents that enable them. In 2018, during an interview with Resistance Radio, Linehan stated that the medical transition of children is functionally no different than Nazi experiments on children, saying: 'If you were around the time of something terrible happening like Nazism, would you be one of the people who said, This is wrong, despite being opposed?' Twitter has

a long history of banning people who state scientific facts on sex and gender, with the social media giant recently taking a more aggressive approach to enforcing their nonsensical policies. Linehan is the most recent casualty, but he won't be the last."

PARLER A NON-CENSORED ALTERNATIVE TO TWITTER

(Friday Church News Notes, July 3, 2020,

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

- The following is excerpted from "Parler surges," *Washington Times*, June 25, 2020: "The aggressive crackdown on content by social media giants Twitter and Facebook have motivated droves of President Trump's supporters to find an alternative. About 100,000 people joined Parler on Tuesday alone, said Parler CEO John Matze, bringing its total daily active users toward 1.5 million on Thursday. The surge in interest is an accomplishment, but it falls short of the hordes gathering on Twitter and Facebook. By comparison, Twitter reported having 166 million daily active users in the first quarter of 2020. Facebook boasted 1.73 billion daily active users during the same time frame. Mr. Matze called Twitter and Facebook 'techno-fascists' and vowed to dethrone them. The Parler platform is not strictly for conservatives and castaways from other platforms but for people who believe in the



principles of free speech and data privacy, the company says. Mr. Matze describes the platform as ideological and not political."

BLACK LIVES MATTER FOUNDERS ARE TRAINED MARXISTS

(Friday Church News Notes, July 3, 2020,

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

- In a 2015 interview with Real News Network, Patrisse Khan-Cullors, co-founder of Black Lives Matters, said, "We actually do have an ideological frame. Myself and Alicia in particular are trained organizers. We are trained Marxists. We are super-versed on sort of ideological theories" ("We are trained Marxists," *The Washington Times*, June 25, 2020). Cullors was referring to herself and Alicia Garza. In an interview with Martha MacCallum on *Fox News*, Hawk Newsome, president of Greater New York Black Lives Matter, said, "If this country doesn't give us what we want, then we will burn down this system and replace it. All right? And I could be speaking figuratively. I could be speaking literally. It's a matter of interpretation. ... I don't condone nor do I condemn rioting" (*Fox News*, June 24, 2020). This is nonsense, of course. If you don't condemn rioting, you condone it. These people cannot call for burning down the system and then stand back while others do exactly, literally that, and claim no guilt. Antifa has been conducting violent demonstrations in Portland, Oregon, for four weeks, vandalizing, looting, and destroying property (@MrAndyNgo, June 26, 2020). They have been trying to establish an occupied area like the one in Seattle, unsuccessfully so far, though police have allowed the crowds to rampage unhindered at



times. A large banner reads, "Every city, every town, burn the precinct to the ground." They chanted, "No good cops in a racist system!" Graffiti calls for the murder of police. Protesters were allowed to tear down the American flag at the Justice Center, burn it, and replace it with a BLM sign. In 2014, BLM protesters in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, chanted, "What do we want? Dead cops. When do we want it? Now" ("Black Lives Matter," Snopes.com, Jul. 18, 2016). In 2015, Black Lives Matter activists in Minneapolis chanted, "Pigs in a blanket, fry 'em like bacon," referring to the bodies of dead police officers in body bags (*Townhall*, Sep. 2, 2015). At a BLM protest in Dallas in July 2016, 12 police officers were shot and five died. Black Lives Matters is in open rebellion to the Bible's teaching about morality. The following is from the BLM website under "What We Believe:": "We make space for **transgender** ... to dismantle **cisgender** privilege and uplift ... **trans folk**, especially ... **trans women** ... We **disrupt** the Western-prescribed **nuclear family** structure requirement ... We **foster a queer-affirming network** ... with the intention of **freeing ourselves from the tight grip of heteronormative thinking**, or rather, the belief that all in the world are heterosexual (unless s/he or they disclose otherwise)."

MAJOR CORPORATIONS BOYCOTTING TO FORCE

FACEBOOK TO EMPLOY EVEN MORE EXTREME CENSORING OF CONSERVATIVE VIEWS (Friday Church News Notes, July 3, 2020, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)



- The following is excerpted from “In growing boycott, Coca-Cola, Hershey, Honda pledge to hit pause on Facebook advertising,” *Just the News*, June 27, 2020: “Coca-Cola, Hershey and Honda have agreed to roll back advertising on Facebook through July, part of a coordinated campaign to force the tech giant to enact stricter content-moderation policies on its platform. The ‘Stop Hate for Profit’ campaign argues that Facebook has ‘turned a blind eye to blatant voter suppression,’ ‘allowed incitement to violence against protesters fighting for racial justice in America,’ partnered with conservative news outlets with ‘records of working with known white nationalists,’ and in general promoted ‘hate, bigotry, racism, antisemitism and violence.’ Dozens of businesses have also agreed to the boycott including Mozilla, North Face, REI and Verizon. The boycott, a project of the Anti-Defamation League, offers several tips it argues will help Facebook ‘provide more support to people who are targets of racism, antisemitism and hate.’”

GOD LAUGHS AT MAN’S REBELLION (Friday Church News Notes, July 3, 2020,

www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The Bible prophesies an unprecedented rebellion in the last days and says God laughs at it. A 3,000-year-old prophecy describes exactly what is happening today. There is a global frenzy at the highest levels of society to reject God and His moral rule. The prophet described rulers taking counsel against the Lord and calling for the breaking of his “bands,” referring to His laws about marriage, the distinction of the sexes, etc. We can see this part of the prophecy fulfilled before our eyes on this earth, but the prophecy goes much farther and higher and tells us what God does in response. God laughs at puny man’s ridiculous rebellion against his Almighty Creator, man who enters this world as a helpless infant, lives a few years, then tumbles out into eternity by means of a death that he cannot control. God loves man and has provided his salvation at great cost, but He laughs at man’s conspiracy against the Almighty. Christ *will* return to judge sin and to establish God’s kingdom on earth, and *nothing* can stop it. The prophecy ends with a call for men to put their trust in Christ before it is too late and with the promise of salvation for those who trust Him. Here is the prophecy: “Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, *saying*, Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us. He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision. Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath, and vex them in his sore displeasure. Yet have I set my king

upon my holy hill of Zion. I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou *art* my Son; this day have I begotten thee. Ask of me, and I shall give *thee* the heathen *for* thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth *for* thy possession. Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter’s vessel. Be wise now therefore, O ye kings: be instructed, ye judges of the earth. Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish *from* the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed *are* all they that put their trust in him” (Psalm 2:1-12).

WILL MINNEAPOLIS DEFUND ITS POLICE DEPARTMENT? (Friday Church News Notes, July 10, 2020, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The following is excerpted from Scott Johnson, “Who Ya Gonna Call?” PowerLineBlog, June 29, 2020: “The city of Minneapolis is deep into the cultural revolution driving the Democratic Party ever further to the left. The city is run entirely by Democrats. ... Mayor Jacob Frey is a Democrat, as are 11 of 12 current members of the city council. The twelfth — Cam Gordon, Ward 2 — is a member of the Green Party. That’s diversity, Minneapolis style. ... The city council has taken up the charge to abolish/defund the police. The Minneapolis city charter



actually requires the council to fund a police department at something approaching its current size. The council has thus undertaken the process necessary to amend the charter. Last week the council voted unanimously to advance a proposal that would substitute a new Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention for the police department. ... The AP story conveys a more accurate sense of the ordinance than the *Star Tribune* story, although the *Star Tribune* story better conveys the madhouse that Minneapolis has become. *The Star Tribune* also reports, by the way, ‘Gun violence soars amid crises of health, public trust, officer reluctance.’ Funny how that works. Reality bites. ... [T]he state senate, under the control of a narrow Republican majority, is the sole remaining obstacle standing in the way of this crowd. ... One would think that the self-interest of voters would assert itself if the proposed charter amendment were put to a vote. I can’t see it passing. When your life and property are at risk, who ya gonna call? The proposed amendment has to jump through a few more hoops to make it onto the ballot in November.”

EIGHT RECENT ATTACKS UPON CHRISTIANS IN INDIA (Friday Church News Notes, July 10, 2020, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from “Incidents of Christian Persecution Spike,” International Christian Concern, June 26, 2020: “As India gradually emerges from its national



lockdown, International Christian Concern (ICC) has documented a sudden spike in attacks on Christians across the country. Since the lockdown has lifted, ICC has recorded at least eight incidents of persecution in just two weeks. These incidents include physical assaults, damage to Christian properties, and threats issued by radical Hindu nationalists. ‘They kicked me like they would kick a football,’ Pastor Suresh Rao, a victim of this new wave of persecution, told ICC. ‘They dragged me into the street and pushed me to the ground. There, they started to trample on me. They tore my clothes, kicked me all over my body, and punched my left eye. I have sustained a serious eye injury as a result of a blood clot.’ ... During the attack, members of the mob claimed Pastor Rao was involved in illegal religious conversions, converting Hindus to Christianity. ‘They said that India is a Hindu nation, and there is no place for Christians,’ Rao explained. ‘I am prepared for this kind of eventuality,’ Pastor Rao, who has faced multiple encounters with radicals, told ICC. ‘I know the cost of serving Jesus in these remote villages, and I will continue to serve the people of this region.’ On June 11, an independent church in India’s

Tamil Nadu state was burned to the ground by unknown individuals, leaving over 100 Christians with no place to worship. ... ‘I was so distressed and pained in my heart,’ Pastor Ramesh, head pastor of Real Peace Church, told ICC. ‘It was hard labor for 10 years to build the church. All the hard work and sacrificial donations from the poor congregants were

brought down to the ground. All that is left is ash. In the last ten years, I have been told numerous times by radicals to close the church,’ Pastor Ramesh said. ‘By God’s grace, I was able to endure all these hardships and abuses, but this time it is total devastation.’”

CHINA BEGINS BRUTAL CRACKDOWN ON HONG KONG (Friday Church News Notes, July 10, 2020, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from “China Begins Brutal Crackdown,” *The Daily Wire*, July 1, 2020: “The Chinese Communist Party (CCP) began cracking down on Hong Kong protesters on Wednesday after China’s government imposed a new national security law that cemented Beijing’s control over the city. On Tuesday, Chinese President Xi Jinping signed into a law a bill banning acts of sedition, subversion, and terrorism, a bill passed by China’s top legislative body by a vote of 162-0. Violating the new law could result in a sentence of life in prison. ... The Hong Kong Police Force touted the first arrests under the new laws, tweeted out photographs and writing: ‘A man was arrested for holding a #HKIndependence flag in

#CausewayBay, Hong Kong, violating the #NationalSecurityLaw. This is the first arrest made since the law has come into force.’ The man who was arrested appears to have simply been carrying a flag that stated: ‘Hong Kong Independence.’ The Hong Kong Police Force later announced a second arrest under the new national security law after a woman was caught carrying a sign that stated: ‘Hong Kong Independence.’ The Hong Kong Police Force later warned those who were waving a purple flag that warned others of the new draconian law that they may also be arrested. ... According to police, at least 70 protesters were arrested Wednesday. The *New York Times* highlighted how the new national security law allows China to suppress Hong Kong’s growing protest movement and to expand its national security apparatus ‘to pervade many layers of Hong Kong’s society.’ ... Numerous U.S. officials spoke out against the new Chinese law, including Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, who wrote on Twitter: ‘The CCP’s draconian national security law ends free Hong Kong and exposes the Party’s greatest fear: the free will and free thinking of its own people.’”

PROMINENT CLIMATE CHANGE ACTIVIST APOLOGIZES (Friday Church News Notes, July 10, 2020, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Michael Shellenberger, prominent climate change activist, has apologized in a new book *Apocalypse Never: Why Environmental Alarmism Hurts Us All*. The following is an excerpt from his summary of the book: “On behalf of environmentalists everywhere, I



would like to formally apologize for the climate scare we created over the last 30 years. Climate change is happening. It’s just not the end of the world. It’s not even our most serious environmental problem. I may seem like a strange person to be saying all of this. I have been a climate activist for 20 years and an environmentalist for 30. ... Here are some facts few people know: Humans are *not* causing a ‘sixth mass extinction’; the Amazon is *not* ‘the lungs of the world’; climate change is *not* making natural disasters worse; fires have *declined* 25% around the world since 2003 ... Carbon emissions are declining in most rich nations and have been declining in Britain, Germany, and France since the mid-1970s ... We produce 25% more food than we need and food surpluses will continue to rise as the world gets hotter ... the above facts come from the best-available scientific studies, including those conducted by or accepted by the IPCC, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and other leading scientific bodies. ... But until last year, I mostly avoided speaking out against the climate scare. Partly that’s because I was embarrassed. ... But mostly I was scared. I remained quiet about the climate disinformation campaign because I was afraid of losing friends and funding. ... Some highlights from

the book: Factories and modern farming are the keys to human liberation and environmental progress; the most important thing for saving the environment is producing more food, particularly meat, on less land. ... Greenpeace didn’t save the whales, switching from whale oil to petroleum and palm oil did. ... Greenpeace dogmatism worsened forest fragmentation of the Amazon. ... In the final three chapters of *Apocalypse Never* I expose the financial, political, and ideological motivations. Environmental groups have accepted hundreds of millions of dollars from fossil fuel interests” (“On Behalf of Environmentalists, I Apologize for the Climate Scare,” *Environmental Progress*, Jun 29, 2020).

MICHAEL JACKSON’S DAUGHTER PORTRAYING “JESUS” AS A LESBIAN WOMAN (Friday Church News Notes, July 10, 2020, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from “Movieguide Launches Petition,” CBN News, June 17, 2020: “Movieguide reports Paris Jackson, daughter of the late pop icon Michael Jackson, is set to play Jesus in the film ‘Habit.’ Jackson’s portrayal of Christ will be as a lesbian ... According to



Eonline.com, the film follows a ‘party girl with a Jesus fetish who gets mixed up in a violent drug deal and finds a possible way out by masquerading as a nun.’”

DNA TESTING ON DEAD SEA SCROLLS (Friday Church News Notes, July 10, 2020, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The June issue of *Cell* describes a seven-year project to use DNA testing to trace the divergent sheep that were used to make the Dead Sea Scrolls. The research was done by a team from Tel Aviv university, joined by other scientists. The DNA testing is being used to piece together fragments, among other things. A report says, “The findings support the notion that for contemporaries, the most important aspects of the scriptural text were its content and meaning, not its precise wording and orthography (the conventional spelling system of a language)” (“DNA Extracted from Animal Skins,” *Breaking Israel News*, June 2, 2020). The Dead Sea Scrolls offer a very tiny, but fascinating window into the history of the Old Testament Scripture. But it is a wonderful thing that we aren’t dependent on 25,000 fragments to piece together the Word of God. The God who gave the Scripture has kept it. “Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever. For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away: But the word of the Lord endureth forever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you” (1 Peter 1:23-25). (See “[The Dead Sea Scrolls](http://www.wayoflife.org),” www.wayoflife.org.)



SUPREME COURT RULES THAT RELIGIOUS SCHOOLS NOT GOVERNED BY ANTI-DISCRIMINATION LAWS

(Friday Church News Notes, July 17, 2020, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The following is excerpted from “Supreme Court Hands Major Victory to Christian Schools,” *Christian Headlines*, July 8, 2020: “The U.S. Supreme Court handed private religious schools a major victory Wednesday, broadening the so-called ministerial exception and ruling they can hire and fire employees without being governed by anti-discrimination laws. At issue were teachers at two separate Catholic schools who sued after their contracts were not renewed for reasons the schools said were related to performance. One teacher, though, alleged age discrimination, and the other alleged she was released because she asked for time off for a medical procedure. Both sued. The ministerial exception is a legal doctrine that allows religious institutions to hire and fire employees without being governed by anti-discrimination laws. The U.S. Ninth Court of Appeals sided with the teachers, ruling they were covered by anti-discrimination because they weren’t ministers and had no ministerial background. But the Supreme Court, in a 7-2 decision, said the schools were not bound by non-discrimination laws. Justice

Samuel Alito wrote the majority opinion. The ruling could impact future cases related to sexual orientation and gender identity, allowing Christian schools to dismiss--for example--a teacher who comes out as LGBT. The ministerial exception, Alito ruled, is broad. An employer doesn’t have to wear the title ‘minister’ to be exempted from non-discrimination laws, Alito wrote. ‘What matters, at bottom, is what an employee does,’ he wrote. ... Joining Alito in the majority were Chief Justice John Roberts and Justices Clarence Thomas, Brett Kavanaugh, Neil Gorsuch, Stephen Breyer and Elena Kagan. Justices Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Sonia Sotomayor dissented. ... ‘Today is a huge win for religious schools of all faith traditions,’ said Eric Rassbach, vice president and senior counsel at [the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty]. ‘The last thing government officials should do is decide who is authorized to teach Catholicism to Catholics or Judaism to Jews. We are glad the Court has resoundingly reaffirmed that churches and synagogues, not government, control who teaches kids about God.’”

HEAD OF FREDERICK DOUGLASS FOUNDATION SAYS THERE IS MORE SYSTEMIC RACISM IN THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY THAN IN AMERICA’S POLICE FORCES

(Friday Church News Notes, July 17, 2020, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The following is excerpted from “Frederick Douglass Foundation Chairman,” *Just the News*, July 7, 2020: “During an interview on the ‘John Solomon Reports’ podcast, Kevin McGary, the chairman of the



Frederick Douglass Foundation of California, questioned the claim that systemic racism prevails among police when so many minorities populate law enforcement's ranks. Instead, he said that the description of systemic racism could be applied to the Democratic Party, which he said 'started slavery and segregation and to this very day they actually encourage the black genocide of black babies.' He also said that 'all of their upper echelon, meaning in the House and the Senate, are white, and has been for decades, many decades, probably forever.' ... Discussing the late founder of Planned Parenthood, McGary said that Margaret Sanger's 'racial hatred towards blacks is unparalleled' and he said that 'her organization specifically targets to this very day black babies' through its abortion programs. ... Regarding the key question that will characterize this year's election, he remarked, 'The question is: Do you want the ideal of America, the free, the righteous, the just-type America or do you want a new sort of reimagined America that embraces something that is anathema to our Constitution, that would be Marxism.'"

DEMOCRATIC POLITICIAN CALLS FOR CHANGING NAME OF THE PARTY BECAUSE OF ITS RACIST HISTORY (Friday Church News Notes, July 17, 2020,

www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from "Dem. Ga. State Rep: Disband and Change Name of Democratic Party," CNSNews, July 6, 2020: "'If racist relics of the past must come down, shouldn't we start with the Democrat Party?'" Democrat Georgia State Rep. Vernon Jones asks, introducing his video recalling his party's dubious past regarding issues of racial equality. 'If the Democrats are looking to eradicate everything with a *racist history*, when will my party confront and apologize for its own?' Rep. Jones wrote Friday in a Twitter post of his video, in which he denounces the hypocrisy of Democrats supporting the unlawful destruction of statues and monuments while refusing to erase their own ties to slavery, segregation and Democrat Planned Parenthood founder Margaret Sanger. 'What I see happening from the Democrats and the Left: banding together, going throughout this country unlawfully tearing down statues and removing monuments and changing the name of streets and buildings because they feel it's associated with racism and bigotry and the Confederacy. But, here's what they're not touching and not banning at all or changing the name: the Democratic Party.' ... 'Join me and others. Let's challenge the Democrat Party, to have at their national convention, the number one platform issue that they will disband and change the Democratic Party.'"

BLACK LIVES MATTER LEADERS PRAY TO ALLAH FOR STRENGTH NOT TO KILL WHITE PEOPLE AND PRESENT A FIVE-YEAR PLAN FOR COMPLETE ABOLITION OF POLICE AND ELIMINATION

OF MILITARY BASES ABROAD (Friday Church News Notes, July 17, 2020, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from "Black Lives Matter Leader Toronto," *Gateway Pundit*, July 6, 2020: "Old social media posts written by Black Lives Matter co-founder Toronto Yusra Khogali are making the rounds this week. Yusra Khogali in 2016 wrote 'white people are a genetic defect of blackness' in a since-deleted Facebook post. 'Whiteness is not humxness,' Khogali wrote in a Facebook post. 'in fact, white skin is sub-humxn.' ... Khogali also claimed, 'melanin directly communicates with cosmic energy.' In a separate Twitter post, Khogali tweeted, 'Plz Allah give me the strength to not cuss/kill these men and white folks out here today.'" The following is excerpted from "Black Lives Matter Philadelphia," *Fox News*, July 8, 2020: "The Philadelphia arm of the Black Lives Matter movement has called for the 'complete abolition' of the police department in five years as well as the scrapping of military bases abroad. ... And according to BLM Philadelphia organizer and activist YahNé Ndgo, the chapter has developed a five-year plan to do just that. 'One of the things that we are demanding over five years is the complete abolition. We don't want to see any police in our community,' Ndgo told *Fox News* in an interview Tuesday. ... She pointed out that



‘there are over 800 U.S. military bases around the world,’ in addition to the Pentagon’s AFRICOM program, ‘which puts military bases in almost every country on the African continent.’ (According to Pentagon maps published by *The Intercept* in February, there appear to be U.S. bases on 29 of the 54 countries that make up Africa.) Those bases, she said, should be defunded. ‘(Defunding) these particular programs would provide massive amounts of resources for the communities in the United States, and that would mitigate most of the problems that create the so-called problem of crime,’ Ngdo said.”

BLACK LIVES MATTER MARXIST PROPAGANDA IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS (Friday Church News Notes, July 17, 2020, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from “Black Lives Matter,” *The Federalist*, July 8, 2020: “New York City is one of many school systems in the United States set to roll out Black Lives Matter (BLM)-themed lesson plans this fall. According to the NYC Department of Education, teachers will delve into ‘systemic racism,’ police brutality, and white privilege in their classrooms. North Carolina’s largest school system in Wake County launched a website this summer that provides BLM lessons for teachers to use in classrooms and



for parents to use at home. ... Encouraging people to identify and condemn racism is an undeniably laudable undertaking by these school administrators. That’s not what’s really happening, however. By bringing BLM into the classroom, activist educators are allowing the most radically divisive movement in modern American history to warp children’s worldviews. Wake County’s BLM teaching resource is dressed up as a legitimate civics education resource, complete with tips for fostering civil discourse and a section on teaching historical facts about America’s civil rights movement. But closer inspection reveals it to be a deliberate Trojan Horse conceived to incubate, amplify, and channel the movement’s attitudes for political ends. ... Splashed across the homepage of the Wake County School System’s website is BLM founder Patrisse Cullors. It is puzzling that a self-proclaimed ‘trained Marxist,’ such as Cullors, would be a role model for the school system’s anti-hatred, anti-oppression curriculum. Do these school administrators realize that Karl Marx’s road to utopia led to millions of deaths at the hands of tyrants? ... Cullors is a vocal anti-Israel activist and close ally of Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan.”

TRANSSEXUAL ANTIFA ACTIVIST SAYS THEY ARE ORGANIZING FOR THE ABOLITION OF THE UNITED STATES (Friday Church News Notes, July 24, 2020, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - At a news event outside the federal courthouse in Portland, Oregon, an Antifa activist got applause from the crowd, including a Catholic priest,



when she said she is organizing for the abolition of the United States. “My name is Lilith Sinclair, and I am an Afro-Indigenous non-binary local organizer here in Portland, organizing for the abolition of not just the militarized police state, but also the United States that we know” (@MrAndyNgo, July 19, 2020). (Non-binary refers to transsexualism.) Sinclair also identified herself as a “sex worker.” Antifa has been rioting night after night for two months in Portland, causing tens of millions of dollars in damage and many bodily injuries, including the vicious assault of a street preacher. Daryl Turner, head of the Portland Police Association, said, “The elected officials have condoned the destruction and chaos.” The Democratic city government refuses to let the police arrest the leaders and shut down the riots, trying to shift blame to federal agents who are tasked with guarding federal property. Ultimately, Antifa is at war with God and His holy laws, and that is a no-win situation. We recommend repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ before it is too late. The Bible describes the future of all evildoers. “Fret not thyself because of evildoers, neither be thou envious against the workers of iniquity. For they shall soon be cut down like the grass, and wither as the green herb. Trust in the LORD, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be

fed. Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart. Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass. And he shall bring forth thy righteousness as the light, and thy judgment as the noonday. Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for him: fret not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass. Cease from anger, and forsake wrath: fret not thyself in any wise to do evil. For evildoers shall be cut off: but those that wait upon the LORD, they shall inherit the earth. For yet a little while, and the wicked shall not be: yea, thou shalt diligently consider his place, and it shall not be (Psalm 37:1-10).

TURKEY SEEKING AN EXPANDED ROLE IN SPREAD OF ISLAM (Friday Church News Notes, July 24, 2020, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The following is excerpted from "Turkey vows to 'liberate Al-Aqsa,'" *The Jerusalem Post*, July 11, 2020: "Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan vowed to 'liberate al-Aqsa mosque' from Israel after 'resurrecting Hagia Sophia' as a mosque on Friday. The decision to change the status of the ancient Hagia Sophia church, which had been transformed into a mosque in 1453 and then into a museum in 1934, was



made controversially last week. It follows an increasingly religious authoritarian agenda from Ankara that has made Turkey the world's largest jailer of journalists, seen dissidents imprisoned for 'terrorism' and witnessed increasing military invasions of neighboring countries by Turkey. The resurrection of Hagia Sophia heralds the liberation of the al-Aqsa mosque, the Turkish Presidency website says. ... In Arabic the speech says that turning Hagia Sophia into a mosque is part of the 'return of freedom to al-Aqsa,' essentially meaning Israel should be ejected from controlling Jerusalem's Old City where al-Aqsa is located. Turkey's president linked the decision to reviving Islam from Bukhara in Uzbekistan to Andalusia in Spain. This terminology, linking al-Aqsa in Jerusalem to Hagia Sophia and Spain, is a kind of coded terminology for a wider religious agenda. In the Turkish translation, the same reference to Spain does not appear to be included as in the Arabic. ... Linking the major change at Hagia Sophia to Jerusalem illustrates that Ankara's ambitions are far larger than just reasserting Islamic prayers at the historic mosque and church in Istanbul; it is part of a larger Islamic agenda for the region."

SMITHSONIAN MUSEUM'S MARXIST PROPAGANDA AGAINST CHRISTIANITY

(Friday Church News Notes, July 24, 2020, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The following is excerpted from "Smithsonian Goes Full Marxist," PJMedia, July 15, 2020: "In June, while Americans were focused on the protests and riots that engulfed U.S. cities in the wake of the horrific police killing of George Floyd, the



Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC) released an online 'teaching tool' called 'Talking About Race.' ... According to the infographic, 'whiteness' includes cultural aspects like 'Rugged Individualism' and the 'Family Structure' (including the nuclear family, the husband as the breadwinner, and the wife as homemaker and subordinate to the husband). An 'emphasis on the scientific method' is supposedly part of 'whiteness,' including three bullet points: 'Objective, rational linear thinking;' 'Cause and effect relationships;' and 'Quantitative emphasis.' ... In the field of religion, the infographic claims that 'Christianity is the norm,' that 'anything other than Judeo-Christian tradition is foreign' and that there is 'no tolerance for deviation from single god concept.' ... Under 'Justice,' whiteness allegedly involves following English common law, protecting 'property & entitlements,' and considering the intent of an action. ... Even simple values like 'be polite' qualify as especially 'white,' according to the graphic. ... According to the [cultural] Marxist narrative, white males have oppressed blacks, Asians, women, transgender people, and others, and the key goal of 'social justice' is to dethrone the whites and empower the minorities. ... The Smithsonian carries a great deal of cultural weight

and its decision to demonize many central aspects of American culture as relics of 'whiteness' will only add fuel to the movement to overhaul America's culture and founding principles. ... The federally-funded institution should be defending American culture, not demonizing the nuclear family, capitalism, the Judeo-Christian heritage, and science."



accepted a nice couple as members, but they have yet to attend Sunday School, Sunday night, or Wed night services. I'm concerned that we may be too eager to accept people, who, if they do stick around, will bring in worldly baggage."

LIVING ON BOTH SIDES OF THE STREET (Friday Church News Notes, July 24,

TOO EAGER TO RECEIVE MEMBERS (Friday Church News Notes, July 24, 2020, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The biblical pattern of a regenerate church membership was rejected by most Baptist churches by the early 20th century, and this is a fundamental reason why the average Baptist church is a spiritually-powerless mixed multitude. The following testimony is typical: "I have not been able to get the article about careful church membership out of my mind. It has concerned me when I consider the churches of which I've been a member over the years. When I joined a church as a teen, the leading men of the church

inquired closely about my salvation. Since that time as I've moved, churches I have joined have taken for granted that a previous church has checked my salvation. I was never asked again. It does seem, especially in these times, silly to assume that another church has done some checking. We see middle-aged or older couples visit our current church. I think their old church finally became too worldly for them in some area (probably music), so they visited us, liked our more conservative music, and were allowed to join. They last for a short time, but then come up against some other Biblical standards, and leave. This is discouraging, but perhaps it is our fault for being too eager to accept worldly Christians from other churches. We recently

2020, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - "Arthur T. Pierson likened certain preachers to the old woman who, when in court was questioned on which side of the street she lived, and answered, 'On both sides. On the right side when you are going up and on the left side when you are going down.' Modernism has enjoyed a large measure of success by the aid of ministers who live 'on both sides of the street called straight, and Fundamentalism has found in these same ministers a more effective opposing force than the Modernism of the left side of the street has ever been able to muster" (W.B. Riley, "Divinely-Ordered Divisions," Conservative Baptist Regional meeting, Chicago, October 1943).

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