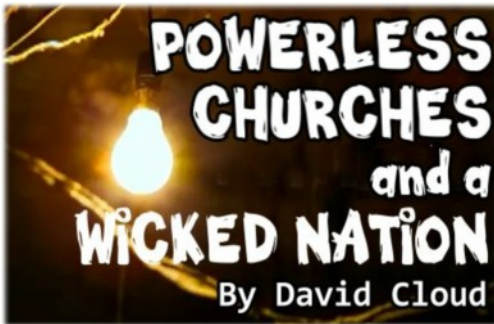


O Timothy

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

A Monthly Newsletter for Spiritual Protection and Edification

Volume 38 - Issue 2 - February 2021



"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." **Page 4.**

Digging in the Walls: A month's worth of news items, republished from Friday Church News Notes. **Page 9.**



PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES BANNED BY MAJOR SOCIAL MEDIA MOGULS ~ By David Cloud

In an historic move with far-reaching implications, the president of the United States has been banned by Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, Twitch, Pinterest, Reddit, TikTok, Discord, and Snapchat. Though President Trump doesn't have an account with most of these social media platforms, they are banning such things as videos of Trump speeches and unofficial Trump forums. The e-commerce platform Shopify shut down shops run by the Trump campaign and the Trump organization. At least four banks have closed Trump accounts: Bank United and Professional Bank in Florida and Signature Bank and Deutsche Bank in New York, and Bill de Blasio, the mayor of New York City, said the city will terminate business contracts with Trump ("Banks Close Trump's Accounts," *Epoch Times*, Jan. 22, 2021). Trump has lost two real-estate brokers, and the Professional Golf Association announced that it would not allow Trump to host the 2022 PGA Championship ("Florida-based bank," *The Washington Post*, Jan. 22, 2021).



Parler, the free speech alternative to Twitter, has been removed from Google Play (Android) and the Apple store. Amazon shut down all of Parler's servers on Jan. 10, and Parler's CEO John Matze has not yet been able to find a company that is willing to host the social media. He is also receiving death threats.

The chairwoman for Mozilla, the creator of the Firefox web browser, called for additional actions to alter "the dangerous dynamics" of the internet and to silence "disinformation campaigns" by "bad actors," meaning those who refuse to toe the Leftist line.

This is totalitarian language that flies in the face of the U.S. Bill of Rights.

Where were these people when Black Lives Matter and Antifa caused \$2 billion in destruction across America?

We're never been great fans of President Trump and have disagreed with a lot of things that he has said. It appears to us that he is immoral, foul mouthed, pompous, narcissistic, self-willed, bullying, an abusive name caller, speaks when he should be silent, and turns on his own friends, among other things. We believe that he has degraded the office (not that he is the first to do so, by a long shot). But the man has done his best to fulfill his campaign promises, a rare thing. He has not enriched

himself from politics as so many have done. In fact, he has not taken a salary from the government and has probably harmed his personal business empire by his effort to make America great again. He has most definitely done *many* good things for America. He is convinced the election was stolen, believes he has evidence of it, and has complained loud and long about it. But he *did not* call for an attack on the Capitol Building. Rather, he publicly and plainly condemned it. He cannot be compared to Leftist ideologues who have openly called for violence, even against the president himself. And Trump's supporters aren't insurgents. Whatever part they had in the attack on the Capitol Building on Jan. 6, it was out of character.

The anti-American totalitarianism and gross hypocrisy of the moguls behind the major social media platforms is evident in this move.

Tucker Carlson of *Fox News* said, "Days after Donald Trump called for breaking up the Big Tech monopolies in order to preserve democracy, they have silenced him. Friday evening, Twitter announced that the sitting president had been banned from the platform that is his primary means of public communication. Of course, they waited until the Democratic Party took power to shut it down. Silicon Valley oligarchs are more powerful than the president of the United States, and they want you to know it. ... The assault on speech accelerates ... Friday morning, CNN announced that it is working to force the Fox News Channel off the air and run this company out of business. A number of prominent Democrats, including officeholders, support that effort. CNN staffers have already contacted the six major cable carriers in this country, the companies that carry our signal into your home, and pressured them to drop Fox News" (*Tucker Carlson Tonight*, Jan. 8, 2021).

Donald Trump, Jr., warned, "We are living in Orwell's 1984. Free-speech no longer exists in America. It died with big tech and what's left is only there for a chosen few" (@DonaldJTrumpJr, Jan. 9, 2021).

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said, "Silencing speech is dangerous. It's un-American. Sadly, this isn't a new tactic of the Left. They've worked to silence opposing voices for years. We cannot let them silence 75M Americans. This isn't the CCP" (@mikepompeo, Jan. 9, 2021)

O TIMOTHY Magazine
Volume 38 Issue 2

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Subscription information on
back page of the magazine

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Liberal reporter Michael Tracey also sees clearly where this is heading. “The new corporate authoritarian liberal-left monoculture is going to be absolutely ruthless--and in 12 days it is merging with the state. This is only the beginning, The most extreme, coordinated corporate censorship offensive in modern history and liberals/leftists are in a mindless celebratory stupor. Pathetic skills” (@mtracey, Jan. 9, 2021).

Kate Ruane, a senior legislative counsel at the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), released a statement condemning Facebook and Twitter’s decision to suspend the president’s account, warning of “unchecked power.”

All of that is true, but God’s people have far more light than the world. Concerning such times, God’s Word says,

“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” (Psalm 37:1-4).

This is not blind religious faith. It is faith in the Word of a God who cannot lie, who has prophesied the coming of His kingdom in a Book whose prophecies have always been fulfilled, who has all power, and who cannot fail.

Further, though it is bad day in America for its historic liberties, it is not the end of America nor the end of liberty. For now, there is still plenty of opportunity for “conservatives” to fight and who knows what a year or two will bring forth? Conservative lawyer John Hinderaker put it like this: “Now we are on to the Biden administration. I, for one, plan to #Resist the incoming administration every day for the next four years. We won’t #Resist like the Democrats did; that is, there will be no lies and no crimes. But with a cadaver like Biden, truth will be more than enough. Some famous American once said something along the lines of, ‘I have not yet begun to fight.’ I believe that was when he was called on to surrender. That is how I feel tonight. On January 20, the battle begins” (“A Sad Day,” Powerlineblog.com, Jan. 6. 2021).

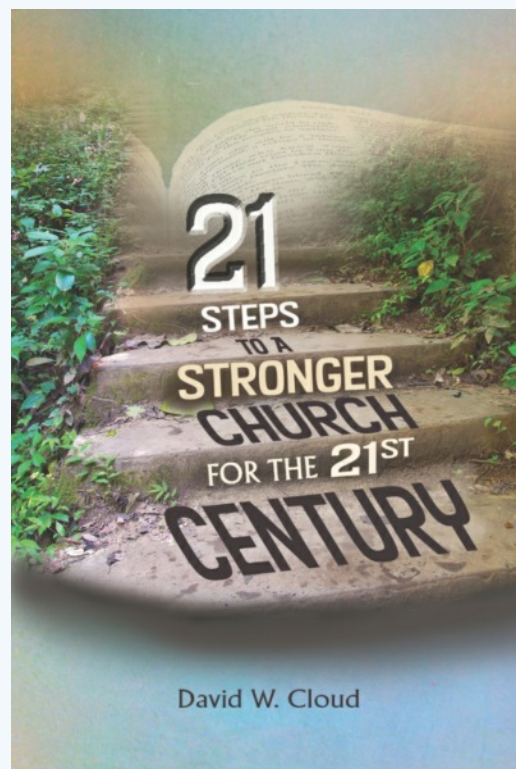
More importantly, there is still time for churches to take the Word of God much more seriously, to

awaken from a lukewarm slumber. There is time to stop playing and start praying, really praying, praying a lot, praying on purpose, setting aside time in the weekly church schedule for real prayer, private prayer, corporate prayer, family prayer, praying with partners, prayer before services, real prayer meetings. Not talking about prayer, not taking prayer requests, not talking about politics, not complaining and bemoaning. Praying. And it is time to start confessing sins and living a separated pilgrim lifestyle instead of a Christian party lifestyle that is, in reality, worldliness with a thin veneer of “we love Jesus and the King James Bible.”

It is time for pastors to wake up and lead their churches out of spiritual lethargy. We recommend taking [21 Steps to a Stronger Church for the 21st Century](https://www.wayoflife.org/free_ebooks/21_steps_to_a_stronger_church.php), available as a free eBook at: https://www.wayoflife.org/free_ebooks/21_steps_to_a_stronger_church.php

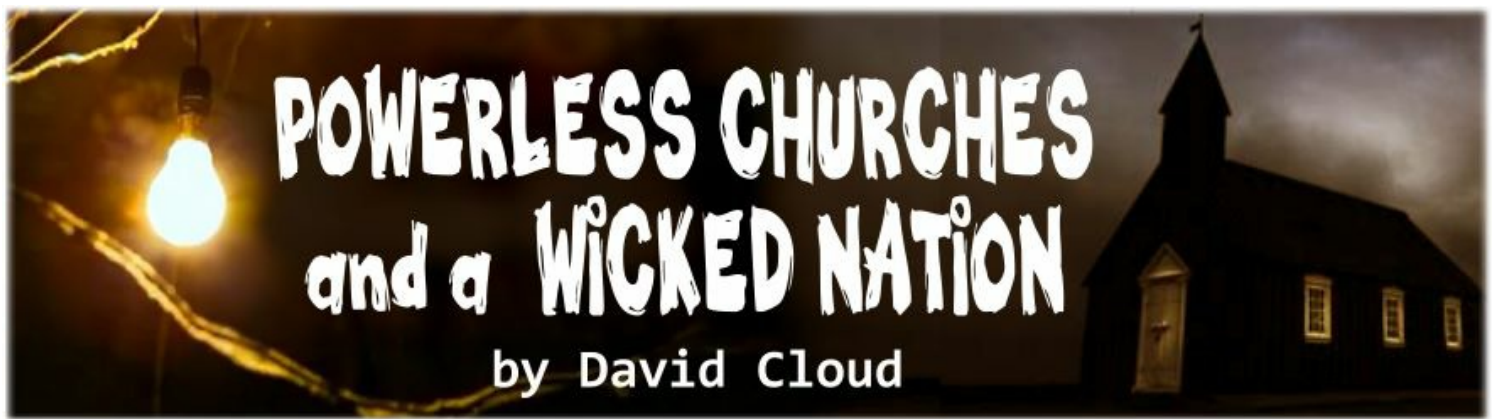
21 Steps to a Stronger Church for the 21st Century

By David W. Cloud



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Way of Life Website

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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" such as Southern Baptists? Most are leavened with rock & roll worldliness and cultural liberalism (they are friends with, and conformed to, the world, which is spiritual adultery), no repentance easy believism, 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. 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. Large numbers of them, 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 conversation, the priorities, the entertainment, the content of the social media. The 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 prayer. How many churches are churches of serious prayer? A mid-week prayer meeting that I

attended at an independent Baptist church a year or so ago is all too typical. It consisted of about four minutes of silent prayer closed by a brother who prayed for about 30 seconds.

An evangelist friend wrote as follows of a recent experience: "Many are just putting in their time in prayer. We were in one church this year for prayer meeting. When they divided for prayer, my wife and I knelt to pray. Within 2-3 minutes, the auditorium became quiet. I looked up and everyone was talking in the back of the church. SAD!" I asked a friend who attends one of the stronger independent Baptist churches in the South if he sees a lot of praying going on. He replied, "No. None at all."

(6) 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 that is under the judgment of God.



The Mobile Phone and the Christian Home and Church

A Youth Discipleship Course

by David W. Cloud

Many Christian homes and churches are losing a frightful percentage of their young people to the world.

This practical and far-reaching youth discipleship course deals with the parent's part, the church's part, and the youth's part in winning and discipling young people. It covers salvation, child discipline, the Christian home environment that produces disciples, reaching the child's heart, Bible study techniques, how to protect young people from dangers associated with the Internet and smartphones, how to use apologetics, and many other things.

It deals with how to train young people to be effective Bible students and how to involve them in the church's ministry. The course deals with eleven biblical principles of spiritual protection that young people must build into their own lives.

[Available From Way of Life Website](http://WayofLifeWebsite.com)

EVIDENCE of Systemic Racism in AMERICA

By David Cloud



Black Lives Matter and others claim that there is “systemic racism” in America. Indeed, the evidence can be seen everywhere. Consider some examples:

America liberated all black slaves in 1865, and the federal government under a Republican majority set out to empower blacks with the same civil rights enjoyed by others.

The Thirteenth Amendment abolishing slavery passed with the support of 100% of Republicans and 23% of Democrats. This shows that a large number of white people in America cared for the rights of black people and wanted to help them. A great many whites gave their lives for this cause, both before, during, and after the war.

In 1866, Republicans in Congress 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 by enforcing the federal laws granting liberties to blacks. Republicans campaigned on the Fourteenth Amendment in the 1866 midterm elections and voters rewarded them with veto-proof majorities in both houses of Congress. Again, it is obvious that a majority of whites outside of the South were sympathetic to black civil rights.

In 1869, Congress passed the 15th Amendment granting the right to vote to all men regardless of race.

In 1872, the first seven black members of the United States Senate and House of Representatives were seated. Between then and 1900, nearly 40 blacks would serve in the U.S. Congress (all Republicans).

After the Civil War and the liberation of blacks from slavery, there was a massive movement to educate them

and to otherwise lift them out of their desolate condition. Literacy among southern blacks increased from 5% in 1870 to 70% by 1900.

It was an unprecedented event in history. Booker T. Washington, who was in the midst of the phenomenon both as a learner and as a teacher, described it as follows: “This experience of a whole race beginning to go to school for the first time, presents one of the most interesting studies that has ever occurred in connection with the development of any race” (*Up from Slavery*, 1901).

The American Bible Society and the American Tract Society distributed millions of copies of Bibles and religious materials among freed blacks.

Blacks made great progress in the decades after the Civil War, in spite of starting out from the depraved condition created by 200 years of slavery and in spite of the southern Democrats’ ferocious attempt to put them back under bondage.

From the beginning of the 20th century, there was growing pushback against Jim Crow segregation.

In 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued an executive order opening government jobs and defense contracts to all Americans regardless of race.

In 1948, President Harry Truman issued an executive order ending segregation in the military.

Though there was still white supremacist thinking in the South in the mid-20th century, the mood had changed greatly. Most were opposed to the type of violence that the KKK had perpetrated in previous times. Law enforcement, judges, and juries could no longer be

depended on to justify these things (David Chalmers, *Hooded Americanism: The History of the Ku Klux Klan*, 2007).

In 1957, the Civil Rights Act was signed into law by President Dwight D. Eisenhower. It removed the restrictions to voting rights which had been used against minorities.

In 1964, the Civil Rights Act was signed into law by President Lyndon Johnson. It prevents employment discrimination due to race, color, sex, religion or national origin.

In 1965, President Johnson issued an executive order requiring firms under contract with the federal government to take “affirmative action to ensure that applicants are employed and that employees are treated during employment, without regard to their race, creed, color, or national origin.” During the Richard Nixon administration, this was expanded to set quotas for hiring minority-owned firms.

There have been 25 minority race governors and lieutenant governors.

162 blacks have served in Congress. The 116th Congress (2019) was the most racially diverse in the nation’s history with 116 non-white members. This was an 84% increase over the 107th Congress (2001) which had 63 minority members.

America has more than 6,000 black public officials. About 330 of America’s cities have black mayors, including many cities in the South (e.g., Atlanta, GA; Baton Rouge, LA; Birmingham, AL; Augusta, GA; Shreveport, LA; Jackson, MS). 39 of the 100 largest American cities have black mayors; 40% of them serve in cities that do not have black majority populations. Black women lead seven of the nation’s largest cities.

From 2009 to 2017, a black man held office as the 44th president of the United States. He was elected to two terms of office though blacks only formed 13% of the population. A majority of his total votes nationwide for this black man were cast by whites.

About 30% of America’s police nationwide are non-white. The number almost doubled between 1987 and

2013. In 2013, there were 130,000 non-white police officers, including 58,000 blacks, about 12% of the total. In Los Angeles, nearly 65% of the police force is non-white. The Detroit police department is so dominated by blacks that it was sued in 2005 for discrimination against whites. There are many black sheriffs and police chiefs. North Carolina, in the deep South, has 20 black sheriffs.

America has spent trillions of dollars in support of non-white “minority” communities. In 2018, Baltimore alone received more than \$5 billion in federal aid.

“From 1950 to 2000, Black people in the United States experienced much larger income gains than whites did. The group that had the largest income gains, by far, was Black women. Their incomes nearly doubled over that period (after inflation). The race gap persists, but it is much lower today than it was in 1950. Does this sound like the financial results from a systemically racist country? ... The Census Bureau report released earlier this month finds that from 2016 to 2019, Black incomes rose more than in any three years in the history of the United States. The median household income for Blacks is now \$45,438. ... The highest-income group in America today is not white-skinned workers. It is Asians. Astonishingly, the median household income of Asian Americans reached just shy of \$100,000 a year. One of America's wonders as a land of opportunity is that an immigrant can come to America dirt-poor from China or India and, within 20 years, move into the middle class or even become wealthy. ... This couldn't have happened in America if this were a nation that hates brown-skinned Americans. It could not have occurred in a xenophobic country. ... The average Hispanic household in America makes more than \$56,000 a year today. That is a *massive* leap forward from what Hispanics earn in Mexico, El Salvador or Cuba. ... I would submit from all this that America isn't the most but rather the least racist nation on Earth when it comes to upward economic mobility” (Stephen Moore, *The Washington Examiner*, Sep. 24, 2020).

“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" (Walter Williams, "The True Plight of Black Americans," *Townhall*, June 10, 2020; Williams is Professor of Economics at George Mason University).

"So when people start to talk about systemic racism, built into the system, what they're really doing is expanding the territory of entitlement. We want more. We want society to give us more. Society is responsible for us, because racism is so systemic. Well, that's a corruption, and I know it's a corruption, because the truth of the matter is blacks have never been less oppressed than they are today. Opportunity is around every corner. In all of this, no one ever stops to say, well, you're unhappy with where minorities are at in

American life, and blacks continue to be at the bottom of most socioeconomic measures. You're unhappy about that. Well, why don't you take some responsibility for that? Why don't you take more responsibility? I would be happy to look at all the usual bad guys, the police and so forth, if we had the nerve, the courage to look at black people. To look at black Americans, minority Americans, and say, you're not carrying your own weight. ... We're farther behind than we've ever been, and we keep blaming it on racism, blaming it on the police. I'm exhausted with that. I grew up in a time when there was real segregation. Blacks during the '50s took a lot of responsibility for their lives, because the government didn't. My father bought three ramshackle houses, rebuilt them, rented them out, kept clawing his way up the ladder. A man with a third-grade education from the South. What civil rights bill is going to replace that? That value system? And he was not exceptional. Across the community we lived in, those were the values. That is the problem. We have allowed ourselves to be enabled in avoiding our real problems by a guilty white society. ... There's always going to be some racism, in every society. My own sense is that it is endemic to the human condition. ... We have let this sort of guilty society, and our grievance industry, put us in this impossible situation where we are a permanent underclass. Before the '60s, there was no black underclass. That's a new phenomenon" (Shelby Steele, *Life, Liberty, and Levin*, June 7, 2020; Steele is former Lt. Gov. of Maryland, conservative political analyst, columnist, senior fellow at the Hoover Institution).

"This is not 1960. You got Democratic cities--Chicago, Atlanta, LA--run by Democrats, run by people of color. There's chaos in those cities and they're calling 'systemic discrimination. They need to look in the mirror. This is not 1960. This is not Bull Connor. This is not German Shepherds chasing black folks down the street and yet they play this game of using a word, a term, a phrase that does not apply in 2020. ... Let me be as clear as possible: I, as a black man, as an American, do not support Black Lives Matter. Why? Very simple. Black Lives Matter doesn't care about all black lives. ... They are profiteers. You will see Al Sharpton--you'll see him at a police case involving a black man and a white officer, but other than that, those are the only black lives that matter" (Leo Terrell, "Civil Rights Attorney Talks about Being Shunned," *Daily Caller*, July 15, 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?



GOOGLE NOTIFIES CHILDREN IF PARENTS ARE MONITORING THEIR ACCOUNTS

(Friday Church News Notes, January 1, 2021, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

The following is excerpted from "Google confirms," *Just the News*, Dec. 21, 2020: "Google's child-notification policies received attention when film director Robby Starbuck claimed on Twitter that his 7-year-old child had received a warning from Google that his account was being monitored. 'Our 7-year-old son has to have google for homeschooling,' Starbuck wrote on Twitter, 'so naturally we setup parental controls but look what [Google] did. They sent my son an email telling him we're supervising his account.' 'Your privacy is important to us,' the company wrote to the 7-year-old boy, 'and we want to remind you that your parent ... is supervising your Google account.' Reached for comment, the company confirmed it does notify young children when parents are monitoring their account activity. The company pointed to both the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the recently passed UK Age Appropriate Design Code as examples of child-privacy advocacy to which it adheres. The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child--which dates to September 1990--holds, in part, that 'no child

shall be subjected to arbitrary or unlawful interference with his or her privacy, family, home or correspondence, nor to unlawful attacks on his or her honour and reputation.'"

ONTARIO PASTOR FINED \$100,000 AND COULD FACE PRISON FOR HOLDING CHURCH SERVICES

(Friday Church News Notes, January 1, 2021, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

The following is excerpted from "Ontario pastor," *Conservative Review*, Dec. 25, 2020: "The Harvest Bible Church in Windsor, Ontario, released a press statement on Thursday, Dec. 24, claiming that the church's lead pastor, Dr. Aaron Rock, has been fined up to \$100,000 and could face a year in prison for holding church services. 'Police also informed us that they will bar our congregation from entering the church on Christmas Eve, contrary to Section 176 of the Criminal Code and the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. We are deeply grieved by these unlawful and immoral acts, having already been banned from meeting on Good Friday and Easter Sunday,' a statement from the church reads. The church says that the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit has not responded to any written communication from the church while police close the premises. ... Pastor Rock said that legal action against



provincial governments that infringe on religious freedoms is coming soon. ‘Yes there will be lawsuits, they will start in the western provinces, with the goal to overturn their draconian rules. Then they will move to Ontario.’” Pastor Rock told the *Post Millennial*, “I think our justice system is under the spell of foolishness, but in all honesty whatever the courts decide or not decide, makes very little difference to me. I have a work for God, a mandate for God, and whether the court upholds this ridiculous charge or not, it doesn’t change my convictions” (“Ontario pastor,” *Post Millennial*, Dec. 28, 2020).

JOURNALIST SENTENCED TO FOUR YEARS IN PRISON BY CHINESE COURT (Friday Church News Notes, January 1, 2021, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- As a reminder that there is no true freedom in communist China, a journalist has been sentenced to four years in prison for reporting on Covid-19. The following is excerpted from “This Brave Woman Reported Covid-19,” *PJMedia*, Dec. 28, 2020: “On Monday, a Chinese court sentenced a lawyer-turned-citizen-journalist who traveled to Wuhan to report on COVID-19. Authorities first detained her in May after her livestream reporting in Wuhan. The government charged her with ‘picking quarrels and provoking trouble.’ A Chinese court sentenced the

journalist, 37-year-old Zhang Zhan, to four years in jail, her lawyer Zhang Keke told reporters outside the courtroom. Zhang reportedly began a hunger strike in June, but she has been force-fed via a nasal tube. China has punished eight virus whistleblowers so far. The Chinese Communist Party lied to cover up the coronavirus pandemic early on, and waited until after 5 million people had already left Wuhan before locking down the city at the center of the outbreak. The party also reportedly destroyed early samples of the virus and silenced doctors who tried to warn the world about it. A University of Southampton study found that if the Communist Party had enacted quarantine measures three weeks earlier, the coronavirus spread would have been reduced by 95 percent. When the World Health Organization (WHO) tweeted that the coronavirus might transmit from person to person, the Chinese government told the WHO to remove that statement, and the WHO complied. ... China has even threatened U.S. senators by name who dared to call Beijing to account for its malfeasance.”

VIDEO GAME INDUSTRY REVENUE SURPASSES MOVIES, SPORTS COMBINED

(Friday Church News Notes, January 1, 2021, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Revenue from video games worldwide reached \$180 billion in 2020, an increase of 20% over the previous year, surpassing the sports and movie industries combined (*Just the News*, Dec. 27, 2020). While there are video games that are relatively innocent and might be used in wise and godly moderation, these are not the most popular ones, and even with these there is always the danger that



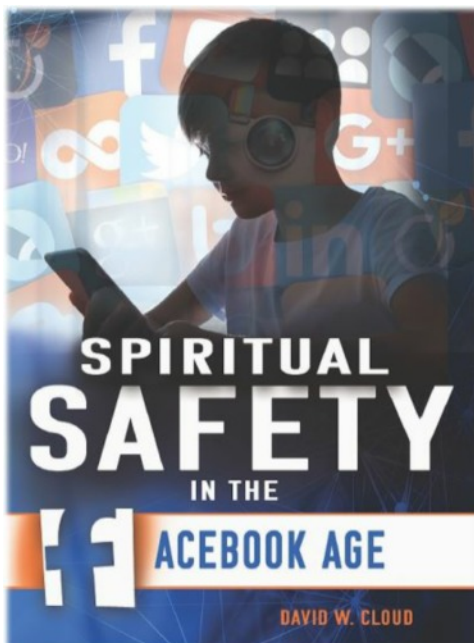
video gaming will become an addictive waste of life’s fleeting hours. There is also the ever-present danger of getting drawn into truly wicked games. “Hell and destruction are never full; so the eyes of man are never satisfied” (Pr. 27:20). A former gamer says, “Visiting families, I’ve seen ‘innocent’ children’s games having advertisements for violent games that showed texts like ‘kill’ or ‘headshot,’ including the bloody graphics. Other advertisements contained gambling, women with very few clothes on, and so on. I’ve yet to see the first video game on a smartphone/tablet that doesn’t have such advertising.” Video games are so addictive that thousands of husbands and wives have been virtually abandoned for make-believe games played in cyberspace. In other words, they have been abandoned for nothing, for a figment of the imagination, for pixels on a screen, for less than soap bubbles. Video games are designed to be addictive. The developers and markets are in the business for money. They are not innocent promoters of entertainment. If you let them, they will steal your time, your heart, your holiness. The multi-player online video games are so addictive that they are likened to drugs. *EverQuest* is called “Never rest” and “Ever crack,” *World of Warcraft* is called “World of War Crack,” *Halo 3* is called “Halodiction.” The most addictive and dangerous are the MMORPG



(massively multiplayer online role-playing) games. Nothing takes over young people's hearts and minds more than these.

SPIRITUAL SAFETY IN THE FACEBOOK AGE (Friday Church News Notes, January 1, 2021, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- This comprehensive book on social media dangers and protections is particularly geared for use as a Bible course in homes and churches. Chapters are Spiritual Safety Requires Understanding the Times, Spiritual Victory Requires Understanding Social Media Dangers, Spiritual Safety Requires a Heart Seeking God's Will, Spiritual Safety Requires Building the Right Kind of Churches and Homes, Spiritual Safety Requires the Right Mindset, Spiritual Safety Requires Practical Steps for Protection, Church Smartphone Accountability Program, Beware of Video Games, and Recommended Materials for Youth Discipleship. In *Spiritual Safety in the Facebook Age*, we look at social media in general, with special focus on Facebook,



Instagram, Twitter, Snapchat, TikTok, YouTube, Tumblr, Google, and Kik. The first chapter describes the present age as the age of apostasy, the age of the Great Commission, the age of scoffing and rebellion, the age of music, the sexualized age, the age of advertising, the age of global commerce, the age of celebrity, the internet age, the age of the smartphone, and the age of social media. The second chapter documents 14 major dangers of social media, including evil communications, the worldview of the media owners, tracking, addiction, self-promotion, stalking, slander, immorality, heresy, time wasting, and ecumenism. The chapter on practical steps gives suggestions for individuals, parents, and churches. 285 pages, available in print and eBook editions, www.wayoflife.org.

DETROIT SUES BLACK LIVES MATTER (Friday Church News Notes, January 1, 2021, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The following is excerpted from "Detroit Sues," *PJmedia*, Dec. 22, 2020: "The Black Lives Matter umbrella group Detroit Will Breathe sued Detroit, alleging police abuse of force during the George Floyd riots in the city this past summer. A judge granted a restraining order in September but the city responded with a countersuit, claiming that the Black Lives Matter group organized a 'civil conspiracy' to riot, destroy property, and disturb the peace. According to Detroit's countersuit, the protesters 'illegally, maliciously, and wrongfully conspired with one another with the intent to and for the illegal purpose of disturbing the peace, engaging in disorderly conduct, inciting riots, destroying



public property, resisting or obstructing officers in charge of duty, and committing acts of violence against [the city] and [Detroit Police Department] officers.' ... The city asks the court to award 'general and compensatory damages equal to' the losses the city sustained, along with punitive damages, a judgment the Black Lives Matter group illegally conspired, and attorneys' fees. ... Importantly, the Detroit countersuit cites various Black Lives Matter videos Detroit Will Breathe promoted, some of which 'show speakers encouraging violence or endorsing violence against police officers, promoting the destruction and defacing of property, and disrupting the lives of Detroit residents.' The counter-lawsuit may force a Black Lives Matter group to fork over cash damages for the riots, a positive step toward justice for the riots that proved the most destructive (in terms of insurance claims) in U.S. history. While leftists repeat claims of 'institutional racism,' the riots have victimized the black community. The destruction disproportionately hit black communities in Kenosha, Wisc., Minneapolis, and Chicago. The riots destroyed black lives, black livelihoods, and black monuments. At least 26 Americans have died in the riots, most of them black."



LEADERS OF U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DEFYING GOD WITH “GENDER INCLUSIVE” LANGUAGE

(Friday Church News Notes, January 8, 2021, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - In fulfillment of Bible prophecy, the Democratic leadership of the 117th U.S. House of Representatives is defying God with an “inclusive language” policy. The new House rules, passed on January 4, “address issues of inequities on the basis of race, color, ethnicity, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, age, or national origin.” This is impossible nonsense, of course, since addressing alleged inequality on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity *creates inequality* against sex and religion, etc. The rule outlaws the use of *he and she, father, mother, son, daughter, brother, sister, uncle, aunt, nephew, niece, husband, wife, father-in-law, mother-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, grandson, or granddaughter*, among others. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said the new measures will make the House of Representatives “the most inclusive in history.” True, and it will also make it the most stupid in history. “So God created man in his own

image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them” (Genesis 1:27). “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” (Psalm 2:2-4).

UNITED METHODIST MINISTER INVOKES HINDU GOD AT OPENING OF U.S. CONGRESS (Friday Church News Notes, January 8, 2021, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Emanuel Cleaver, an ordained United Methodist minister and Democrat Representative from Missouri, who would do better to get a job as a clown, opened the first session of the 117th U.S. Congress by praying in the name of a Hindu god. He concluded, “We ask it in the name of the monotheistic God, Brahma, and God known by many names by different faiths. Amen and a-woman.” The term “amen” has nothing to do with gender, of course. It simply means “so be it.” According to the *Encyclopedia Britannica*, “Brahma was born from a golden egg and created the earth and all things on it. Later myths describe him as having come forth from a lotus that issued from Vishnu’s navel.”



WALL STREET JOURNAL STANDS UP AGAINST CANCEL CULTURE (Friday Church News Notes, January 8, 2021, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The *Wall Street Journal* (WSJ) is standing up for freedom of speech against the totalitarian cancel culture. After the WSJ published an editorial on Dec. 11 by Joseph Epstein poking some fun at Joe Biden’s wife, Jill, for flaunting the title of “Dr.,” there was a “flood of media and Twitter criticism,” angry tirades demanding an apology, retraction, lifelong ban of Epstein, and the resignation of the WSJ editorial editor. Epstein was sharply criticized by Northwestern University, where he taught some 20 years ago. The school went so far as to remove Epstein’s name from its website listing past faculty. In his reply to the critics, Paul Gigot, editor of the *Wall Street Journal*’s editorial page, wrote, “My guess is that the Biden team concluded it was a chance to use the big gun of identity politics to send a message to critics as it prepares to take power. There’s nothing like playing the race or gender card to stifle criticism. ... these pages aren’t going to stop publishing provocative essays merely because they offend the new administration or the political censors in the media and academe.” In a report on the WSJ brouhaha, *The New Criterion* observed, “Last month, after the electors met to cast

their votes for him, Joe Biden once again made a plea for unity. ‘Now it’s time to turn the page ... to unite and to heal,’ he said. We applaud that sentiment. But we wonder what he means by ‘unite’ and ‘heal.’ To judge by the actions of the institutions supporting his cause in this sorry episode, ‘turning the page’ might just be euphemism for sweeping everything and everyone out of step with his program into the oubliette” (“The ‘Dr.’ will see you now,” *The New Criterion*, Jan. 2021).

JOE THE COWBOY DRONE

(Friday Church News Notes, January 8, 2021, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from “Meet Joe, the drone,” Israel21c.org, Dec. 27, 2020: “Noam Azran is an Israeli version of the classic cowboy—a passionate rancher living in the Upper Galilee. But he’s ready to give up the romance of the open plain for technology that will reduce his herding costs and give him time with his family. Azran’s company, BeeFree Agro, is developing ‘Joe,’ an autonomous drone system Azran has dubbed the world’s first ‘click and herd’ solution—or, if you will, ‘Cowboy as a Service.’ ... The cattle respond to the movement of the drone, rather than the sound. ‘Although sometimes we do add sounds of dogs barking,’ Azran notes. ‘What matters is that we move them with the least amount of stress possible. If we try to



scare them away, it just creates a mess.’ ... Joe is controlled by a mobile app. The software first pilots the drone around the countryside to scout out the most efficient herding routes. Then it’s one click to launch the drone. Onboard cameras provide a live video stream to the Joe app so the rancher knows what’s happening in real time. The cows (or camels in Dubai’s case) need to have GPS tags attached so the system can track them. ... The drones can fly up to five kilometers and a single drone can move up to 1,000 head of cattle. ... After Israel, BeeFree’s first international market will be Texas, home to 10% of all the cattle in the United States. BeeFree aims to have 10 to 20 pilot programs around the world running in 2021. ... The name ‘Joe’ comes from Azran’s favorite shepherd dog. ‘Joe displays all the characteristics of a good herding pal: he’s intelligent, loyal, follows orders, is autonomous and fast,’ Azran notes.”

U.S. DIVORCE RATE HITS 50-YEAR LOW, BUT MARRIAGES ALSO ON THE DECLINE

(Friday Church News Notes, January 8, 2021, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The following is excerpted from “U.S. Divorce Rate,” *Christian Headlines*, Nov. 11, 2020: “The new data shows that 14.9 marriages per 1,000 ended in divorce in 2019, a rate that is the lowest it’s been since 1970, according to an analysis by author Wendy Wang, director of research for the Institute for Family Studies. It’s even slightly less than in 1970 when it was 15.0, Wang wrote in an online analysis. The data is derived from the Census Bureau’s American Community Survey. ... The drop in the divorce rate likely will continue,



despite the pandemic, Wang asserted. New data from the American Family Survey shows that 58 percent of married Americans say ‘the pandemic has made them appreciate their spouse more and half agree that their commitment to marriage has deepened,’ Wang wrote. ... But the Census data also has some bad news for the nation: The marriage rate continued to decline in 2019, hitting an all-time low. ‘For every 1,000 unmarried adults in 2019, only 33 got married. This number was 35 a decade ago in 2010 and 86 in 1970,’ Wang wrote.”

CIRCUIT COURT STRIKES DOWN BAN AGAINST “CONVERSION THERAPY”

(Friday Church News Notes, January 8, 2021, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from “Court Strikes Down,” *PJMedia*, Nov. 25, 2020: “Last week, a panel on the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals effectively struck down two Florida bans on sexual orientation change efforts (SOCE) that sought to ban counselors from putting minors through ‘conversion therapy.’ **The court ruled that the laws violated the First Amendment by restricting free speech.** While LGBT activists have rightly condemned the historic abuses of ‘conversion therapy’ in the past, modern SOCE therapists use patient-directed talk therapy, not ‘shock therapy.’ When the City of



Boca Raton and the County of Palm Beach banned SOCE counseling, licensed marriage and family therapists Robert Otto and Julie Hamilton sued, seeking an injunction to prevent the city and county from enacting their bans. ... The therapists argue that ‘their clients typically have sincerely held religious beliefs conflicting with homosexuality, and voluntarily seek SOCE counseling in order to live in congruence with their faith and to conform their identity, concept of self, attractions, and behaviors to their sincerely held religious beliefs.’ ... As Judge Grant wrote, ‘The ordinances thus codify a particular viewpoint--sexual orientation is immutable, but gender is not— and prohibit the therapists from advancing any other perspective when counseling clients.’ ... This involves an unconstitutional restriction of free speech. ‘Whether therapy is prohibited depends only on the content of the words used in that therapy, and the ban on that content is because the government disagrees with it. And whether the government’s disagreement is for good reasons, great reasons, or terrible reasons has nothing at all to do with it. All that matters is that a therapist’s speech to a minor client is legal or illegal under the ordinances based solely on its content,’ Judge Grant wrote. ... Lawsuits against ‘conversion therapy’ bans received a new lease on life thanks to *NIFLA v. Becerra*. In that decision, Justice

Clarence Thomas explicitly struck down California’s law forcing crisis pregnancy centers to advertise abortion under the argument that states can regulate ‘professional speech.’ In striking down California’s law, Thomas referenced a case (*King v. Governor of New Jersey*) involving bans on sexual orientation change efforts. ***Otto v. Boca Raton* represents a landmark case for therapy freedom.**”

BIGGEST LOCKDOWN IS COMING (Friday Church News Notes, January 8, 2021, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Lockdowns dominated the news for 2020, but the really big lockdown is in the future. Bible prophecy was fulfilled literally and precisely in the first coming of Christ, and it will be fulfilled in the same manner in His second coming. As a precursor, the Antichrist will lockdown the whole world with his worship program and economic control scheme, backed up by the death penalty. It will be a global North Korea. “And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed. And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: And that



no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name” (Revelation 13:15-17). The Covid pandemic is child’s play compared with the trouble that looms on the horizon. Billions of people will die during the Great Tribulation from wars, famine, pestilence, earthquakes, and totalitarianism on a scale that will make Stalin and Mao seem like choir boys. It is all described in the book of Revelation for those who are interested. It is called “the day of the Lord” because it will spell doom for “the day of man.”



AMERICA: A LOT OF CHANGE AND NO CHANGE (Friday Church News Notes, January 15, 2021, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following was published four years ago, in Friday News, Feb. 3, 2017, not long after President Trump’s inauguration: Donald Trump’s actions in his first days as U.S. President are breathtaking. He has filled his cabinet with capable and largely conservative people. He is blessing Jacob’s seed. He has signed multiple orders to strengthen border security and immigration, including denying federal money to sanctuary cities, hiring 5,000 more Border Patrol agents, ending “catch-and-release” policies for illegal immigrants, and building a wall on America’s southern border to protect the nation from scofflaws. He has

issued an order to rebuild the U.S. military, which has been devastated by eight years of the Obama administration. He has issued an order to deny federal funds to international organizations that perform or even lobby for the legalization of abortion. He has halted the nation's refugee program for 120 days so that it can be re-evaluated and potentially dangerous refugees can be properly vetted. His short list of nominees to the vacant U.S. Supreme Court seat are constitutionalists. He has issued an order to defeat ISIS. There is much to applaud. Of course, the courts and opposition politics have only begun to fight the Trump agenda, and the fight will be exceedingly fierce. **All of this aside, our biblical worldview does not allow us to see things as secular or even religious conservatives do. We can't join Judge Jeanine or Hannity or Rush, et al, in proclaiming this a new day for America. It's not a new day or a good day, and a Trump presidency is probably not going to turn out well. Spiritually and morally, which are the most important principles by far, absolutely nothing changed with the November election.** Nothing has changed in the public schools and the universities, which continue to indoctrinate the minds and hearts of American citizens with godless humanism, moral relativism, socialism, and globalism. Nothing has changed with the Muslim agenda to establish sharia law, and it doesn't appear that Trump even understands the plan. Nothing has changed with the LGBT agenda which is already firmly embedded throughout society, industry, and government. In fact, Trump refuses to overturn Obama's 2014 executive order protecting federal workers from "anti-LGBTQ

discrimination," saying that he "is determined to protect the rights of all Americans, including the LGBTQ community" and "continues to be respectful and supportive of LGBTQ rights" ("Trump leaves intact," *Fox News*, Jan. 31, 2017). Nothing has changed in the pop culture, which continues to morally pollute the nation's very heart and soul. It is pop culture moral relativism that has given us a Donald Trump, with his adulteries, narcissism, boastings, pomposity, lyings, and petty vindictiveness. The fearful destruction of the black family, for example, is not only the result of the welfare state; it is the product of a vile pop culture. Nothing has changed with the global culture, as indicated by the incredible outrage expressed by world leaders and the world media at the Trump presidency. The nonsensical outrage at such perfectly reasonable acts as trying to keep scofflaws and terrorists out of America is clear evidence of demonic blindness. And above all, nothing has changed in the churches. America was only great when it was good (and it was never truly good, nor truly great by God's standards), and it can never be great again unless it is good by biblical standards which can issue only from God-fearing churches. What we have said all along is that Bible-believing churches need to focus like a laser on "first love for Christ" revival, serious education in God's Word, serious obedience to God's Word, serious prayer, serious building of godly homes, serious discipleship, serious separation from the world, and serious zeal in fulfilling Christ's Great Commission. This will do more to help America than flag-waving conservative political zeal. Most of the *best* churches are *shockingly*

weak, shallow, biblically ignorant, worldly, and unfruitful.

PRAYING AGAINST THE MYSTERY OF INIQUITY (Friday Church News Notes, January 15, 2021, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Intercessory prayer is participating with God in His business. The wisest, most effectual prayer is not praying for my will to be done. It is finding God's will in Scripture and praying according to His will. Born again people are "laborers together with God" (1 Co. 3:9). God has chosen to partner with His people in the accomplishment of His will in this present world. We are laborers together with Him in evangelism, in church building, in home building, in child training. Intercessory prayer is a large aspect of man's part in God's business. Intercessory prayer is based on the revealed will of God. God tells His people what He is doing and going to do, and we pray on the basis of that revelation, joining our prayers with His eternal purposes. **Consider the worldwide preaching of the gospel.** God has committed Himself to this and the Spirit of God came for this purpose, but prayer is an essential aspect. Christ taught us to pray that God will send forth laborers into His harvest (Lu. 10:2). It's God's harvest, but man must pray for laborers. Paul instructed the churches to pray for the ministry of God's Word, for wisdom, blessing on the preaching, boldness, deliverance from wicked men, prosperous journeys, etc. (Ro. 15:30-31; Eph. 6:18-20; 2 Th. 3:1-2). **Consider the mystery of iniquity** (2 Th. 2:7-10). This is the devil's program to put his man on the throne of the world. It has been operating since the days of the apostles. The mystery of iniquity entails the



preparation for a global government and a global economy, the destruction of nationalism, anarchy, apostasy, war on biblical Christianity, the destruction of historic America, the strengthening of the United Nations, anything to exalt man and dethrone God. Humanism, evolution, economic and cultural Marxism, all such things are aspects of the mystery of iniquity. But the Bible says ***“he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way”*** (2 Th. 2:7). To “let” is old English for restrain. The Spirit of God is restraining the devil’s program, and He will continue to do so until He is finished with His own program of global evangelism. And since God is doing this, God’s people can pray for the restraining of evil. This is to be laborers together with God. We can expect Him to answer these prayers until He be taken out of the way and we with Him! “For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words” (1 Th. 4:16-18).

1.8 MILLION COVID DEATHS AND 42 MILLION ABORTIONS (Friday Church News Notes, January 15, 2021, www.wayoflife.org,

fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - In 2020, there were a reported 1.8 million deaths associated with Covid-19. This was the big, never-ending news, but in the meantime there were 11 million deaths from communicable diseases other than tuberculosis, 8.2 million deaths from cancer, 5.1 million deaths from smoking, 2.5 million from alcohol, 1.8 million deaths from tuberculosis, 1.4 million deaths from road accidents, and 1.1 million from suicide. But the largest loss of life by far were the 46 million deaths by abortion (“More than 42.6 million abortions,” *Christian Headlines*, Jan. 5, 2021). And we are convinced that 42 million is much lower than the terrible reality, since many high abortion countries do not keep accurate statistics. “For the wages of sin *is* death; but the gift of God *is* eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord” (Romans 6:23).

SOUTH KOREA CRACKING DOWN ON OPERATION TO SEND BIBLES INTO NORTH KOREA (Friday Church News Notes, January 15, 2021, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from “Christian leader awaits charges,” *Mission Network News*, Nov. 23, 2020: “South Korean police began cracking down on balloon launches by Voice of the Martyrs Korea this summer following threats from North Korea. ... ‘Essentially, the police recommending the charges guarantees that I’ll be charged; it’s just a question of when. Could be tomorrow, could be next week, could be next month; we don’t know,’ Eric Foley of VOM Korea says. ... Confusion surrounds the prosecutor’s charges and possible outcomes. ‘Our



case asks, [Should] launching Bible balloons, which has been legal up until this point in time, be considered illegal not just going forward, but related to past launches?’ Foley clarifies. ‘For 15 years, we’ve had a good relationship with the authorities. ... God is finding ways to get Bibles into North Korea. We’re amazed at the avenues He’s opening. Please pray that continues. Pray that God is glorified.’”

ALLIGATORS IN ALASKA (Friday Church News Notes, January 15, 2021, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is from creationmoments.com, December 25, 2020: “Both archaeology and the Bible suggest that the world was once quite different from the world we know today. Each agrees that the Earth’s climate was once much more uniform than it is today. At one time, the tropics may have extended into what are today polar regions. However, the Bible and evolutionary geology don’t agree on how long ago



that was. Bible-believing geologists, on the other hand, are reporting evidence to support the Bible's story of history. In the last few years, scientists have been surprised to discover dinosaur fossils in Alaska. Dinosaurs need warm temperatures--warmer than Alaska was thought to have been. In 1986, on Canada's Axel Heiberg Island, only 600 miles from the North Pole, scientists found a huge, dense forest. Some of the trees were well over 125 feet tall. They have been snapped off at the stump and are neither fossilized nor petrified, but remain as fresh wood. Even some of the leaves are still intact. The area was filled with spruce, hickory, dawn redwood and cypress trees and was evidently a swamp, since tropical turtle and alligator remains have also been found. Tree rings show that the area was warmer in the recent past, while the size of the rings tell us that there were short, hot summers during which rapid growth occurred, followed by long, dark winters as there are today. The most interesting conclusion reached by the scientific team is that the entire region must have been subjected to a huge flood! This discovery tells us that all of geology must be restructured to present a history that agrees with the Bible's story of the Earth's past. Author: Paul A. Bartz; Ref: 'Search for a Tropical Arctic' (Television documentary), 1990, Federal Department of Energy, Mines and Resources (Canada)."

HYMNS & HOPS IN GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA (Friday Church News Notes, January 22, 2021, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Greenville, South Carolina, has long



been a bastion of fundamentalism because of the presence of Bob Jones University, but it is fast becoming a bastion of emerging churchism. A sign of the times is Hymns & Hops, which has grown from a gathering of 80 in 2016 to gatherings of over 1,000 in 2020. Hymns & Hops "creates the space for families and people to celebrate the Gospel through community, song, and drink." The motto that is featured prominently on its web site is "Sing loud, die happy," which sounds like the theme song for 2 Timothy 4:3-4. One of the testimonials says, "There is nothing like worship at a brewery." The rapid change in attitude toward drinking among "Bible believing" Christians is a major sign of the times. Baptist pastor Charles Spurgeon said, "Next to the preaching of the Gospel, the most necessary thing to be done in England is to induce our people to become abstainers" (1882), and, "Those beer shops are the curse of this country--no good ever can come of them, and

the evil they do no tongue can tell ... the beer shops are a pest ... the sooner their licenses are taken away, the better" (1884). According to Baptist historian Gregory Wills, since at least the mid-1800s Baptists have held "that a minister who drank alcoholic beverages was disqualified to preach" (*The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary 1859-2009*). When I was a kid growing up in a Southern Baptist church, evangelicals and Baptists in America did not drink and did not go to bars. Exceptions were rare. Schools such as Wheaton and Baylor had rules against drinking. By the 1960s, due to the influence of the loose, anti-separatist, New Evangelical philosophy, evangelicals were *beginning to* accept "social drinking." In the 1980s and 1990s Contemporary Christian Music continued to push the boundaries of worldliness. In 1993, Michael W. Smith, one of the most prominent voices in CCM, complained in an interview, "... you're always going to have those very, very conservative people. They say you can't do this; you can't do that ... you can't DRINK, you can't smoke. ... It's a pretty bizarre way of thinking" (*The Birmingham News*, Feb. 1993, p. 1B). By the turn of the 21st century, many evangelicals were embracing drinking with enthusiasm. The book *Listening to the Beliefs of Emerging*



Churches: Five Perspectives contains probably a dozen references to the joys of drinking. They all condemn drunkenness and call for drinking in moderation, but very few drunks have ever set out to become drunks. Commenting on Proverbs 20:1, Bruce Lackey, who played piano in bars before he was saved, said, "How is alcoholic wine deceptive? In the very way that people are advocating today, by saying that drinking a little bit will not hurt. Everyone admits that drinking too much is bad. Even the liquor companies tell us not to drink and drive, but they insist that a small amount is all right. However, that is the very thing that is deceptive. Who knows how little to drink? Experts tell us that each person is different. It takes an ounce to affect one, while more is necessary for another. The same person will react to alcohol differently in different situations, depending on the amount of food he has had, among other things. So the idea that 'a little bit won't hurt' is deceptive." "Wine *is* a mocker, strong drink *is* raging; and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise" (Proverbs 20:1).

NASA LOWERS ESTIMATE OF NUMBER OF GALAXIES (Friday Church News Notes, January 22, 2021, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Using technology from its New Horizons spacecraft, NASA now estimates that the number of galaxies is in the hundreds of billions rather than 2 trillion as previously thought. The New Horizons craft, launched in January 2006, captured the first close-up photos of Pluto and is now at the edge of the Milky Way galaxy, about 4.4 billion miles from Earth. The estimates are based on interpretations of "cosmic optical



background" readings. The previous estimate was based on data collected by the Hubble Space Telescope. Scientists admit that they really don't know how many galaxies there are or how vast the universe is. They are making guesses based on unproven presuppositions. The NASA website admits, "There may be many more faint, distant galaxies than theories suggest" ("New Horizons Spacecraft Answers Question," Jan. 12, 2021, hubblesite.org). Regardless if there are hundreds of billions of galaxies or 2 trillion or many more, the fact is that the universe is unimaginably vast and the number of stars beyond counting. There are 100 billion stars in our Milky Way galaxy alone. The universe star count announced in July 2003 was 70 sextillion observable stars (70,000,000,000,000,000,000). This was the conclusion of the Two-Degree Field Galaxy Redshift Survey. Before the invention of the telescope, man could see only a few hundred stars with the naked eye, but the very first book of the Bible, written about 3,400 years ago, says they are without number as the sand of the seashore (Gen. 22:17). The prophet Jeremiah, writing in about

600 BC, said the heaven cannot be measured (Jer. 31:37). This has been confirmed by current science. "Modern" man has discovered nothing that disproves the ancient Bible prophets. "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork. Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge. *There is* no speech nor language, *where* their voice is not heard" (Psalm 19:1-3).

WORLD LEADERS OPPOSE CENSORSHIP OF TRUMP (Friday Church News Notes, January 22, 2021, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The following is excerpted from "Foreign leaders rip Twitter, others," *Washington Times*, Jan. 13, 2021: "Global leaders are slamming decisions by American social media giants to ban President Trump from their platforms, in many cases separating their personal opinions of the president from their unease over the sweeping power that American Big Tech firms such as Twitter and Facebook now wield. ... Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador told reporters in Mexico City this week, 'I don't like anyone to be censored, and for them to have their right taken away to send a message on Twitter or on Facebook.' German Chancellor Angela Merkel, one of Mr. Trump's fiercest critics in Western Europe, and Russian opposition leader



Alexei Navalny were among the first to sound the alarm ... French Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire said on French television, 'What shocks me is that Twitter is the one to close his account. The regulation of the digital world cannot be done by the digital oligarchy.' ... 'The fact that a CEO can pull the plug on [Mr. Trump's] loudspeaker without any checks and balances is perplexing,' Thierry Breton, a prominent EU commissioner involved in the reform push [reform of social media], wrote in an opinion piece for *Politico*. [Breton said, further,] 'It is not only confirmation of the power of these platforms, but it also displays deep weaknesses in the way our society is organized in the digital space.' Matt Hancock, health secretary in the government of British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, said the social media industry's moves against Mr. Trump raise some big regulatory questions. ... In Poland, right-wing Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki said in a lengthy Facebook post that the Silicon Valley companies seek 'to ensure political correctness the way they like it and to fight those who oppose them.' ... Acting Australian Prime Minister Michael McCormack said Mr. Trump's suspension equates to censorship."

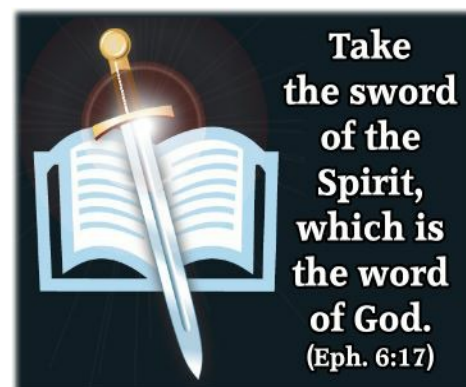
NEW MEXICO CHURCHES FINED \$10,000; ONTARIO PASTORS FACE POSSIBLE FINE OF \$10,000 (Friday Church News Notes, January 22, 2021, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from "New Mexico megachurches fined," *The Christian Post*, Dec. 31, 2020: "Calvary Church and Legacy Church, both based in Albuquerque, have been fined for violating restrictions



on in-person worship services and mask mandates implemented by the New Mexico Department of Health to stop the spread of the coronavirus. The restrictions, effective Dec. 15, require churches located in 'red-level' counties to cap attendance at 25% of capacity. ... After noting that the churches 'operated at or close to capacity' during their respective Christmas Eve services, the letters informed them that they would face 'a civil administrative penalty of \$5,000 for operating in violation of the public health order and a \$5,000 policy for violating the COVID Safe Practices by failing to wear masks or face coverings.' In a statement, Legacy Church defended its decision to hold a Christmas service: 'We have taken the pandemic seriously from the start, and have prudent measures in place. But when governments exceed their constitutional authority and contradict what we are called on by God to do, we answer first to His authority.'" The following is excerpted from "6 Ontario Elders Fined," *The Christian Post*, Jan. 4, 2021: "Six elders of a church in Ontario, Canada, have been asked to appear in a criminal court for holding

in-person services in violation of COVID-19-related restrictions. The elders, who face a fine of up to \$10,000, say the action is 'a violation of God-given rights.' The members of Trinity Bible Chapel in Waterloo were charged last week under Section 10.1 of the Reopening Ontario Act for exceeding the number of permitted people in attendance--10 people indoors and 10 people outdoors--during a worship service on Dec. 27, according to *CBC News*. Officers from the Waterloo Region Police Service visited the homes of the elders at night and gave them each a summons to court. The church says no outbreak has been traced back to its services since they reopened in June. But they 'have heard a plethora of stories from many of our congregants about how they were negatively affected spiritually, emotionally, mentally, and financially during the first lockdown,' the elders said in a statement. 'We are peaceful family men seeking to pastorally care for our families and our church in sincere obedience to God. We are not criminals,' they said."

AN ARMY OF OCCUPATION OR AN ARMY OF CONQUEST (Friday Church News Notes, January 22, 2021, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - "The conversion of the Apostle Paul



was like a ‘call to arms!’ His movements read like the chronicles of Alexander the Great. He dared difficulties like Hannibal crossing the Alps! His visits were like military invasions! His letters read like military dispatches! His whole life was a campaign for Christ! He was a Napoleon of the Cross! Read Ephesians 6:10-18 again, on your knees this time, then stand up ‘at attention’ and ask yourself if you belong to an army of occupation or any army of conquest” (Richard Clearwaters, *The Great Conservative Baptist Compromise*).

TRUMP’S ALLEGED LANDSLIDE VICTORY (Friday Church News Notes, January 29, 2021, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - In the report “The Cost of a Lie,” political commentator Michael Medved calls the idea that Trump won a landslide victory that was stolen “the most damaging lie in America.” We don’t agree with this. The most damaging lies in America, in our estimation, are such things as higher textual criticism, humanism, Darwinian evolution, socialism, feminism, transsexualism, and

critical race theory. We do believe that Trump’s landslide victory is probably a myth, though there can be no doubt that there was some corruption. Whether you agree or not, the following is worth considering. It is excerpted from *The Michael Medved Show*, Jan. 15, 2021: “In order to believe the lie that President Trump actually won a landslide victory on November 3rd, but malevolent and fraudulent forces somehow changed the result, you must also accept a succession of ridiculous falsehoods. You must first believe that vote counters in at least three states, many of them lifelong Republicans, deliberately, inexplicably erased millions of votes for Trump or else manufactured millions of invalid votes for Biden. You must believe that Republican controlled state legislatures in all the major swing states – Georgia, Wisconsin, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Arizona – inexplicably went along with the steal. More than 60 prominent judges also acquiesced, including all nine members of the Supreme Court, three of whom Trump himself recently appointed. Moreover, to accept the foundational lie of the ‘Stop the Steal!’ campaign

you must also believe that cunning conspirators simultaneously rigged the election for Joe Biden and for some of the most conservative Congressmen out there. The November ballots challenged as illegal frauds by the likes of Mo Brooks, Paul Gosar, Matt Gaetz and Andy Biggs, are the very same ballots that re-elected said Brooks,

Gosar, Gaetz and Biggs. How do you invalidate Joe Biden’s victory without tearing up or casting aside the simultaneous victories of GOP Congressmen in the states whose count you now seek to discard?” For Medved’s complete report on this see the following link - <https://www.newsweek.com/outrageous-us-lie-stolen-trump-landslide-opinion-1559798>

WHAT HAPPENED IN THE U.S. 2020 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION?

(Friday Church News Notes, January 29, 2021, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - We believe that three major elements came together in the 2020 presidential election. **First, a majority of voting Americans simply don’t like Trump.** Exit polls found that 54 percent of all voters said that the incumbent “did not have the temperament to serve as president” (“Outrageous Lie,” *Newsweek*, Jan. 8, 2021). I am convinced that Trump’s personality was a major cause of his loss, and this has not been given enough attention by political conservatives. Trump lost because he is Trump. I listened to parts of Trump’s campaign speeches toward the end, and what struck me most forcefully was his arrogance, boasting, narcissism, anger, scorn, and foul-mouth. I don’t vote by personality, but a lot of people do. **Second, the extremely biased, deceptive reporting across the entire spectrum of the mainstream media, and the manipulation of news by major social media corporations, left a large number of people too grossly uneducated to cast a proper vote.** (See “Expert Claims Google Shifted a Minimum of 6 Million Votes” and “Media’s





Suppression of Issues Likely Swung Election,” *Friday Church News Notes*, Dec. 4, 2020.) **Third, and most prominently, God is judging America for thumbing its collective nose at His holy laws.** “Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people” (Proverbs 14:34). Even if Democrats committed corruption, which is doubtless, we have to look at the big picture and not share the frustration and anger of political conservatives who do not have a solid biblical worldview. If I find myself thinking like Rush Limbaugh, Tucker Carlson, Mark Levin, and Breitbart, the Word of God is not dwelling in me richly as it should (Colossians 3:16). To storm the Congress Building in the name of Donald Trump is like Josiah going against Pharaoh Necho (2 Ch. 35:20-23). Though Egypt was Israel’s ancient enemy, it was not time for Israel to have victories. The nation was under God’s judgment. Josiah ended up fighting against God and met an untimely death. Within six years, Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon took Israel’s king Jehoiakim captive and made Israel a puppet nation. Within 22 years, Jerusalem was destroyed and Judea was taken captive.

PASTOR WARNS ABOUT EXCESSIVE CONSUMPTION OF CONSERVATIVE NEWS (Friday Church News Notes, January 29, 2021, www.wayoflife.org,

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

- We received the following from a pastor in South Carolina: “I am sickened by the political angst in many Christians and their excessive consumption of ‘conservative’ news sources, whose only purpose for existence is to create such angst and then addiction to checking their website every day or several times a day. They are nearly as guilty of fake news, sensationalism, and drama as CNN and the so-called Main Stream Media. You and I are close in age, and I grew up the son of a GARBC Baptist pastor listening to Twentieth Century Reformation Hour with Carl McIntire at breakfast before going off to elementary school. I handed out free copies of *None Dare Call It Treason* in the second grade and led mock debates and elections for Barry Goldwater. I had read much of the John Birch Society’s literature by the time I was 12 and attended their meetings in my early teens. Jack Van Impe’s prophecy of a communist takeover of America in 1976 made me think militia-like. I was an anti-government and anti-tax rebel in my early 20’s. But God saved me by His Word. For decades now I have strongly preached against disrespect of civil government and stressed the kingdom of Jesus Christ over nation, politics, crusades, etc. What you publish is very near or exact with my sentiments on this matter of Christian involvement in politics. My concern here, let me return from my brief and mild rant, is what you published a year or two ago about the fellow in Michigan that asked about taking up arms. Many Christians have been reduced to such foolish or similar notions by allowing the inputs of Newsmax, Breitbart, Epoch Times, OAN, CFP, and other sources to totally twist them out of shape with



the drama of D.C. You have dealt with Techno Temptations of our modern world, but a related aspect is the information never before available. If a senator sneezes in D.C., Christians in S.C. immediately know about it with pundit analysis and the opportunity to write a comment. Insane! The world just a century or two ago knew nothing about events in other countries or even other states until long past. Now every single little burp is recorded and broadcast with sensational reporting around it to arouse and provoke the audience to anger, fear, hate, and worry ... the opposite of Paul, who ignored political events and systemic racism (Acts 18:2) and violent politics of the pagan Roman Empire to teach compliance, prayer, and appreciation. Lord, help us do the same. Pray for American Christians, for independent Baptists, to block out the conservative media and focus on the GOOD NEWS OF THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST.”

SHOULD GOD’S PEOPLE BE IGNORANT OF WHAT IS HAPPENING? (Friday Church News Notes, January 29, 2021, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The comments in the previous note, “Pastor Warns about Excessive Consumption of Conservative News,” does not imply that God’s people should be ignorant of what is

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Look Up AND MAKE CHURCHES GREAT AGAIN!

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happening in this world or be unconcerned. It is a warning about being caught up in these events, in being captivated by these events, in filling your mind with these events, in sharing the anger and frustration of the world at these events. Paul knew what was happening in the Roman Empire in his day. He was educated in its history and its current events, but that is not what captured his mind and heart. It is a warning about being filled with news more than the Word of God, about being ill equipped spiritually to weigh the news. In my experience, the average member of an Independent Baptist church is not skilled in God's Word

(Heb. 5:12-14), not a diligent student of God's Word and not able to rightly divide it (2 Tim. 2:15), not meditating therein day and night. Therefore they do not have a clear, consuming Biblical world view. It is a warning about setting one's affection on things on the earth more than on things above (Col. 3:1-4). It is a warning about focusing on Make America Great Again instead of Make Churches Great Again, which is the Bible's focus!

JUSTICE CENTRE FOR CONSTITUTIONAL FREEDOMS TO REPRESENT ONTARIO CHURCHES (Friday Church News Notes, January 29, 2021, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from "Justice Centre to Defend," *Conservative Review*, Jan. 5, 2021: "The Justice Centre for Constitutional Freedoms (JCCF) will be representing numerous Ontario pastors and church elders who have been charged for holding religious gatherings in contravention of the Reopening Ontario Act (ROA), according to a press release issued on



Monday. The JCCF will contest the charges on the basis the ROA violates the Canadian *Charter of Rights and Freedoms* by prohibiting people in Ontario to peacefully assemble for worship, as is their right. Several members of the Old Colony Mennonite Church and Word of Life Mennonite community, with locations in Leamington, Ont., and Wheatley, Ont., were charged by police in December. [Also charged or given summons are Harvest Bible Church in Windsor, Ont., Trinity Bible Chapel of Waterloo, Ont., and



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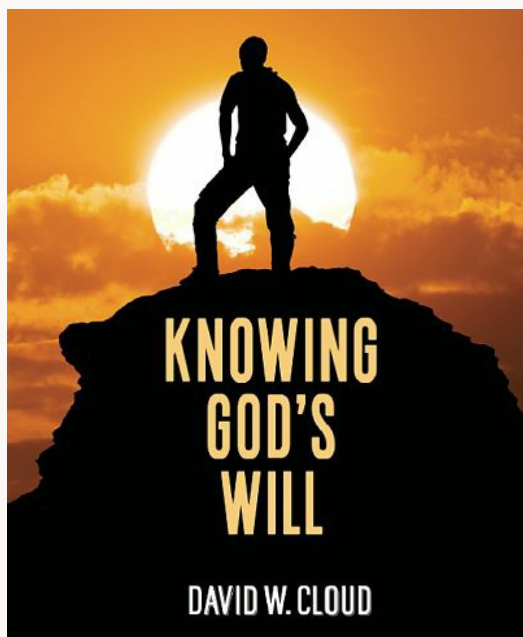
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the Church of God in Aylmer, Ont.] ‘Churches are being targeted by both police and vigilante members of the public, who look for church parking lots with vehicles and call in complaints to the police,’ said Lisa Bilty, a constitutional lawyer at the JCCF. ‘It’s easy to see how the Stasi in East Germany were able to operate so effectively—it appears it doesn’t take much to turn neighbours into informants, and police into petty tyrants.’ ... The JCCF will be attending multiple first appearances over the next several months, on behalf of these churches and their leaders.”



THE BOY WHO ONLY LOVES THE GOOD (Friday Church News Notes, January 29, 2021, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- “[In 1924] Dr. J. Gresham Machen said, ‘The worst sin today is to say that you agree with the Christian faith and believe in the Bible, but then make common cause with those who deny the basic facts of Christianity. Never was it more obviously true that he that is not with Christ is against Him. ... Dr. Arnold of Rugby used to say that he never could be sure of a boy who only loved the good. Until that boy also began to hate evil he never felt that he was safe. Abraham Lincoln said, ‘To sin by silence when they should speak in protest, makes cowards of men.’”



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