

# O Timothy

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

A Monthly Newsletter for Spiritual Protection and Edification

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## 21 STEPS to a STRONGER CHURCH for the 21st CENTURY

By David Cloud

*"In a time when the average Baptist church is getting steadily, shockingly weaker, more carnal, more worldly, moving farther down the contemporary path with each passing year, we are intent on moving in a much stronger direction, and we are thankful for the churches that we know of personally that are on the same path. We have no intention of following the crowd, and we are not afraid of being in the minority." Page 12.*

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



## WHAT IN THE WORLD HAS HAPPENED TO AMERICA? ~ By David Cloud

Many are truly and fundamentally shocked at what is happening in America, and it *is* shocking, but what we are seeing today is the product of a *long process* of apostasy (for lack of a better word). It is a process of incremental wickedness. It is a warning not to overlook "little" sins and "little" heresies and "little" crimes.

The destruction of America is like the life cycle of ivy. First it sleeps, then it creeps, finally it leaps.

In the 19th century, destruction was sleeping, as the seeds were being sown through the dawning of theological modernism, Unitarianism, Darwinian evolution, Marxism, and Freudianism. By the 20th century, destruction was creeping. Now in the 21st it's leaping!

Already in the first half of the 20th century, the nation was being turned upside down and the remnants of biblical influence were disintegrating.



Even when the "Star Spangled Banner" was made the official national anthem by a congressional resolution in 1931, and nearly all Americans were fervent flag wavers, the nation's foundation was being destroyed and the roots were dying.



Many books have been written on this subject, but following are few examples of what has produced the America we see today.

- Theological Modernism
- Disappearance of Regenerate, Discipling Churches
- Humanistic Education
- Communism and Socialism
- Jazz and Amusement
- 1940s America
- 1950s Rock
- Pop Psychology and Self-esteemism
- Feminism
- Corruption of the Courts
- Corruption of Politics
- Corruption of the News Media

## THEOLOGICAL MODERNISM

Theological modernism is fundamentally an assault on the authority of the Bible as God's infallible Word, and its spread has destroyed the authority of the Bible in the minds of multitudes both inside and outside of churches.

In 1917, Baptist pastor W.B. Riley warned in *The Menace of Modernism* that America was in great danger because of the liberal theology that was permeating the churches and theological schools and the liberal philosophies such as Darwinism that were permeating the secular colleges and universities.

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Riley prophesied that the infiltration of liberal philosophy into America's educational system was "an outrage" that would destroy America's morality.

An example of liberalism in the Northern Baptist Convention was Harry Emerson Fosdick, who pastored Park Avenue Baptist Church in New York City. This was where John D. Rockefeller, Jr., had membership.

Fosdick denied every fundamental doctrine of the faith, including Christ's virgin birth and substitutionary atonement. In his 1918 book *The Manhood of the Master*, he denied that Jesus is God. In 1926, the Northern Baptist Convention voted by a margin of about three to one *not* to evict Fosdick's church for its wicked heresies. In 1930, Rockefeller spent \$10 million to build the Riverside Church in Manhattan for Fosdick, and it remained one of the most liberal of churches.

Pastor John Straton of Calvary Baptist Church in New York City rightly called Fosdick "a religious outlaw--the Jesse James of the theological world." But there were a great many Fosdicks. John Straton was already in the minority, and most pastors of his day were as cowardly about speaking out against sin and error as they are today.

Theological liberalism also entered the Southern Baptist Convention in the first half of the 20th century. By 1902, J.W. Bailey of North Carolina wrote in the *Biblical Recorder* that there were a multitude of "theologies" in the Southern Baptist Convention. He said, "Theologies change every day. ... [Baptists do not stand for] formulated dogmas."

Theological liberalism was rapidly permeating every major denomination in the nation.

## DISAPPEARANCE OF REGENERATE, DISCIPLINING CHURCHES

By the turn of the 20th century, the vast majority of churches had rejected a regenerate membership (in practice, if not in profession) and New Testament discipline.

Even as early as 1874, William Whitsitt, a professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, said, "[I]t is now very difficult to exclude a person for drunkenness or any other ordinary crime" (*Restoring Integrity in Baptist Churches*, Kindle loc. 2138).



In 1878, J.C. Hiden, pastor of First Baptist Church, Greenville, South Carolina, wrote a series of articles in the *Baptist Courier* “lamenting the recent trend of lax discipline.”

By 1921, Z.T. Cody, editor of South Carolina’s *Baptist Courier*, wrote, “Our churches have practically no discipline. As to worldliness and minor offences, many of our churches do nothing. But what is far worse, our churches often allow the most serious moral transgressions to go unnoticed. Even at times, to save a disturbance in the church, they will grant a minister a letter who, as they know, has grossly violated, not only the proprieties of life, but the moral law of God. ... What we dread today more than aught else is a disturbance in the ‘peace’ of a church. ... We do not know what is the remedy for this lapsed condition.”

The churches bowed to the influence of the “new morality” and allowed church members to live worldly lives. Such things as dating, pre-marital sex, drinking, jazz, rock, divorce, and unisex fashions flooded the weak churches.

When fundamentalist leader J. Edwin Orr toured the South in 1935, he was dismayed to find that “quite a majority of believers go to the movies once a week, as well as other questionable amusements, and the unpainted face is more an exception than the rule. The converted Christians behave almost exactly the same as the non-Christians do--there is no separation” (Joel Carpenter, *Revive Us Again*, p. 59).

Churches stopped striving for a regenerate church membership.

“Even among the Methodists and Baptists church membership became a graduation exercise from the Sunday school or Young People’s group. Neither the ministers nor church members thought a crisis conversion experience, even of the shake-my-hand variety, was necessary” (William McLoughlin, Jr., *Modern Revivalism*, p. 454).

This fairly well describes the church I grew up in (born 1949). I remember one of my non-church friends saying to me, “Why should I come to your church? You folk are no different than we are.”

There was no looking for evidence of salvation. Any profession of faith was accepted and the individual’s

salvation was never doubted thereafter, no matter how he lived or what he believed. Most professions were made by children. All of the kids went through the routine of “believing on Christ” and getting baptized at some point in their childhood, but for the most part there was no change of thinking and lifestyle. It wasn’t expected and wasn’t required.

Life-changing adult conversions such as we read of in the New Testament were very rare. Verses such as 2 Corinthians 5:17; Titus 1:16; and 1 John 2:4 were as foreign to our experience and understanding as the Chinese language.

There was no caution about receiving members. Any flimsy testimony was sufficient. Faithfulness was not required. If you attended one service a week, or no services, you could be a member in good standing.

As a result, each generation brought a larger percentage of unregenerate people into the membership.

The old church covenant from the 1800s hung on the wall, but it was a historic relic, a museum piece. Its principles were not taught or enforced.

There were no serious biblical standards for workers.

There was no serious discipleship, separation, or discipline. I heard the Bible preached and taught, but I was not given a biblical worldview and there was no emphasis on true discipleship.

The churches adapted to the pop culture. They entertained pagan fables such as Santa Claus and the Easter Bunny. Like the proverbial frog in the pot, they followed Hollywood’s descent into ever-deeper moral filth. They didn’t have a testing mindset. They weren’t thorough-going Bible people. They weren’t true disciples of Jesus Christ. They weren’t pilgrims and strangers in a foreign world.

Almost no one in the Southern Baptist Convention in those days saw Walt Disney or Ed Sullivan as enemies of the truth. The fact that Disneyland had no church on Main Street didn’t register as a warning that Disney was promoting an atheistic worldview and was drawing the hearts and minds of youngsters away from the God of the Bible like a charming Pied Piper. The fact that *The Disney Hour* and *The Ed Sullivan Show* were weakening Sunday



evening church attendance with their enticing wares was not a matter of deep concern by the preachers. If it was, they did nothing in a practical way to stem the tide.

This is the type of Baptist church that was on nearly “every street corner” in the American South, which was why it was called “the Bible Belt.” Southern Baptist churches were one of the most prominent influences in southern society, but because of their spiritual weakness, church was a thing of little significance and social impact.

At some point in childhood, most people went through the motion of “receiving Christ” and then continued to live their lives as they pleased with little to no serious reference to Scripture.

## HUMANISTIC EDUCATION

By the 1920s, John Dewey’s “Progressive education” was transforming America’s public schools into humanistic propaganda stations. Dewey co-authored the *Humanist Manifesto*, which promoted atheism, evolution, self-determination, and socialism.

In 1924, William Jennings Bryan leaned over to evangelist Bob Jones, Sr., at a Bible conference and said, “If schools do not quit teaching evolution as a fact, we are going to become a nation of atheists” (Daniel Turner, *Standing Without Apology*, p. 19).

Sound familiar?

## COMMUNISM AND SOCIALISM

America has been on the road to socialism for a very long time.

Early in the 20th century, international communism was on the march and communists were infiltrating American trade unions, universities, the civil rights movement, Hollywood, major news publications such as the *New York Times*, liberal Christian denominations, and the government itself. The evidence is massive and irrefutable.

In the 1930s, the Northern Baptist Convention endorsed a social change program whereby the government would take control of all natural resources and commodities “relative to the necessities of life.”

President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s New Deal in the 1930s was a major rush toward socialism. The power of the federal government had increased dramatically since the end of the Civil War in 1865. In addition to slavery, the fundamental issue of the war was states rights vs. federal power, and states rights lost. But Roosevelt took government authority much farther under the guise of a Nanny State. He claimed that men should be guaranteed “four freedoms” by the government: freedom of speech, freedom of worship, freedom from want, and freedom from fear. Thus he specifically put the government in the role of God in men’s lives.

In *The Rise of the Tyrant: Controlled Economy vs. Private Enterprise* (1945), Carl McIntire rightly observed that a government that attempts to deliver men from want and fear is idolatrous and will have “tragic and far-reaching results.”

By then Americans were addicted to the Nanny State, and it was taken to staggering new heights by Lyndon Johnson’s Great Society program in the 1960s.

The American government has *long* been a gigantic, socialistic wealth redistribution machine, and with that comes massive power over people’s lives. Both major political parties are guilty of voting in favor of socialism, because America is a democracy and the majority of Americans want their government goodies and therefore vote their pocketbooks.

## JAZZ AND AMUSEMENT

The moral disintegration of American society didn’t begin with 50s and 60s rock & roll. It began in “the Roaring Twenties” with the jazz era. Since then powerful social forces have been transforming the nation: feminism, abortion rights, rampant alcohol and drug abuse, juvenile delinquency, working mothers.

The divorce rate increased by 2,000 percent between the Civil War and the Great Depression of the 1930s, when one in six marriages ended in divorce (Nancy MacLean, *Behind the Mask of Chivalry*).

The jazz era created a youth culture characterized by rejection of parental restraint, dating, “movie mania,” “dance madness,” smoking, drinking, drugs, immodest dress styles, moral license, arrogance, a short-sighted party lifestyle. Preachers warned that “girls spurned



femininity, boys acted sissy, and their nighttime joyrides were taking them down the surest road to hell.”

Since the age of radio in the early 20th century, the entertainment industry has been devoted to sexual filth, mindless mirth, and greed. Successful commercial radio began in 1928 with the *Amos 'n' Andy* program sponsored by Pepsodent toothpaste. By the next year, the program “had become a craze, the first bona fide hit serial in broadcast history.” Sales of Pepsodent doubled in one year. 1928 marked the beginning of the merger of the entertainment industry with business. Americans were addicted. An estimated 40 million people (out of a population of 120 million) set aside a block of time every evening, five days a week, to gather around the radio and give their full attention to a comedy with no redeeming value other than silly entertainment. Commercial radio was a major step in the secularization of America and the addiction to mindless entertainment.

Commercial radio and television created the age of a-musement (no muse, no thought). In the 21st century, the internet, smart phone, and social media have taken amusement to ever higher levels.

The Hollywood movie industry has been wicked from its inception in the silent movie era. It has almost always depicted a world without God. It has propagandized for every false religion and philosophy. It has relentlessly mocked Bible Christianity, consistently depicting preachers as hypocrites, lunatics, or pathetically weak. It has always pushed the boundaries of moral behavior and modesty. Its stars and starlets have thumbed their noses at God’s laws and influenced multitudes by their mythical “liberty.”

“Movies in the 1920s had used nudity, profanity, blasphemy and immorality and appeared to endorse illegal drinking during the Prohibition Era. The lives of movie actresses, or ‘vamps,’ with their heavy makeup, scant clothing and loose morals brought Hollywood under close scrutiny and considerable criticism. ... The names of many Pre-Code Hollywood films provides a fast insight into the subject matter of some of the movies that were being produced during the period. The names of the movies include *The Godless Girl*, *Unashamed*, *Blonde Venus*, *Madame Satan*, *Her Private Life*, *Madame X*, *Ladies Love Brutes*, *The Cheat*, *The Sin of Madelon Claudet*, *The Sin Ship* ... the Cecil B. DeMille epic movie, *The Sign of the Cross* (1932) [depicted] a naked woman

prepared for sacrifice in the Colosseum” (“Hays Code Facts,” American-historama.org).

In the 1920s, John Straton (1875-1929), Pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in New York City, was calling America’s cities Sodom and Gomorrah. He was called “a crusader, a two-fisted hard-hitting man of God, always the defendant at the bulwarks of Christianity.”

Calvary Baptist was founded in 1847 and had prominent pastors, including John Dowling, author of *The History of Romanism*. Straton’s books included *The Menace of Immorality in Church and State* (1920), *The Scarlet Stain on the City* (c. 1921), and *Satan in the Dance Hall* (c. 1925). Chapter titles in the latter included “Flappers and the Dance of Life” and “The Devil’s Music and the Scopes Trial.”

There were 750 dance halls in New York City in Straton’s day. In his sermon “New York as Modern Babylon,” Straton said worldly homes had produced “the cigarette smoking boy who develops into the girl-ogling, sap-headed dude who would not recognize a sound thought or a sound ethical principal if he met it in the street; and the female flapper and flirt who knows more at 16 than her grandmother knew at 60, who hasn’t a speaking acquaintance with the art of sweeping a room, sewing a dress, or making a biscuit, but is past mistress with the lip-stick, the powder puff, and the bunny bag [a small bag for cosmetics and other female accouterments].”

Of female fashions, Straton said, “When it comes to women’s dress today there is not enough to talk about.”

Straton charged the mainstream media of his day with “engaging in a plot to ruin moral forces and bring them into national contempt” (George Dollar, *A History of Fundamentalism in America*).

Sound familiar?

In 1934, Harry Ironside preached the following at Moody Memorial Church in Chicago:

“We are living in a day when uncleanness is everywhere. Our modern novels are reeking with it, our newspaper stands are filled with vile pornographic literature that came from hell, and men are enriching themselves by poisoning the minds of our young people. The pictures they see, the songs that come over the radio, many are filled with suggestions of impurity



and uncleanness. ... Let us give everything like that a wide berth.”

The Hays Code brought some censorship to the movie industry in 1934, but it was abandoned in 1965, and the industry has made up for the three decades of restrictions by pouring out filth at an ever-increasing pace since then.

## 1940s AMERICA

Many think of the 1940s as a time when the Bible’s influence was prominent in America, but it is a mirage. In reality, the Bible’s influence was rapidly dying. Though church membership increased in the 1940s, Bible sales doubled, and youth were flocking to Christian rallies, America was becoming far more filthy, more rebellious to Bible truth, more self-focused than ever.

The popular American Christianity was largely a lukewarm, powerless thing. It was a form of godliness that salved consciences while the moral condition of the nation continued a downward spiral.

There was “a surge of hard-living hedonism ... women’s fashions were skimpier, Hollywood grew more brazen, and live entertainment became more vulgar” (Joel Carpenter, *Revive Us Again*).

American parents were listening to Spock more than Proverbs and were soon to reap a whirlwind of delinquency. When President Roosevelt called for a national day of prayer for New Years Day 1943, evangelist Hyman Appleman wisely and bravely asked how God could answer America’s prayers, warning the nation to heed the words of the Psalmist, “If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me” (Ps. 66:18).

On the political front, Carl McIntire warned in the 1940s that “America is in greater danger of losing her freedom today than at any time since the Declaration of Independence.”

Sound familiar?

## 1950s ROCK

Rock & roll roared onto the scene in the 1950s with the power of a cultural tsunami, and rock was the death-knell of “traditional America.”

It wasn’t brand new. It was the old blues and jazz on electronic steroids, but by the time the 1950s rolled around America had been so weakened morally and philosophically that vast swaths of the nation were ready to embrace brazen licentiousness. The very name “rock & roll” was a byword for fornication.

1950s rock was a full-blown revolution against the Bible’s influence in Western society. From its inception, rock has preached rebellion and moral license. The rock philosophy is the philosophy of “do your own thing; don’t let anyone tell you what to do.” This is not a sideline of rock & roll; it is the heart and soul. Rock preaches the ancient lie that the devil uttered to Eve: “God’s laws are restrictive; He is keeping you from enjoying life to the fullest; throw off His yoke and live as you please; be your own god.”

Defiance of God-ordained authority and rejection of biblical morality is rebellion against God. By shaking his leg at God’s moral laws, Elvis was shaking his fist at God.

1950s rock literally changed the character of Western society and laid the groundwork for the more dramatic spiritual and moral revolution that has followed. Marxist Jerry Rubin observed, “Rock ‘n’ roll marked the beginning of the revolution. ... We’ve combined youth, music, sex, drugs, and rebellion with treason, and that’s a combination hard to beat” (Rubin, *Do It!*, 1970, pp. 19, 249).

David Townsend, who calls the 1950s “a watershed moment in modern history,” says,

“Rock ‘n’ roll is a movement, a lifestyle, a culture ... And all that rock ‘n’ roll is today it owes to a brief window of history: two years, no more than three, WHEN THE FABRIC OF AMERICAN POPULAR CULTURE WAS TORN APART AND REWOVEN, AND A NEW ERA EXPLOSIVELY BEGAN. ... This was no small moment in history, for the effects of these two years’ echoes continue to spread, to other nations, to new generations, to the thrones of power and the seats of wealth, as well as to the dispossessed and restless youth of a new era” (Townsend, *Changing the World: Rock & Roll Culture and Ideology*, chapter 2).

“... FIFTIES ROCK WAS REVOLUTIONARY. IT URGED PEOPLE TO DO WHATEVER THEY WANTED TO DO, EVEN IF IT MEANT BREAKING



THE RULES. ... LAYING THE GROUNDWORK FOR THE SOCIAL AND POLITICAL UPHEAVALS ROCK 'N' ROLL WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN FOMENTING IN THE FOLLOWING DECADE" (Ellis Amburn, *Buddy Holly: A Biography*, pp. 4, 6, 131).

David Brinkley of *NBC News* said, "Elvis Presley was one of the few people in our lifetime who changed things. You hear Mantovani in every elevator, but so what? ELVIS CHANGED OUR HAIRSTYLES, DRESS STYLES, OUR ATTITUDES TOWARD SEX, all the musical taste" (cited by Larry Nager, *Memphis Beat*, p. 216).

Little Richard "freed people from their inhibitions, unleashing their spirit, ENABLING THEM TO DO EXACTLY WHAT THEY FELT LIKE DOING" (Charles White, *The Life and Times of Little Richard*, p. 66).

Little Richard's 1956 hit "Rip It Up" summarizes the morally careless, lustful, destructive, anything-goes, live for the moment rock & roll philosophy:

"Well, it's Saturday night and I just got paid/ Fool about my money, don't try to save/ My heart says, go go/ Have a time/ 'Cause it's Saturday night, and I feel fine/ I'm gonna rip it up!/ I'm gonna rock it up!/ I'm gonna shake it up/ . . . Along about ten/ I'll be flyin' high/ Walk on out into the sky/ But I don't care if I spend my dough/ 'Cause tonight I'm gonna be one happy soul/ I'm gonna rip it up!..."

The philosophy of "Rip It Up" cannot live in harmony with the traditional America with its deep Biblical influence.

Little Richard and his rock & roll buddies were dancing around the open grave of the "old America."

When "Rip It Up" captured the hearts of youth in the 1950s, the America of 2021 was inevitable.

There was very little standing in the way of the rock & roll tsunami even in the 1950s. The vast majority of churches of all brands were too spiritually weak to do anything more than complain and fret.

## POP PSYCHOLOGY AND SELF-ESTEEMISM

Pop psychology has greatly influenced society over the past half century and in turn weakened the churches.

At the heart of pop psychology is the humanistic philosophy of self-esteemism, which is diametrically opposed to the Bible's teaching of Christ first, others second, and me last, of love of neighbor, of dying to self.

The onslaught of self-esteemism began to influence the culture early in the 20th century and by the mid-century its deadly leaven had spread everywhere. It was the death knell to solid marriages. It wrecked the judicial system. It created havoc in the workplace.

One of the prominent names was Norman Vincent Peale, pastor of Marble Collegiate Church (1932-1984), a Reformed Church in America congregation in New York City. Peale's positive-thinking, self-esteem gospel was an unholy mixture of humanistic psychology, eastern religion, and the Bible that has almost taken over the Christian world and has made deep inroads into fundamentalist churches. In the 1940s, Peale teamed up with psychoanalyst Smiley Blanton to open a clinic next to the church that dispensed a gospel adulterated with pop psychology.

In 1952, Peale published the vastly influential *The Power of Positive Thinking*. The back cover says, "Faith in yourself makes good things happen to you." The first paragraph begins with the words, "Believe in yourself! ... this book will help you believe in yourself and release your inner powers." There is sin, no repentance, no blood of Christ, no born again, no judgment. It is a universalistic message that assumes the universal Fatherhood of God. This book has sold almost 20 million copies in 41 languages. Peale's *Guidepost* magazine had a circulation of more than 4.5 million and subscribers included the members of the most conservative churches of the day. My parents and various Southern Baptist relatives subscribed, and I never heard one hint of warning about Peale in my youth.

At a National Council of Churches luncheon on December 6, 1966, Billy Graham said, "I don't know anyone who has done more for the kingdom of God than Norman and Ruth Peale" (Hayes Minnick, *Bible for Today* publication #565, p. 28). Peale's wife, Ruth, was a member of the Board of Managers of the American Bible Society (ABS). The National Religious Broadcasters presented Peale with an Award of Merit. Eric Fellman, one-time editor of *Moody Monthly*, resigned in 1985 to become editor-in-chief of Peale's Foundation for Christian Living, and *Moody* continued



to print articles by Fellman. Fuller Theological Seminary established a Norman Vincent Peale Scholarship in recognition of the supposed “outstanding ministry” of this apostate (*The Fundamentalist Digest*, Sept.-Oct. 1992). In a June 1993 review of a biography on Peale, *Christianity Today* said, “Norman Vincent Peale is a devout Christian, who injected vitality into a church that was losing touch with ordinary Americans...”

## FEMINISM

The feminist movement has had a very powerful influence on American society and on the churches. Since the dawn of the 20th century, it has been a direct affront to the Bible and an open attack on “traditional America.”

Feminism is a direct affront to the Word of God which says, “So God created man in his *own* image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them” (Ge. 1:27). It is an assault on “traditional America” that was founded upon a belief in the Bible.

The feminist movement began in the second half of the 19th century with the push for women’s suffrage, political equality (an equal voice and place for women in politics), workplace equality (equal pay for equal work), and female education. The first gathering devoted to women’s rights was in 1848 with about 100 people in attendance. It was led by Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott.

By the early 20th century, the feminist movement was pushing for “reproductive rights,” which refers to birth control and abortion.

Many 19th century feminist leaders were opposed to abortion, but by the 20th century, feminism was at the forefront of the abortion rights movement which has resulted in the destruction of millions upon millions of unborn children and contributed greatly to the destruction of morality in general and the breakup of the “nuclear” home.

The feminist movement has become ever more radical. It has pushed for “non-sexist” or “gender neutral” language (e.g., chairman becomes chairperson). It has often been an opponent of traditional marriage and has been at the forefront of homosexual rights. It has resurrected goddess theology. Pressure for accommodation of women in all positions, has resulted in the lowering of physical standards for police, firefighters, and soldiers.

Feminism created **THE UNISEX MOVEMENT** and paved the way for homosexual rights. The pantsuit was invented in 1966 by homosexual fashion designer Yves Saint Laurent.

Feminist Linda Grant said that the pantsuit “put women on an equal sartorial footing with men and “is what fashion gave to feminism” (“Feminism Was Built on the Trouser Suit,” *The Guardian*, June 3, 2008). The breaking down of the created distinction between male and female in the pop culture has, in turn, greatly contributed to the homosexual movement.

## THE CORRUPTION OF THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM

Law and order is being destroyed by humanistic psychology’s influence in the justice system. Generally speaking, thieves, rapists, thugs, murderers, kidnappers are not punished so much as pampered. The oppressed are twice oppressed, once by the thugs and again by the judicial system that should be protecting them and delivering true justice. Judges that release thugs to continue their thuggery should be held accountable, but they aren’t.

But this is not a new issue. One hundred years ago, Pastor John Straton, Calvary Baptist Church of New York City, preached against the budding tendency for American courts to capitulate to humanistic psychology and to coddle criminals rather than punish them. He said God is “not a mollycoddle ... and the present wave of crime and vice that is simply devastating America is the direct result of this false and flimsy teaching.”



Sound familiar?

## THE CORRUPTION OF POLITICS

In truth, American politics has been a dirty business since its inception.

In the early 1800s, when some of the nation's founders were still alive, American politics was described as "the great game of political brawling" (Peter Bernstein, *Wedding of the Waters: The Erie Canal and the Making of a Great Nation*, Kindle location 3481).

Some banks refused credit to supporters of Thomas Jefferson. Newspapers were vicious in their opposition to candidates on the opposing political side. The reports were "descents into the gutter." Jefferson's opponents slanderously predicted that his election would result in the "teaching of murder, robbery, rape, adultery and incest."

Sounds like "Never Trumpers" to me.

DeWitt Clinton, Mayor of New York from 1825-1828, observed,

"Our ingenuity has been employed, not in cultivating a vernacular literature, or increasing the stock of human knowledge; but in raising up and pulling down the parties which agitate the community. ... THE STYLE OF OUR POLITICAL WRITINGS HAS ASSUMED A CHARACTER OF RUDE INVECTIVE, AND UN-RESTRAINED LICENTIOUSNESS, UN-PARALLELED IN ANY OTHER PART OF THE WORLD, AND WHICH HAS GREATLY TENDED TO INJURE OUR NATIONAL CHARACTER" (*Wedding of the Waters*, Kindle location 3496).

New York's Tammany party was formed during the lifetime of the founding fathers, and it was known for "corruption and unabashed stealing from public funds." This was documented by Gustavus Myers in his 1901 book *Tammany Hall*.

In the 1850s, the anti-immigrant Know-Nothing Party dominated elections in Baltimore "by preventing immigrants from voting or forcing them to choose Know-Nothing candidates." They used intimidation, riots, kidnapping, and murder. "Know-Nothings also committed 'cooping,' which entailed imprisoning immigrants in cellars or sheds, getting them drunk, and making them vote repeatedly" for their party. A favorite tactic was jabbing voters with a shoemaker's awl (similar to a short ice-pick) to frighten them away from the polls. "So beloved was the lowly awl that shortly before the presidential election in 1859, the American clubs engaged blacksmiths to forge them en masse, handed out flyers announcing their distribution, and incorporated the awl's image into club banners" ("Gangs of Baltimore," *Humanities*, May/June 2008).

At the same time, "politics and patronage were unabashedly intertwined, and local bosses, especially among the Democrats, sought immigrant support through the promise of jobs and preferment" ("Gangs of Baltimore," *Humanities*, May/June 2008).

The Kansas territorial election of 1855 was fraudulent. "Border ruffians forced their way to Kansas and demanded the election of the pro-slavery legislature. Despite the number of votes cast exceeding the number of registered voters in Kansas, Andrew Reeder, who was the governor of Kansas, approved the elections in an attempt to avert further violence" ("Most Rigged, Fraudulent, and Corrupt U.S. Elections," *WorldAtlas.com*).

In 1876, the Democrat Party's fraud and intimidation in the southern states brought the national presidential election itself into confusion. It has been called "the ugliest, most contentious and most controversial presidential election in U.S. history" (*Smithsonian Magazine*, Sept. 7, 2012).

The states of Florida, Louisiana, and South Carolina submitted two sets of election returns with different results. South Carolina gubernatorial candidate



Wade Hampton was a former Confederate general who used violence to silence the Republican majority. An estimated 150 blacks were murdered in that state by white supremacist Red Shirts, who were 100% Democrat (Nicholas Lemann, *Redemption: The Last Battle of the Civil War*, p. 174).

Democratic presidential candidate Samuel Tilden and Republican candidate Rutherford B. Hayes each had 184 electoral votes, not counting the three disputed states. Rightly accusing the Democrats of fraud and intimidation, the Republicans contested the electoral ballots from the three Southern states.

The nation had no duly elected president from November 1876 to late February 1877. With the country in a constitutional crisis, Congress set up a commission to settle the matter. It consisted of five U.S. representatives, five senators, and five Supreme Court justices, a total of 15 so there could be no tie vote. With eight of the 15 being Republican, the Democrats sought a private compromise. The Democrats would not filibuster the commission's vote if the Republicans would agree to withdraw all federal troops from the South and the federal government would no longer interfere with Southern elections. This is called the Compromise of 1877. In spite of the agreement, there was talk of forming armed groups to march on Washington to forcibly install Tilden in office, but sitting president Ulysses Grant tightened military security to thwart any such attempt. **Hayes was hated by Democrats throughout his term and derided as "His Fraudulency."** As part of the compromise, Southern Democrats had pledged that they would "recognize the civil and political equality of blacks." This promise was not kept, to say the least.

In 1932, Louisiana political boss Huey Long defeated the opponents of his crony by funding fake candidates.

In 1936, political boss Tom Pendergast nearly ruined the election process in Kansas by registering up to 80,000 dead, sick, or nonexistent voters ("Most

Rigged, Fraudulent, and Corrupt U.S. Elections," WorldAtlas.com). In one ward, Pendergast candidates won by a ratio of 1,469 to 1.

In the 1950s America, which is looked upon nostalgically by many as a time when the nation was still "Christian," Dwight Eisenhower called politics "a combination of gossip, innuendo, sly character assassination and outright lies" (John Wukovits, *Eisenhower: A Biography*).

Sound familiar?

## THE CORRUPTION OF THE NEWS MEDIA

The corruption of the "mainstream media" is not new.

In the late 19th century, "yellow journalism" was born as a style of reporting that emphasized sensationalism. It was reckless, lurid, and provocative, anything to sell papers and increase circulation. Truth was of little or no concern. Politics was covered from an *extreme partisan stance*. The newspapers featured oversize headlines and color political cartoons.

The name "yellow journalism" was coined in the 1890s to describe the competition between two New York City newspapers, Joseph Pulitzer's *World* and William Randolph Hearst's *Journal* (*Encyclopedia Britannica*). It got its name from a popular cartoon in the *World* called the Yellow Kid from the yellow color of the hero. Hearst hired the cartoonist from Pulitzer, who then hired a new cartoonist to continue the Yellow Kid, resulting in the battle of the Yellow Kids.

In October 1910, New York City Mayor William Gaynor issued this warning: "They are absolutely without souls. ... **The journalism of New York City has been dragged to the lowest depths of degradation. The grossest railleries and libels, instead of honest statements and fair discussion, have gone unchecked.**" Two months earlier, Gaylor was shot in the neck in an assassination attempt. He



blamed the attack “on the vitriolic yellow press that had poisoned the populace against him.”

Sound familiar?

By means of cable news, the internet, and social media, yellow journalism has risen to a realm unimaginable to Pulitzer and Hearst, but today’s “fake news” is nothing new.

## CONCLUSION

What we see in America today has been a long time coming, with many contributing factors. We have mentioned only some of them.

In the 19th century, America’s destruction was sleeping, as the seeds were being sown through the dawning of theological modernism, Unitarianism, Darwinian evolution, Marxism, and Freudianism. By the 20th century, America’s destruction was creeping. Now in the 21st it’s leaping!

The time, prophetically, is very late. God has been very merciful to this wicked world. America’s great liberty has been part of that mercy. But the world passeth away, and America is part of the world.

**It’s time for the redeemed to stop putting their affections on America more than on Christ’s kingdom. That is idolatry, and John ended his first epistle, “Little children, keep yourselves from idols.”**

It’s high time to awake from sleep and look up and do God’s will before it is too late. Christ gave His marching orders for the entire church age, and He

repeated it multiple times so there would be no doubt (Mt. 28:18-20; Mr. 16:15; Lu. 24:44-48; Ac. 1:8), and His business hasn’t changed. He said, “Lo, I’m with you alway, *even* unto the end of the world.”

Christ’s Commission remains the same unto the very end of the age, to the day of the Rapture. Christ’s Commission isn’t nation building; it is church building. It is preaching the gospel to the lost before they perish. It is discipling those who believe, teaching them to observe all things whatsoever Christ has taught us, which is a very, very big job, a job that most churches aren’t doing. It involves building up the homes in Christ, educating every member to be skillful in God’s Word, training the children, discipling the youth, educating preachers, protecting the saints from the every wind of doctrine, preparing soldiers for spiritual warfare.

“But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as *do* others; but let us watch and be sober. For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night. But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation. For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Thessalonians 5:1-9).

**“Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord:  
and the people whom he hath chosen for his  
own inheritance” (Psalm 33:12).**



# 21 STEPS to a STRONGER CHURCH for the 21st CENTURY

By David Cloud



**I**n a time when the average Baptist church is getting steadily, shockingly weaker, more carnal, more worldly, moving farther down the contemporary path with each passing year, we are intent on moving in a *much* stronger direction, and we are thankful for the churches that we know of personally that are on the same path.

We have no intention of following the crowd, and we are not afraid of being in the minority.

The church we see in the New Testament is a church of born again disciples of Christ who are committed to serving Christ.

This book has two major sections.

**First, Looking at a Stronger Church**, which examines key Bible passages that provide the pattern for the church for the entire age. The pattern is not found in the church fathers, the Waldenses, the Lollards, the Anabaptists, the Lutherans, the Anglicans, the Reformed Presbyterianism, the Geneva Calvinists, the Brethren, Pentecostalism, Charismaticism, Fundamentalism, Evangelicalism, New Reformed Calvinism, denominational Baptists, or any of the streams of Independent Baptists. We examine the church as the pillar and ground of the truth of 1 Timothy 3:15; the spiritual house made of living stones of 1 Peter 2:4-5; the regenerate, faithful, growing church of Acts 2:36-42; the purifying church of 1 Corinthians 5:6-8; the turning, serving, watching church of 1 Thessalonians 1:8-10; the church that aims for perfecting every member of Colossians 1:25-28; the ministering body church of Ephesians 4:7-16; and the missionary church of Acts 13.

The **second** section is **21 Steps toward a Stronger Church, which are as follows:** The leaders must have spiritual revival; the leaders must be courageous; start with a biblical examination of the church; be ready to engage in a difficult battle; be patient; be confident of God's help; pastors must be real leaders; pray for a ministry team; immerse the church in prayer; aim for a regenerate church membership; focus on the real disciples; strengthen the church covenant; set up biblical standards for workers; immerse the church in Scripture; disciple all of the people; deal with sin; emphasize separation from the world; emphasize Bible prophecy; double down on evangelism; have a strong vision for church planting and world missions; aim to incorporate all the biblical elements of a discipling church.



**Available in print and as a free eBook at:**

[https://www.wayoflife.org/free\\_ebooks/21\\_steps\\_to\\_a\\_stronger\\_church.php](https://www.wayoflife.org/free_ebooks/21_steps_to_a_stronger_church.php)



## 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?



**BIG BANKING'S MOVE TOWARD A SOCIAL CREDIT SCORE** (Friday Church News Notes, April 2, 2021, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143)

- The following is excerpted from "How Big Banks Are Planning to Force Americans into the 'Great Reset' Trap," *Townhall*, Mar. 30, 2021: "In June 2020, elites from around the world gathered to announce the launch of a plan to 'reset' the entire global economy, a proposal they ominously named the 'Great Reset.' Among the many world leaders and powerful institutions that pledged their support for the Great Reset at the June meeting were the International Monetary Fund, Prince Charles, the head of the United Nations, CEOs from major international corporations, and the World Economic Forum--one of the key ringleaders of the Great Reset. 'Every country, from the United States to China, must participate [in the Great Reset], and every industry, from oil and gas to tech, must be transformed,' wrote Klaus Schwab, the founder and executive chairman of the World Economic Forum, in an article published on WEF's website. The initial justification for the Great Reset was the COVID-19 pandemic, but from the start, supporters of the global economic overhaul repeatedly said that climate change was the long-term justification, the one that would allow a sustained, massive transformation of society ... Among

the most important figures in the Great Reset movement are gigantic financial institutions and/or their CEOs, including Bank of America and MasterCard. ... **the heart of the Great Reset is something called environmental, social, and governance (ESG) metrics. ESG metrics offer public policy leaders, economists, investors, and banks an entirely new way of evaluating businesses. Instead of looking at how profitable a company is, how many employees it has, its business model, and other traditional metrics, ESG adds to those concerns a whole host of left-wing causes, including how 'green' a company is, having the 'right' ratio of minorities, whether a business is involved in politically disfavored industries (such gun manufacturing and sales), as well as other, similar considerations. Companies are then given a score or rating to determine how well they align with ESG goals.** Hundreds of the world's largest corporations, including financial institutions, have already created ESG systems and reporting metrics within their companies, and investor groups worth trillions of dollars have pledged to prioritize these companies over those that refuse to participate. ... Put more simply, if you want a loan from Bank of America in the future, you better toe the globalist line on climate change. ... Citi, Goldman Sachs, Morgan Stanley, and JPMorgan Chase--which, together with Wells Fargo and Bank of America, make up the six largest banks in the United States--also made similar commitments. And do not think for a moment that these requirements will only apply to businesses, either. Some financial institutions have already started to give ESG scores to individual investment accounts ... If banks are allowed to collectively



decide to stop financing any group of people they want, based not on financial concerns but ideological considerations, then banks and their Great Reset allies will have, in effect, near-total control over society--especially if they begin to tie lending decisions to a vast ESG system." The Bible says, "In God will I praise *his* word: in the LORD will I praise *his* word. In God have I put my trust: I will not be afraid what man can do unto me. Thy vows *are* upon me, O God: I will render praises unto thee. For thou hast delivered my soul from death: *wilt* not *thou deliver* my feet from falling, that I may walk before God in the light of the living?" (Psalm 56:10-13).

### POPE CALLS MARY "THE BRIDGE JOINING US TO GOD"

(Friday Church News Notes, April 2, 2021, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143)

- In a tweet dated March 25, Pope Francis said, "Mary is not only the bridge joining us to God; she is more. She is the road that God travelled to reach us, and the road that we must travel in order to reach him." This is not only heresy; it is blasphemy. "For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time" (1 Timothy 2:5-6). Pope John Paul II, widely praised by evangelical Protestant and even Baptist leaders, was also a great venerator of Mary.



Engraved in his coffin, viewed at what has been called "the world's largest funeral," was a large letter M for Mary (*The Evening Standard*, London, Apr. 8, 2005). Thus his papal career ended as it began. When elected Pope in 1978, Karol Wojtyla dedicated his papacy to Mary, taking as his episcopal motto the Latin "Totus Tuus," meaning "Totally Yours" ("John Paul II's Devotion to Mary," *Inside the Vatican*, special insert, May 1996). He had these words embroidered on his papal robes. John Paul II worshipped at Marian shrines throughout the world, including the Black Madonna in Jasna Gora, Poland, Our Lady of Fatima in Portugal, and Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mexico. In his general audience of December 13, 1995, the pope observed that the Second Vatican Council applied the title of Mediatrix to Mary and spoke of her "mediating role" and "her cooperation in a wholly singular way in the work of restoring supernatural life to souls" and "her exceptional role in the work of redemption" ("Council's Teaching on Mary Is Rich and Positive," Dec. 13, 1995, *L'Osservatore Romano*). In his general audience of May 7, 1997, the pope said that "MARY IS THE PATH THAT LEADS TO CHRIST..." (Vatican Information Service, May 7, 1997).

**COURT SUPPORTS PROFESSOR WHO WAS FIRED FOR NOT USING TRANSGENDER STUDENT'S PRONOUNS** (Friday Church News Notes, April 2, 2021, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143)

- The following is excerpted from "Professor Can't Be Punished," *Just the News*, Mar. 26, 2021: "A public university violated a professor's



constitutional rights by punishing him for refusing to use a transgender student's preferred pronouns, the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled Friday. In a unanimous opinion written by Judge Amul Thapar, a Supreme Court short-lister for former President Trump, the court compared the Ohio university's behavior to a 'McCarthy era' law against 'subversive' government employees. Philosophy professor Nicholas Meriwether, a 'devout Christian,' sought an accommodation under which he would not have to address the student as a woman in classroom discussions, which often touched on gender identity as a cultural controversy. Shawnee State University officials belatedly ordered Meriwether to stop addressing the student only by name and instead use female pronouns. They also shot down his offer to tell students in the syllabus that he was being forced to use preferred pronouns. ... While the Supreme Court ruled that public employers can punish workers for speech on the job, it expressly declined to extend that holding to 'scholarship or teaching.' Three other appeals courts have also exempted academic speech from punishment, the 6th Circuit said. The high court's other rulings show no doubt that professors at public universities have a 'right to lecture' and to be free from 'laws that cast a pall of orthodoxy over the classroom. ... The university cannot satisfy its 'compelling interest in stopping discrimination against



transgender students' by giving itself license to 'discipline professors, students, and staff any time their speech might cause offense,' the opinion said. The judges also scolded university officials for their alleged 'religious hostility' toward the professor when he raised concerns about the gender-identity policy."

**CHURCH SPEAKER SAYS MOST WHITE PEOPLE HAVE "POST-TRAUMATIC SLAVE-MASTER DISORDER"** (Friday Church News Notes, April 2, 2021, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143)

- The following is excerpted from "Church Speaker Says," *NC Daily Gazette*, Mar. 3, 2021: "Renewal Church of Chicago recently hosted a speaker, Nathaniel McGuire, who told the audience via a Zoom meeting that the 'majority of white people' have a mental disorder and they 'don't even know it.' That mental disorder, he says, is 'post-traumatic slave master disorder.' If that sounds ridiculous, it is. The church hosted the speaker at the annual Race & Mental Health Conversation which has a stated purpose of discussing 'how race impacts mental health and how the Gospel is essential to healthy living.' Only problem, there was no actual gospel discussed. In fact, the only thing discussed was a perversion of the gospel twisted into a social justice nightmare at the hands of unqualified church leaders. McGuire says his passion is to 'help people heal from



their past so they can enjoy their present.' ... Here's what he says he does, from his own bio. 'I issue an invitation to go on a journey of self-discovery.' ... If you want to know the real reason churches are shrinking, it isn't because of a lack of ethnic diversity--it's because of a lack of the Scriptures being preached."

**THE WORLD PASSETH AWAY** (Friday Church News Notes, April 2, 2021, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143)

- "*And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever*" (1 John 2:17). The verb "passeth" is present indicative. The present tense is a continuous tense, and the indicative mood "asserts something which is occurring while the speaker is making the statement." So the world is passing away at this time. It appears to be permanent, but it is even now in the process of passing away. God holds the reins. He is using this present world system for His eternal purpose, and it will be finished exactly when and how God decides, to be replaced by Christ's kingdom. The prophet Daniel described the end of this present world system. In the dream given to Nebuchadnezzar, it was depicted as a great image of a man representing the ruling empires of Babylon, Persia, Greece, and Rome (Da. 2:31-35). Daniel's interpretation explains that Rome continues in various forms until the return of Christ, at which time the world system will be crushed and replaced with Christ's righteous kingdom. "Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet *that were* of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces. Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the



gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshingfloors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth" (Da. 2:34-35). Bible commentator Robert Lenski says, "The world is now in the act of passing away. It is its very nature not to last. Its doom is overtaking it. Its glory is fading, its flowers are withering, its promises are failing, its hopes are crumbling. Isaiah 14:11. ... Does the siren voice of the world tickle your ears? Hear the word of truth: 'The world is passing away!' The bank is breaking, it was never solvent--will you deposit in it? The foundation is tottering, it was never solid but only sham--will you build on it? The mountain is rumbling, quaking, it was never anything but volcanic, ready to blow off its head at any time--will you build your city

**TEN FUNDAMENTAL THINGS BREITBART, FOX NEWS, RIGHT WING NEWS, LIBERTY NATION, BLAZE, FRONTPAGEMAG, ET AL. DO NOT KNOW** (Friday Church News Notes, April 9, 2021, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143)

- The following are some of the fundamental biblical truths of life that the vast majority of contributors to the most popular conservative news sites do not know and do not take into





account in their thinking. **FIRST**, the world was made in six days by an almighty Creator who is eternal, omniscient, holy, just, merciful, compassionate, who is King over all and works all things after his own will according to His eternal plan. **SECOND**, man was made in the image of God and His created purpose is to love God and glorify Him, and every man is accountable to Him. **THIRD**, all man are sinners against God's holy laws and are under His judgment thereby. **FOURTH**, the ultimate conspiracy behind the scenes is the program of the dark powers that control the present world system led by Satan, a fallen angel who rebelled against God. Those dark powers are working out a program called the mystery of iniquity, the objective of which is to put a man who is evil incarnate on the world's throne. **FIFTH**, at the same time, God is working out His program of global gospel preaching to invite all men to His free salvation in Jesus Christ. This program began with the resurrection and ascension of Christ. The book of Acts is the record of the beginning of this program, and it remains God's main business in this world. **SIXTH**, Christ and His apostles prophesied that false churches will multiply. This is called the *apostasy* (to turn from the faith). It will increase throughout the age until the vast majority of churches (so called) will be corrupted. This is what we see in church history and this is what we see in the world today. **SEVENTH**, the present church age

will end whenever God determines and the true believers in Christ will be removed to heaven. This event is called the catching away or Rapture. It is imminent, meaning it can happen any time and will be unexpected by the world. **EIGHTH**, immediately thereafter, Satan's man will come on the scene. He is called the Antichrist and the Man of Sin. At first he will pretend to be a great peacemaker and global problem solver. He will make a covenant with Israel that will allow the third temple to be built. The world will cry, "Peace, peace," thinking that a new age of peace and prosperity has begun. After three and a half years, the Antichrist will show his true character and will cause all men to worship him on pain of death. **NINTH**, at that time the world will experience trouble greater than it has ever experienced. God will pour out judgments on all nations for their sin. Billions will perish. **TENTH**, three and a half years after the Antichrist sets himself up as God, the true Christ will return from heaven in power and glory to establish His kingdom on earth as He promised.

**JOURNALIST FLEES AMERICA IN FEAR OF ANTIFA** (Friday Church News Notes, April 9, 2021, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143) - Because of the widespread, deceitful, foolish assault on policing, America is becoming so lawless that a journalist is forced to flee for his life because of the threat of thugs. No one has done more to expose the agenda of Antifa and the lies of the mainstream media on this particular front than Andy Ngo. His parents fled communism for the safety and freedom of America only to see America now torn apart by leftist ideology promoted at the highest levels of education, journalism,

business, entertainment, and government. The following is excerpted from "Andy Ngo reacts to becoming Antifa target," *Fox News*, Apr. 5, 2021: "Ando Ngo, born-and-raised Portlander and second-generation Vietnamese American, a conservative journalist who serves as the editor-at-large of *The Post Millennial*, is now a *New York Times* bestselling author thanks to his recently published tome, *Unmasked: Inside Antifa's Radical Plan to Destroy Democracy*. In *Unmasked*, Ngô explores not only the history of Antifa both in and outside the United States, but also his own experiences covering what he describes as an organized community of radical, left-wing anarchists. Opponents tried to stop the book from being published, Ngô, 33, wrote on Twitter. ... Over the course of years, Ngô has endured physical attacks from people in crowds while covering Antifa or radical events, and even unwanted visitors at his and his parents' homes, Ngô wrote in his book. But everything came to a head earlier this year when Ngô left the country amid threats of violence and 'an escalation of safety concerns,' he told *Fox News*. 'It was just not safe anymore for me. I had already been on borrowed time,' he said when reached by phone. Ngô grew to have a keen interest in Antifa following the outcome of the 2016 presidential election, he said. 'Absolutely nobody was expecting it,' he recalled. 'And the response to that democratic





outcome was for people to take to the streets in masses to reject that outcome, and in Portland, many people chose to manifest their frustration through violence and destruction.’ In his coverage on the ground in Portland at the time, Ngô said **he began to see ‘the groundwork being laid for something much worse to come. There was just this overall, not just a shift in the attitudes in the public toward left-wing political violence, but also the hollowing out and weakening of law enforcement institutions,’** he said. Ngô was a student journalist at Portland State University tasked with working on election night in 2016. He said what he saw shocked him. ... He described hearing at the time that **Trump’s election ‘was the first step toward ascendant fascism and the rise of a totalitarian regime in the U.S. These extremist, radical, unfounded ideas were given space to propagate in our papers of legacy, in our homes and ... through broadcast and radio, and of course to online news sites,’** Ngô said. ‘That helped to really radicalize the left, in my opinion.’ Ngô’s resolve to cover Antifa ‘became more clear and focused’ from 2017 through 2018, when he began to notice discrepancies in what he was seeing at riots versus what was being reported, he said. ‘After every riot that was occurring in Portland and Seattle, the coverage from the local press was not the honest picture about who these masked militants actually were,’ he said. Ngô continued: ‘The way they were described, they were lionized and described essentially as heroes who are protecting their communities because police don’t protect people, because police are racist and transphobic and homophobic.’”



### **CNN’S NUTTY STATEMENT THAT IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO KNOW SEX AT BIRTH**

(Friday Church News Notes, April 9, 2021, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143)

- The following is excerpted from “CNN Blasted,” *Christian Headlines*, Apr. 1, 2021: “A CNN news story claiming ‘it’s not possible’ to know a person’s gender or sex at birth ... focused on two executive orders by South Dakota Republican Gov. Kristi Noem prohibiting males from competing in female sports. The article was highly critical of her position. **‘It’s not possible to know a person’s gender identity at birth, and there is no consensus criteria for assigning sex at birth,’** the CNN story said. It didn’t take long for Christians and conservatives to notice the sentence. ‘If you act like a propaganda outlet, people are going to treat you like a propaganda outlet. This is blatant @CNN,’ tweeted Denny Burk, director of the Center for Gospel and Culture at Boyce College in Louisville, Ky. ‘This is CNN. Unbelievable,’ tweeted conservative radio host Erick Erickson. ‘We live in a literal clown world where the elites pretend not to know what it means to be a man or a woman. The only way to maintain your sanity is to reject this absolute nonsense everywhere you see it,’ tweeted author Allie Beth Stuckey. ‘Actually, there is a scientific consensus for ‘assigning sex at birth.’ It’s called observation, coupled with

a basic understanding of mammalian and human biology,’ tweeted *Hot Air* senior editor Ed Morrissey. ‘Hey @CNN, you wrote, “It’s not possible to know a person’s gender identity at birth, and there is no consensus criteria for assigning sex at birth.” Call me, and I’ll explain the criteria to you in 15 seconds,’ tweeted David Prince, pastor of Ashland Avenue Baptist Church in Lexington, Ky.”

### **POLISH PASTOR IN CALGARY CHASES POLICE AWAY FROM GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE**

(Friday Church News Notes, April 9, 2021, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143)

- The following is excerpted from “No Gestapo Here,” *Townhall*, Apr. 4, 2021: “Calgary police were met with resistance when they attempted to shut down a Good Friday church service for violating COVID restrictions. Artur Pawlowski, the pastor at The Cave of Adullam, told police to leave and not return until they have a search warrant in hand. ‘You come back with a warrant,’ Pawlowski said. ‘Out! Out! Out!’ Police were hesitant to leave but the pastor wasn’t backing down. ‘Out of this property, you Nazis!’ Pawlowski shouted. ‘Gestapo is not allowed here!’ ... The pastor turned the camera to face him. ... ‘Passover, the holiest Christian festival in a year and they’re coming to intimidate Christians during the holiest festival? Unbelievable,’ Pawlowski said. ‘What is wrong with those sick psychopaths? It’s beyond me. Wow. Wow. How dare they? Unbelievable. We’re living in a total takeover of the government with their thugs, goons, the brown shirts, the Gestapo wannabe dictators,’ an incredulous Pawlowski said. ‘Coming to the church armed with guns and tasers and handcuffs to intimidate during





Passover celebration? Well, I guess that's what it is, they want to enslave us all like the Egyptians did. They want to be the Pharaohs of today, that's what they're doing. Unbelievable. People, if you don't stand up, wake up, wow. I don't know what will happen tomorrow.' ... He referenced the COVID passports that are being talked about and potentially implemented. 'If you will not be vaccinated like a dog or a cat, you will not be able to buy or sell. You will not be able to go to school or work. Is that the future you want?' Pawlowski asked. 'Is that what you want for your children and your grandchildren?' According to the pastor, the time to stand up and push back against the out-of-control government is now." **CONCLUDING NOTE:** We don't believe in railing on government officials no matter how wrong they might be, but you have to admire the pastor's conviction and boldness.

**WITHOUT PURGING, LITTLE HOPE FOR IMPROVEMENT IN CHURCHES** (Friday Church News Notes, April 9, 2021, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143) - In 1973, Davis Huckabee warned, "So long as the churches fail to preserve a pure membership, so long as they refuse to purge out the obvious leaven, so long as they fail to seek to reconcile those who may have been excluded, there is little

hope for any improvement in the condition of the churches, and good reason to expect the churches to move in the opposite direction" (*The Constitution of the Church*, 1973). In 1998, Dean Register, president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, testified: "It's very unusual for Southern Baptist churches to take disciplinary action against an individual" (*The Sun Herald*, Biloxi, Mississippi, Sept. 13, 1998). That is also true for fundamental Baptist churches. Warm bodies in the pews and tithes in the offering plate and maintaining the lukewarm status quo are more important than faithfulness to God's Word.

**JOSEPH LISTER'S THEORY OF ANTISEPSIS MOCKED BY MAINSTREAM SCIENCE AND CENSORED BY THE MAINSTREAM MEDIA** (Friday Church News Notes, April 16, 2021, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143) - Journalist at Large, London, 1873 - It has come to our attention that Joseph Lister's "germ theory" has been censored by the respected media publications of our day, and rightfully so, we say. As readers



probably know, Lister is the controversial surgeon at Glasgow Royal Infirmary whose "deeply religious" character makes him immediately suspect. He claims that a new antiseptic method of surgery dramatically reduces the fatality rate from about 50% to 15%, but the vast majority of scientific opinion is against the man's theories. Four years ago, the British Association, meeting at Leeds, mocked Lister's ideas, and just this year the respected medical journal *The Lancet* warned that the entire medical profession is against Lister's ideas. It is difficult to see how that such an august group of medical men could be wrong. We find it commendable that our all-wise, mothering media have the policy of censoring "content that contradicts the consensus of local and global health authorities" so that dangerous ideas like Lister's will not be propagated and debated. As the wise saying goes, "We must follow the science."

**YOUTUBE CENSORS ROUNDTABLE ON COVID BY SCIENTISTS FROM OXFORD, HARVARD, AND PRINCETON** (Friday Church News Notes, April 16, 2021, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from "Scientists from Oxford," *PJMedia*, Apr. 10, 2021: "This week, YouTube [owned by Google] deleted footage of a COVID-19 roundtable discussion between Gov. Ron DeSantis (R-Fla.) and medical experts from Oxford, Stanford, and Harvard. The doctors and medical experts reportedly disputed Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidance that children wear masks in school to stop the spread of COVID-19. Cody McCloud, DeSantis's press secretary, condemned the move as 'another blatant example of Big Tech





attempting to silence those who disagree with their woke corporate agenda,' *NBC News* reported. 'YouTube claimed they removed the video because "it contradicts the consensus of local and global health authorities," yet this roundtable was led by world-renowned doctors and epidemiologists from Oxford, Stanford, and Harvard, all of whom are eminently qualified to speak on the global health crisis,' McCloud argued. 'Good public health policy should include a variety of scientific and technical expertise, and YouTube's decision to remove this video suppresses productive dialogue of these complex issues.' Indeed, the panel included Jay Bhattacharya, a professor of medicine at Stanford University; Dr. Martin Kulldorff, a biostatistician, epidemiologist, and professor of medicine at Harvard Medical School; Sunetra Gupta, an infectious disease epidemiologist and epidemiology professor at Oxford University; and former Trump White House COVID-19 advisor Dr. Scott Atlas." **CONCLUDING NOTE:** "... those seeking absolute truth or an immutable dogma should look in a field other than science" (Juan Arsuaga, *Neanderthal's Necklace*, p. 17).

### **CHINA LAUNCHES HOTLINE FOR NETIZENS TO REPORT "ILLEGAL" HISTORY**

**COMMENTS** (Friday Church News Notes, April 16, 2021, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org)

[fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from "China Launches," *Newsmax*, Apr. 11, 2021: "China's cyber regulator has launched a hotline to report online comments that defame the ruling Communist Party and its history, vowing to crack down on 'historical nihilists' ahead of the Party's 100th anniversary in July. The tip line allows people to report fellow netizens who 'distort' the Party's history, attack its leadership and policies, defame national heroes and 'deny the excellence of advanced socialist culture' online, said a notice posted by an arm of the Cyberspace Administration of China (CAC) on Friday. ... 'Historical nihilism' is a phrase used in China to describe public doubt and skepticism over the Chinese Communist Party's description of past events. China's internet is tightly censored and most foreign social media networks, search engines and news outlets are banned in the country. Netizens in China already face jail time and other legal punishments for posting content that is critical of the country's leadership, policies and history. Legal amendments released earlier this year stipulate that people who 'insult, slander or infringe upon' the memory of China's national heroes and martyrs face jail time of up to three years. Last week, authorities in the eastern Chinese province of Jiangsu detained a 19-year-old man after making 'insulting' comments online about Japan's 1937 occupation of Nanjing." **CONCLUSION:** We wonder if China has considered hiring Mark Zuckerberg, Jack Dorsey, and Sundar Pichai as censorship advisors?

**ALBERTA POLICE IMPOUND GRACELIFE CHURCH PROPERTY** (Friday Church News

Notes, April 16, 2021, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143) - On April 7, the property of GraceLife Church in Alberta was impounded by the government at the behest of Alberta Health Services (AHS). With a heavy show of force that included police and RCMP, authorities confiscated the church's property and erected three layers of chain link security fencing and a black tarp to obscure the entrance. The church has not followed the Covid-19 lockdown rules that limit church services to 15% building capacity and require masks and social distancing, contending that the rules restrict their ability to practice their faith. The senior pastor, James Coates, was arrested on February 16 and jailed for a draconian 35 days. He was released on March 22 but still faces a court appearance. The church continued to hold services during his incarceration. John Carpay, president of the Justice Centre for Constitutional Freedoms, the law firm representing the church, released the following statement on April 7: "The Alberta government has known for many months that it will be called to publicly account before the judiciary for its lockdown destruction of the Alberta economy and trampling of Albertan's civil liberties. Freedom of conscience and religion is the first fundamental freedom listed in the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*. It is listed first because it is one of the





key bedrock principles on which Canada is built. The government has so far refused to justify the limits on worship and gathering. Health orders are inconsistent, differing from province to province, and arbitrarily created by one public health official who is under no obligation legally to advise the legislatures of the science and rationale which supposedly are the basis of the orders.” John MacArthur of Grace Community Church in California said it is “amazing to see an underground church in Canada.” MacArthur said, “This is a first for the Western world, to have the government lock out believers from a church” (“MacArthur Commends ‘Underground Church in Canada,’” *The Daily Wire*, Apr. 12, 2001). Of the 160,000 who have tested positive for Covid in Alberta, 2,000 have died, a fatality rate of 1.25%, but of course since only a portion of the population has been tested and since a high percentage of those infected with Covid are asymptomatic, the fatality rate is lower, probably much lower. The average age of the fatalities in Alberta is 81! Even the latest permeations of Covid hold small danger to young people. Currently there are 376 hospitalized with Covid and 90 in ICU (alberta.ca/stats). What the authorities promoting the lockdowns are *not* doing, it appears, is to look at the whole picture: human liberty, economy, mental health, the myriad of other medical issues beyond Covid, whether lockdowns are even effective, etc.

**CANADIAN FATHER JAILED FOR TALKING ABOUT COURT-ORDERED TRANSGENDERING OF HIS TEENAGE DAUGHTER** (Friday Church News Notes, April 16, 2021, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org),

[fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from “Canadian Father,” *Conservative Review*, Mar. 26, 2021: “On March 16 Robert Hoogland was arrested at the British Columbia

Supreme Court in Vancouver for speaking against court-ordered testosterone injections for his teenage daughter. Hoogland was denied bail, and Justice Michael Tammen issued an oral decision last Friday confining Hoogland to prison until his case is tried April 12-16, 2021. [Note: Hoogland pled guilty on April 13 and accepted “a sentence of 18 months probation with one month off to reflect the time he has already spent in custody.” He was facing a potential five years in prison.] Hoogland’s arrest has garnered significant attention, nationally and internationally, and prompted an online petition for his release. ... As previously reported, the BC Supreme Court [in February 2019] ordered that Hoogland’s daughter should begin receiving testosterone injections when she was 14 years old, regardless of parental consent. The court further declared that if either of the girl’s parents referred to her ‘as a girl or with female pronouns,’ that parent would be considered guilty of family violence. ... Desperate to get his story heard, Hoogland began granting interviews to *The Federalist* and other outlets in February 2020 in which he criticized by name the doctors involved in prescribing his daughter’s cross-sex hormones. ... ‘What kind of father would I be if,



let’s say in 5, 10 years my daughter is detransitioning, and she turns to me and says ... “Why did none of you do anything to stop this? I was a child. None of you stuck your neck out for me back then. You just let me do it because I was an immature kid, thinking this was something great,” he said in an interview. ‘When my daughter asks me that question, I’ll say ... I did everything that I possibly could. Whatever happens to me pales in comparison to what’s already happened to my daughter,’ he said. ... The Vancouver Cybercrime Unit compiled a lengthy police report documenting when Hoogland referred to his daughter ‘as his *daughter*’ and noting that he ‘[used] female pronouns numerous times.’ The cybercrime report also underscored numerous interviews in which Hoogland criticized by name the doctors involved in giving his daughter testosterone. ... Towards the end of the hearing on Friday, Hoogland raised his hand to speak. ‘I do love my child. That’s why I did this. I did what I thought was right.’ In an interview shortly before his arrest, Hoogland said what others can do about his case is: ‘Pray--anybody can pray.’ And, ‘Educate people. Tell people what’s going on ... talk to your neighbor and say, Hey, this is what’s going on in the world. To even do a



simple thing like that ... that's commendable; that's courage to me. To even do a simple thing like that.”

**A SINGLE STEP IN THE MARCH OF ETERNITY** (Friday Church News Notes, April 16, 2021, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143) - “The material universe, in all its beauty, forms but a single link in the plans of that adorable Being who is without beginning of days or end of time; and its whole duration is but a single step in the march of that government which is from everlasting to everlasting” (*Biblical Illustrator*). “But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer” (1 Peter 4:7).

**MORE EVIDENCE OF AMERICA'S SYSTEMIC WHITE RACISM** (Friday Church News Notes, April 23, 2021, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143) - Critical Race Theory claims that America is racist to the core, and the evidence keeps piling up. Kamala Harris is the nation's first black vice president, and Linda Thomas-Greenfield, newly appointed American ambassador to the United Nations, is a black woman. Thomas-Greenfield recently told Al Sharpton's National Action Network (NAN) that “the original sin of slavery weaved white supremacy into our founding documents and principles.” There can be no doubt



that a black woman becoming an American ambassador is clear evidence of the nation's systemic racism. Consider further evidence: There have been 25 minority race governors and lieutenant governors in U.S. states. 162 blacks have served in the U.S. Congress. The 116th Congress (2019) was the most racially diverse in the nation's history with 116 non-white 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 though blacks only formed 13% of the population. A majority of the total votes nationwide for this black man were cast by whites. About 30% of America's police nationwide are non-white. America has spent trillions of dollars in support of non-white “minority” communities. Further, that America has a lot of black millionaires, such as Al Sharpton and Jesse Jackson, is clear evidence that it is systemically racist.

**BLACK LIVES MATTER CO-FOUNDER PURCHASES MILLION-DOLLAR HOME IN EXCLUSIVE AREA** (Friday Church News Notes, April 23, 2021, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from “Marxist BLM Leader,” *Fox News*, Apr. 10, 2021: “Patrisse Khan-Cullors, one of the founders of **Black**



**Lives Matter** and a self-described Marxist, recently purchased a \$1.4 million **home** in an exclusive Los Angeles neighborhood where the vast majority of residents are White, according to reports. The home, which features three bedrooms and three bathrooms, is nestled in Topanga Canyon and has a separate guesthouse on the property, according to a **celebrity real estate blog** which reported the transaction last week. The property, which is about a 15 minute drive from Malibu beaches, features bamboo floors and vaulted ceilings, according to the listing.” Khan-Cullors has purchased property totaling \$3.2 million, according to the *Daily Caller*. Online comments on this report include the following: “Of course, Marxists doing what all Marxists do - they take from everyone under the guise of ‘equity for all’ and line the pockets of the elite at the top of the movement.”

**HILLSONG DALLAS COLLAPSES** (Friday Church News Notes, April 23, 2021, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143) - Hillsong Dallas has been shut down due to the worldliness of its leaders, husband-wife “pastor team” Reed and Jess Bogard. It has been reported that the leadership “has been using church money to fund their lavish lifestyle, including insanely expensive designer clothing, frequent stays at expensive Airbnb rentals, and





thousands of dollars on single meals” (“Hillsong Caving in on Itself,” *Reformation Charlotte*, Apr. 12, 2021). This is the latest in a long list of Hillsong scandals. The following is only the tip of the iceberg: According to the *New York Times* for October 17, 2014, a homosexual couple, Josh Canfield and Reed Kelly, sang in choirs at Hillsong New York City, and Canfield was a volunteer choir leader. Canfield and Kelly were billed as the “Broadway Boyfriends” on the reality show *Survivor: San Juan del Sur*. In May 2016, Hillsong New York City hosted a Hillsong Women’s Conference that featured, among other things, scantily-dressed ‘cheerleaders,’ an Elvis impersonator, and a naked cowboy wearing only a cowboy hat, boots, and a guitar. The cowboy was Hillsong NYC’s own youth pastor, Diego Simla. In 2017, Hillsong NYC pastor Carl Lentz and pop star Justin Bieber were photographed in New Zealand drinking heavily and partying in a tavern. Lentz baptized Bieber in 2014 in the bathtub of a pro-basketball player. In 2019, *Yelp* identified Hillsong Los Angeles as one of the top ten “gay friendly churches” in the city. In November 2020, Lentz was fired as pastor of Hillsong NYC after having been caught in an affair with a Muslim fashion designer. According to the Religion News Service (RNS), multiple reports have also described money mismanagement at Hillsong

NYC. Observers need to understand that Hillsong is not true biblical Christianity. It is a fake.

### **SPEAK OUT FOR THE TRUTH**

(Friday Church News Notes, April 23, 2021, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143) - Leftists of all stripes in America are trying to create a totalitarian society in which the only speech allowed is their speech. Already they are trying to control speech about marriage, sexuality, male and female distinctions, Covid lockdowns, masks, policing, evolution and creationism, American history, racism, China, and many other things. What can we do? There are many things we can do and one of those is that we can speak the truth. One reason the speech Nazis are having some success is that so many people are so incredibly timid. We must not shut up in the face of opposition. We can speak by conversation with our neighbors, by the distribution of literature, by social media, by whatever forum we have, every chance we get. If the Bible speaks about something, then God’s people can and must speak about that. The Word must be preached “in season, and out of season.” Refuse to be censored. Don’t sell your freedom of speech cheaply. “The wicked flee when no man pursueth: but the righteous are bold as a lion” (Proverbs 28:1).

### **“E V A N G E L I C A L S ” RENOUNCING THEIR FAITH**

(Friday Church News Notes, April 23, 2021, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143) - Modern evangelicalism is a fulfillment of 2 Timothy 4:3-4, “For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to

themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away *their* ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.” Popular evangelicalism does not endure sound doctrine; it loves fables; it lives after its own lusts, being more concerned about “liberty” than holiness and obedience. Contemporary Worship Music is a path to the “broad church” of evangelicalism and once you enter those dangerous spiritual waters, there is no telling where you will end up. Many have landed in atheism. Consider some examples: In May 2019, **DAVE GASS**, with 20 years’ experience pastoring evangelical churches, including Grace Family Fellowship of Pleasant Hill, Missouri, made the following announcement on Twitter: “I am walking away from faith. Even though this has been a massive bomb drop in my life, it has been decades in the making.” He admitted that he never firmly believed in Christ and always had doubts. Further, he said, “my marriage was a sham, prayer was never answered, miracles were never performed.” In July 2019, **JOSHUA HARRIS**, author of the best-selling *I Kissed Dating Goodbye* who was considered an expert on marriage and child training, renounced faith in Christ, said he was divorcing his wife, and proclaimed that he is happy and at peace following his “heart.” In August 2019, **MARTY SAMPSON**, one of the worship leaders and song writers for Hillsong, announced that his Christian faith “is on incredibly





shaky ground.” He is seriously entertaining atheism, and he “is so happy now, so at peace with the world.” In May 2020, **JON STEINGARD**, singer and guitarist of the Christian rock band Hawk Nelson and a pastor’s son, announced on Instagram that he is an agnostic. “I am now finding that I no longer believe in God. ... The process of getting to that sentence has been several years in the making. ... It’s been more like pulling on the threads of a sweater, and one day discovering that there was no more sweater left.” Steingard said that he enjoys his new “freedom.” In April 2021, **PAUL MAXWELL**, popular author, renounced his faith on Instagram. “I think it’s important to say that I’m just not a Christian anymore, and it feels really good. I’m really happy.”

**CONCLUDING NOTE:** I have the opposite experience as these men. I have *never* doubted God since I was converted in 1973, and my faith in the Bible as the infallible Word of God and in Jesus Christ as the only Lord and Saviour has grown stronger with each passing year. I have thousands of reasons to believe that God exists and that the Bible is His divine revelation to man. I have seen continual answers to prayer. For those who want to understand why “evangelicalism” is in such desperate straights, we recommend [New](#)

[Evangelicalism: Its History, Characteristics, and Fruit](#), available as a free eBook from [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org). “For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse” (Romans 1:20).

**BLIND LUCK SMARTER THAN TOP PROGRAMMERS** (Friday Church News Notes, April 23, 2021, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143) - Research has discovered that fruit flies have an “incredibly smart method to categorize smells which lets them recognize differences with a very fine level of accuracy” (“Patterns in Fruit Fly Brains Could Soon Power Your Netflix Recommendations,” *Science Alert*, Nov. 11, 2017). The research was done by a team from the University of California San Diego (UCSD) and the Salk Institute for Biological Studies. Fruit flies are able to identify and categorize odors and associated behaviors (e.g., good to eat, must avoid) with great precision. Its brain has 2,000 neurons that “give each smell a distinct ID,” but only the top 5 percent of those are stored so that the fly can quickly sort through a great number of odors and



associations. It turns out that this method is more effective than that which is currently used by services like Netflix and Spotify and YouTube to power their retrieval systems (e.g., labeling and sorting movies). “In a series of tests on three standard datasets commonly used by computer scientists, the fly method significantly outperformed basic locality-sensitive hashing.” Saket Navlakha of Salk says, “Pieces of this approach had been used in the past by computer scientists, but evolution put it together in a very unique way” (Ibid., *Science Alert*). Evolution put it together? Evolution put together a brilliant algorithm in the brain of a fruit fly? This “evolution” thing must be very God-like. In truth, natural selection and mutations couldn’t *possibly* explain such a thing.

## Aim of O Timothy Magazine

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





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