

O Timothy

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

A Monthly Newsletter for Spiritual Protection and Edification

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"Carl McIntire's ecumenical 'save America' movement was superseded by Jerry Falwell's Moral Majority in the 1970s and 1980s with an even broader coalition. Falwell, associated with the Baptist Bible Fellowship International (BBFI), began his political action campaign with a series of 'I Love America' rallies in 1976." Page 6.

Digging in the Walls: A month's worth of news items, republished from Friday Church News Notes. **Page 10.**



DEPRESSION AND THE CHILD OF GOD ~ By David Cloud

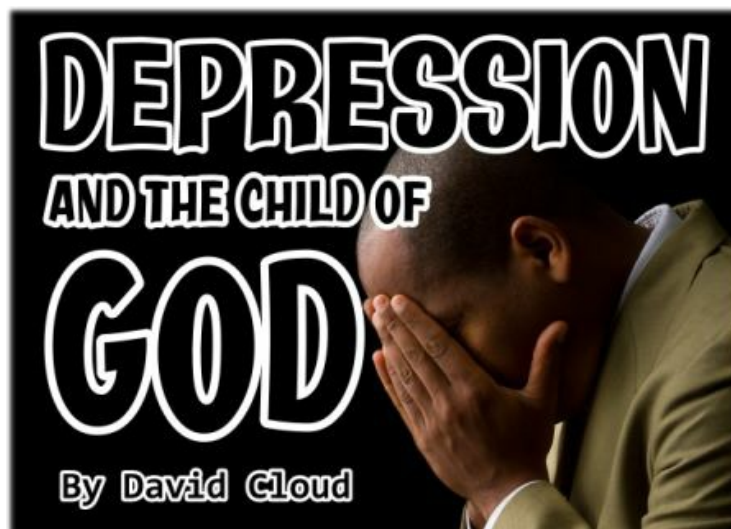
Following are some biblical truths about depression and emotional melancholy.

The quotes from Charles Spurgeon are from *Lectures to My Students* unless otherwise noted. We quote him because he described his depression so plainly and gave some excellent instruction about it.

Depression is part of this fallen life and its reason will not always be known (Psa. 119:28; Rom. 8:22-23; 9:2; Phil. 2:26; 1 Pet. 1:6).

"I note that some whom I greatly love and esteem, who are, in my judgment, among the very choicest of God's people, nevertheless, travel most of the way to heaven by night" (Spurgeon)

"I am the subject of depression so fearful that I hope none of you ever get to such extremes of wretchedness as I go to" (Spurgeon).



"Hours after, I have been myself depressed, and I have felt an inability to shake it off" (Spurgeon).

"I could weep by the hour like a child, and yet I knew not what I wept for" (Spurgeon).

“... I need something which shall cheer my heart, why I cannot tell, wherefore I do not know, but I have a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to buffet me; my soul is cast down within me; I feel as if I had rather die than live; all that God hath done by me seems to be forgotten, and my spirit flags and my courage breaks down. I need your prayers” (Spurgeon).

“We have our times of natural sadness; we have, too, our times of depression, when we cannot do otherwise than hang our heads. Seasons of lethargy will also befall us from changes in our natural frame, or from weariness, or the rebound of over excitement. The trees are not always green, the sap sleeps in them in the winter; and we have winters too. Life cannot always be at flood tide: the fulness of the blessing is not upon the most gracious at all times” (Spurgeon).

“Causeless depression is not to be reasoned with, nor can David's harp charm it away by sweet discoursings. As well fight with the mist as with this shapeless, undefinable, yet all-beclouding hopelessness. One affords himself no pity when in this case, because it seems so unreasonable, and even sinful to be troubled without manifest cause; and yet troubled the man is, even in the very depths of his spirit. If those who laugh at such melancholy did but feel the grief of it for one hour, their laughter would be sobered into compassion. Resolution might, perhaps, shake it off, but where are we to find the resolution when the whole man is unstrung? The

physician and the divine may unite their skill in such cases, and both find their hands full, and more than full. The iron bolt which so mysteriously fastens the door of hope and holds our spirits in gloomy prison, needs a heavenly hand to push it back” (Spurgeon).

“I know that wise brethren say, ‘You should not give way to feelings of depression.’ ... If those who blame quite so furiously could once know what depression is, they would think it cruel to scatter blame where comfort is needed. There are experiences of the children of God which are full of spiritual darkness; and I am almost persuaded that those of God's servants who have been most highly favoured have, nevertheless, suffered more times of darkness than others. The covenant is never known to Abraham so well as when a horror of great darkness comes over him, and then he sees the shining lamp moving between the pieces of the sacrifice. A greater than Abraham was early led of the Spirit into the wilderness, and yet again ere He closed His life He was sorrowful and very heavy in the garden. No sin is necessarily connected with sorrow of heart, for Jesus Christ our Lord once said, ‘My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death.’ There was no sin in Him, and consequently none in His deep depression. I would, therefore, try to cheer any brother who is sad, for his sadness is not necessarily blameworthy. If his downcast spirit arises from unbelief, let him flog himself, and cry to God to be delivered from it; but if the soul is sighing--‘though he slay me, yet will I trust in him’--its being slain is not a fault. The way of sorrow is not the way of sin, but a hallowed road sanctified by the prayers of myriads of pilgrims now with God--pilgrims who, passing through the valley of Baca [lit: of weeping], made it a well, the rain also filled the pools: of such it is written: ‘They go from strength to strength, every one of them in Zion appeareth before God’” (Spurgeon *Metropolitan Tabernacle Pulpit*, 1881, vol. 27).

Some people are more prone to depression and gloominess than others.

“As to mental maladies, is any man altogether sane? Are we not all a little off the balance? Some minds appear to have a gloomy tinge essential to their very individuality; of them it may be said, ‘Melancholy marked them for her own,’ fine minds withal, and ruled by noblest principles, but yet most prone to forget the silver lining, and to remember only the cloud” (Spurgeon, “The Minister's Fainting Fits,” *Lectures to My Students*).

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We must trust the sovereignty and goodness of God (Romans 8:28).

“It would be a very sharp and trying experience to me to think that I have an affliction which God never sent me, that the bitter cup was never filled by his hand, that my trials were never measured out by him, nor sent to me by his arrangement of their weight and quantity” (Spurgeon).

“If you drink of the river of affliction near its outfall, it is brackish and offensive to the taste, but if you will trace it to its source, where it rises at the foot of the throne of God, you will find its waters to be sweet and health-giving” (Spurgeon).

“As long as I trace my pain to accident, my bereavement to mistake, my loss to another’s wrong, my discomfort to an enemy, and so on, I am of the earth, earthy, and shall break my teeth with gravel stones; but when I rise to my God and see his hand at work, I grow calm, I have not a word of repining” (Spurgeon).

There can be divine purposes for depression.

To prepare us to help others (2 Cor. 1:4)

"One Sabbath morning, I preached from the text, 'My God, My God, why has Thou forsaken Me?' and though I did not say so, yet I preached my own experience. I heard my own chains clank while I tried to preach to my fellow-prisoners in the dark; but I could not tell why I was brought into such an awful horror of darkness, for which I condemned myself. On the following Monday evening, a man came to see me who bore all the marks of despair upon his countenance. His hair seemed to stand up right, and his eyes were ready to start from their sockets. He said to me, after a little parleying, 'I never before, in my life, heard any man speak who seemed to know my heart. Mine is a terrible case; but on Sunday morning you painted me to the life, and preached as if you had been inside my soul.' By God's grace I saved that man from suicide, and led him into gospel light and liberty; but I know I could not have done it if I had not myself been confined in the dungeon in which he lay. I tell you the story, brethren, because you sometimes may not understand your own experience, and the perfect people may condemn you for having it; but what know they of

God's servants? You and I have to suffer much for the sake of the people of our charge ... You may be in Egyptian darkness, and you may wonder why such a horror chills your marrow; but you may be altogether in the pursuit of your calling, and be led of the Spirit to a position of sympathy with desponding minds” (Spurgeon, *An All Round Ministry*, pp. 221-222).

“I often feel very grateful to God that I have undergone fearful depression of spirits. I know the borders of despair, and the horrible brink of that gulf of darkness into which my feet have almost gone; but hundreds of times I have been able to give a helpful grip to brethren and sisters who have come into that same condition, which grip I could never have given if I had not known their deep despondency. So I believe that the darkest and most dreadful experience of a child of God will help him to be a fisher of men if he will but follow Christ” (Spurgeon, *The Soul Winner*, chapter 14).

To humble us (2 Cor. 12:7-10)

“Those who are honoured of their Lord in public have usually to endure a secret chastening, or to carry a peculiar cross, lest by any means they exalt themselves, and fall into the snare of the devil” (Spurgeon)

For spiritual growth (Rom. 5:3-5)

“I am afraid that all the grace that I have got of my comfortable and easy times and happy hours, might almost lie on a penny. But the good that I have received from my sorrows, and pains, and griefs, is altogether incalculable ... Affliction is the best bit of furniture in my house. It is the best book in a minister's library” (Spurgeon).

The ministry brings special cares and sorrows (2 Cor. 7:5; 11:28).

“Passionate longings after men's conversion, if not fully satisfied (and when are they?), consume the soul with anxiety and disappointment. To see the hopeful turn aside, the godly grow cold, professors abusing their privileges, and sinners waxing more bold in sin—are not these sights enough to crush us to the earth? The kingdom comes not as we would, the reverend name is not hallowed as we desire, and for this we must weep. How can we be otherwise than sorrowful, while men believe not our report, and the divine arm is not revealed? All mental work tends to weary and to depress, for much study is a

weariness of the flesh; but ours is more than mental work—it is heart work, the labour of our inmost soul. How often, on Lord's-day evenings, do we feel as if life were completely washed out of us! After pouring out our souls over our congregations, we feel like empty earthen pitchers which a child might break” (Spurgeon).

Depression can be associated with spiritual warfare (Eph. 6:10-12).

Depression can precede times of victory. Many times the devil will fight hardest and send dark times prior to great spiritual breakthroughs and victory.

“This depression comes over me whenever the Lord is preparing a larger blessing for my ministry; the cloud is black before it breaks, and overshadows before it yields its deluge of mercy. Depression has now become to me as a prophet in rough clothing, a John the Baptist, heralding the nearer coming of my Lord's richer benison” (Spurgeon).

Depression can also follow times of victory, as with Elijah who was so downcast after his great victory at Mt. Carmel that he wanted to die (1 Kings 19:2-4).

We must look to our spiritual health (2 Pet. 1).

If you are not growing, you are going backwards, and backsliding can cause depression

Don't neglect the daily quiet time with God in serious Bible study and prayer, walking in communion with Christ, yielding to the Holy Spirit (Eph. 5:18), putting off the old man and putting on the new (Eph. 4:22-24).

Sin can cause depression. Though not all depression is caused by sin (e.g., Christ in Psalm 69:20), much of it is. We all have a fallen nature, and a deceitful, wicked heart, and we all live under the curse of death because of sin, so there is no such thing as perfect health as God originally intended it. Paul spoke of “the body of this death” (Rom. 7:24), and life in that body is the reality even for born again Christians.

Sin grieves the Holy Spirit (Eph. 4:30) and brings divine chastening (Heb. 12:6). Sin can even lead to premature death if not repented of (1 John 5:16-17).

A great many cases today that are diagnosed as clinical depression are doubtless the products of sin and false doctrine, though such things are rarely acknowledged.

In modern psychology, sin is typically dismissed as a *result* of depression, rather than the *cause* of depression. One drinks, abuses drugs, and commits adultery *because* he is depressed. Depression is treated as a disease, never an effect of one's sinful lifestyle. The depressed is a hapless victim of circumstances.

Tina Campbell of the black gospel duo Mary Mary contemplated murder and suicide in 2013 after her husband committed adultery. She said, “I'm sad; I'm broken, I'm insecure. ... I considered taking my life. I considered taking me, my children. I was just like, ‘I don't want to leave a legacy of suicide to them, so maybe I should just take all of them.’ ... I was like, ‘Maybe I should take out these people who did me wrong and then take us out, and leave my husband here to figure it out, so that he can realize, ‘look what you did’” (“Mary Mary's Tina Campbell,” TheGrio.com, Mar. 3, 2016). The violence was not limited to her thoughts. She used a hammer and scissors to destroy her husband's car. In public testimony, Tina never acknowledges her worldly “after your own lusts,” 2 Timothy 3:3-4 lifestyle and her false charismatic theology as a possible factor in her depression. She was a victim.

CCM artist Sheila Walsh, then co-host of Pat Robertson's *700 Club*, was hospitalized in 1992 and underwent psychiatric therapy, including drug treatment, because she was “wrestling with a disease of the mind.” She says that it is wrong to assume that “your behavior or a perverse lack of faith brought it on” (“Sheila Walsh Escapes the Darkness of Depression,” *The 700 Club*, n.d). She says that we should always say to those suffering from depression, “It's not your fault” (“Sheila Walsh Thanks God Every Day for Her Mental Health Treatment,” Assist News Service, Oct. 21, 2015). She was diagnosed with severe clinical depression and post-traumatic stress disorder, as if she had been in fierce military combat, and more than 20 years later, Walsh continues on medication. Again, in her public testimonies there was no acknowledgement of the possibility that her non-judgmental ecumenical philosophy and worldly lifestyle, including her disobedient marriage to an immoral, divorced man, had anything to do with her mental condition.

We don't know what really caused these women's mental problems and depression, but I do know that it is wrong to leave out the possibility that sin and false teaching had anything to do with it.

Depression is often the result of alcohol and drug abuse. This was true in my case. Depression can also be caused by the sin of other people who effect me (Prov. 10:1).

We must look to our physical health.

Bad health can cause depression. "Has it not often happened that dyspepsia has been mistaken for backsliding, and bad digestion has been set down as a hard heart?" (Spurgeon).

Spurgeon suffered terribly from gout, sometimes bedridden for weeks at a time, racked in pain. He said, "I have been brought very low. My flesh has been tortured with pain and my spirit has been prostrate with depression. ... With some difficulty I write these lines in my bed, mingling them with the groans of pain and the songs of hope."

Lack of sleep can cause depression. When I am tired, I am much more subject to depression. I have learned not to make decisions late at night. I know that things will look much darker then

Lack of rest can cause depression. Some people need more rest and "down time" than others. We need to understand ourselves and be wise with our lives, but we must be careful not to pamper ourselves.

"It is wisdom to take occasional furlough. In the long run, we shall do more by sometimes doing less. On, on, on for ever, without recreation may suit spirits emancipated from this 'heavy clay', but while we are in this tabernacle, we must every now and then cry halt, and serve the Lord by holy inaction and consecrated leisure. Let no tender conscience doubt the lawfulness of going out of harness for a while" (Spurgeon).

Lack of physical exercise can cause depression. It is important to get regular physical exercise to keep the body healthy.

David Brainerd, famous missionary to the American Indians, tended toward great emotional extremes, sometimes feeling spiritual passion and love for God, but

often being afflicted with dark depression. At least 22 times in his diary he expressed a wish for death. At the beginning of his *Journal* he wrote, "I was, I think, from my youth ... inclined rather to melancholy than the other extreme." Doubtless Brainerd's tuberculosis, which took his life at age 29, contributed to his depression.

I recall a preacher friend who had kidney failure, and it brought him into a deep spiritual depression. He told me that whereas the Bible had been his delight, it now mocked him. When he had a successful kidney transplant, this condition was healed.

We think of Eric Liddell, the famous Scottish Olympic runner who became a missionary to China and died in a Japanese prison camp. He was known to be an exceedingly cheerful person, but in his final sickness he was thrown into depression.

"In the evening especially, shortly before lights out in his room, the melancholy threatened to drown him. This wasn't unusual among the men in his dorm as the war dragged on. What became noticeable, however, was that Liddell couldn't shake himself out of it the next morning. His depression wouldn't go away. ... The doctors mentioned the possibility of a 'nervous breakdown'" (Duncan Hamilton, *For the Glory*).

It turned out that Liddell had a brain tumor. He soon had two strokes and died at age 43.

We must cry out to God for help (Psa. 138:3; 1 Pet. 5:9).

"When I was racked some months ago with pain, to an extreme degree, so that I could no longer bear it without crying out, I asked all to go from the room, and leave me alone; and then I had nothing I could say to God but this, 'Thou are my Father, and I am thy child; and thou, as a Father art tender and full of mercy. I could not bear to see my child suffer as thou makest me suffer, and if I saw him tormented as I am now, I would do what I could to help him, and put my arms under him to sustain him. Wilt thou hide thy face from me, my Father? Wilt thou still lay on a heavy hand, and not give me a smile from thy countenance?'

... So I pleaded, and I ventured to say, when I was quiet, and they came back who watched me: 'I shall never have such pain again from this moment, for God has heard my

prayer.' I bless God that ease came and the racking pain never returned" (Spurgeon).

We must have the upward look (Col. 3:1-4).

We must have the long look (2 Cor. 4:17; Rom. 8:18).

We must understand that heaviness can be spiritually beneficial (Jam. 4:9).

We must keep our eyes upon God and our faith in His promises (Job 13:15).

"I am the subject of depression so fearful that I hope none of you ever get to such extremes of wretchedness as I go to. But I always get back again by this—I know that I trust Christ. I have no reliance but in Him, and if He falls, I shall fall with Him. But if He does not, I shall not.

Because He lives, I shall live also, and I spring to my legs again and fight with my depressions of spirit and get the victory through it.

And so may you do, and so you must, for there is no other way of escaping from it" (Spurgeon).



The following is excerpted from the new book for September 2020, [The History and Heritage of Fundamentalism and Fundamental Baptists](http://www.wayoflife.org), 600 pages, www.wayoflife.org -

Carl McIntire (1906-2002) was the first fundamentalist to lead a major campaign to "bring America back to God."

McIntire was one of the students who left Princeton Theological Seminary in 1938 with J. Grecham Machen and others to form Westminster Seminary and the Bible Presbyterian Church. They were separating from theological liberalism.

McIntire's parents, Charles and Hettie, intended to go to China as missionaries when Charles graduated from Princeton, but as they were waiting to embark from San Francisco, Charles fell ill and they had to cancel the plan. Charles became a pastor in Salt Lake City, instead, and Hettie did evangelistic work among Native Americans and Mormons. When Carl was six, Charles had a mental breakdown and had to be hospitalized. "[H]is persistent mental difficulties led to a series of delusionary episodes that forced him to seek prolonged refuge in a mental asylum" (Markku Ruotsila, *Fighting Fundamentalism*). Eventually Carl's parents were divorced and his mother raised the children alone in Oklahoma. She had memorized the book of Proverbs in college and taught it to her four children. She also taught them how to pray in faith. When an Aunt Lucy lost a valuable stone from her ring, they had a

family prayer meeting to request its recovery. "The next morning young Carl was sent to the yard to wring the neck of a chicken for that day's dinner--and there it was, inside that chicken he had picked at random, the lost gem" (Ruotsila). It was Hettie that introduced her children to dispensational theology from teaching she had picked up from the Bible prophecy movement that was percolating all over the country. One influence was Arno Gaebelein's *Our Hope* magazine. McIntire married Fairy Davis of Texas, and they had three children, a boy and two girls. "From the start theirs was a partnership, for by all accounts he had great respect for the opinions of the woman whom others described as smart, practical, and orderly" (Ruotsila).

As the pastor of the Bible Presbyterian Church in Collingswood, New Jersey, McIntire was a traditional Calvinist Presbyterian who held to the Westminster Confession of Faith, except for a literal view of prophecy. He often preached systematically and exegetically through books. He encouraged his members to read through the Bible annually. The church had an active Sunday School and an evangelistic Summer Bible School that ran four weeks each summer.

McIntire was a crusader who had a large influence through radio and the printed page. In 1936, he began publishing the *Christian Beacon* weekly magazine, which had a circulation of 10,000 by 1940 and reached 650,000 at its peak in the

1980s. In 1955, he founded the *Twentieth-Century Reformation Hour* radio broadcast, which was eventually heard on more than 600 stations in the United States and on shortwave worldwide. In 1962, McIntire purchased the Admiral Hotel in Cape May, New Jersey, and established the **Christian Admiral Bible Conference and Freedom Center**. McIntire's Christian Beacon press "turned out a flood of widely distributed pamphlets, tracts, and newsletters" (Ruotsila, *Fighting Fundamentalist*).

In 1941, McIntire was a major figure in the founding of the **AMERICAN COUNCIL OF CHRISTIAN CHURCHES (ACCC)** "as a conservative alternative to the liberal Federal (later, National) Council of Churches (NCC)." "Formally, he would serve as the ACCC's president only until 1944, but it was clear to all concerned that the ACCC was his personal preserve and that all the final decisions would be made by him" (Ruotsila). ACCC membership included the Union of Regular Baptist Churches in Canada led by T.T. Shields, the General Association of Regular Baptist Churches led by Robert Ketcham, Evangelical Methodist Churches (EMC), Bible Presbyterian Churches, the Independent Fundamental Churches of America (IFCA), the Associated Gospel Churches, World Baptist Fellowship, and the Tioga River Christian Conference. The ACCC was also supported by Bob Jones, Sr., Francis Schaeffer, Jerry Falwell, Tim LaHaye, and a great many other fundamentalist leaders, both non-denominational and Baptist. The total constituent membership was about 40,000, but it appears that the numbers were inflated by various schemes because of the worldly philosophy that numbers represents strength.

Not content to preach the gospel and teach the Bible and disciple believers and to contend for the faith, McIntire **increasingly became fixated on political action pertaining to pro-Americanism and anti-communism.**

McIntire's generation witnessed great, disturbing changes in American society and government. In the first half of the 20th century, the nation was being turned upside down and the remnants of biblical influence were disappearing. International communism was on the march, and communists were infiltrating trade unions, universities, and government. The League of Nations appeared to be forerunner of a one-world government. Beginning with President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal in the 1930s, there was an ever-increasing move toward socialism. The power of the federal government had increased dramatically since the end of the Civil War in 1865, but Roosevelt took it much farther. He claimed that men should be guaranteed "four freedoms" by the government: freedom of speech, freedom of worship, freedom from want, and freedom from fear. Thus he specifically put the government in the role of God in men's lives. In *The Rise of the Tyrant: Controlled Economy vs. Private Enterprise* (1945), McIntire warned that a government that attempts to deliver men from

want and fear is idolatrous and will have "tragic and far-reaching results." He warned that "America is in greater danger of losing her freedom today than at any time since the Declaration of Independence." In 1917, W.B. Riley had 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. He prophesied that the infiltration of liberal philosophy into America's educational system was "an outrage" that would destroy America's morality. John Dewey's "Progressive education" was transforming the 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" (Turner, *Standing Without Apology*, p. 19). Since the the 1920s jazz era, powerful social forces had 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 (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, an arrogant attitude. Preachers warned that "girls spurned femininity, boys acted sissy, and their nighttime joyrides were taking them down the surest road to hell." In the 1920s, Baptist pastor John Straton was calling America's cities Sodom and Gomorrah. His 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. Of female fashions, he said, "When it comes to women's dress today there is not enough to talk about." 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]." 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*). 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.” 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 reaping a whirlwind of delinquency. The justice system was being reconstructed along the lines of humanistic psychology. Already in the 1920s, Straton was preaching against the budding tendency for American courts to coddle criminals. 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.” When President Roosevelt called for a national day of prayer for New Years Day 1943, evangelist Hyman Appleman 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).

McIntire decided that his calling was to lead a nation-building campaign to “save America.” He believed that the American system of government “was the direct outgrowth of specific biblical commands and its defense every Christian’s duty.” He went so far to say that Jesus came not only to save men’s souls, but also to preach “private enterprise, individual initiative, personal responsibility, competition” (McIntire, *Author of Liberty*). McIntire’s message was that Jesus “came to save individuals from slavery to sin and to save societies by teaching them about the freedom that only capitalism provided” (Ruotsila, *Fighting Fundamentalist*). He thus identified Jesus Christ with George Washington, Ben Franklin, and Thomas Jefferson!

McIntire created broad-based political alliances. He led public demonstrations. He sought for access to the White House and Congress. He raised money from millionaires regardless of their spiritual condition and doctrinal soundness. An example is J. Howard Pew, retired Sun Oil executive who was a member of the Federal Council of Churches, which McIntire had identified as enemy number one. McIntire’s constant refrain was that if God’s people don’t rise up and become active in his alliance, “we are doomed,” but, “If the Christian

people of America will wake up and assert themselves, we can save our land” (*The Rise of the Tyrant*).

McIntire believed that not only could Christians save America, but a redeemed America could then usher in a “glorious time” when “the ideals of freedom and democracy could be propagated to the end of the earth” (*Author of Liberty*). He was premillennial, but he acted more like a post-millennialist.

McIntire called for an alliance with Roman Catholicism. He said, “The chasm separating the Roman Catholic church from the Protestant church is a small one compared to that indefinitely large chasm which separates the modernists from the fundamentalists” (*Christian Beacon*, May 26, 1938). But that is nonsense. A false gospel is a false gospel. One type of false gospel is as dangerous as another, and God’s people are forbidden to yoke together with false gospelers of any persuasion (Gal. 1:8; 2 Co. 6:14-18). McIntire worked closely with John T. Flynn, a Roman Catholic opponent of the New Deal and author of *The Road Ahead* (1949), which was publicized and sold by the ACCC. In fact, McIntire had secretly edited this book (Ruotsila, *Fighting Fundamentalist*). McIntire also worked closely with and promoted Roman Catholics **William F. Buckley, Jr., Phyllis and Eleanor Schlafly**, the founders of the **Cardinal Mindszenty Foundation**, as well as with Jewish Rabbi **Benjamin Schultz**. Other influential Save America communist fighters who worked closely with McIntire were **Edgar Bundy** (Church League of America), **Billy James Hargis** (a Church of Christ preacher turned communist fighter, founder of the Christian Crusade), **Frederick Schwarz** (founder of the Christian Anti-Communism Crusade), and **Robert Welch** (Unitarian founder of the John Birch Society).

There is no biblical authority for the ACCC or any ministry like this. There is no biblical authority for its parachurch organization, for its ecumenical alliances, for its focus on political action, for the identification of America with the kingdom of God. McIntire disobeyed clear Scripture in the pursuit of these pragmatic objectives (e.g., Ro. 16:17-18; 2 Co. 6:14-18; 2 Ti. 3:5; Jude 3; 2 Jo. 1:7-11).

“Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in *them*; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean *thing*; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty” (2 Co. 6:14-18).

In 1973, McIntire's radio station WXUR was forced off the air after a 12-year campaign by an alliance of his enemies, including the National Council of Churches, the Anti-Defamation League (Jewish), the NAACP, the AFL-CIO, and UNICEF, "actively encouraged and assisted by the Democratic National Committee" (Ruotsila, *Fighting Fundamentalist*). They used the FCC's 1949 Fairness Doctrine as the hammer, "which required station managers to give equal time to the airing of opposing views on controversial issues of 'public interest.'"

The case went through the federal bureaucracy and the courts and eventually the Supreme Court sided against McIntire by refusing to hear the case. This was the first and only case of the FCC forcing a radio station off the air and it was a blatant act of government censorship that was upheld by a politicized, humanized, activist court system.

After his radio station was shut down, McIntire purchased an old ship, refitted it as a 10,000-watt radio station, renamed it the *Columbus*, and began broadcasting "Radio Free America" in international waters three miles off Cape May. He wanted to use the "pirate station" to put pressure on legislators to overrule the Fairness Doctrine. "Let's use the radio to straighten out the government." To garner news attention, he donned a pirate hat and an eye patch. But technical difficulties ended the broadcasting after a few hours, and the U.S. Justice Department, supported by the courts, ruled that all broadcasts from U.S. owned vessels required a license.

Radio Free America was finished. The closing of WXUR caused a domino effect whereby stations across the country dropped the *Twentieth Century Reformation Hour* and McIntire was left without his most effective fund-raising mechanism.

McIntire's empire gradually collapsed. In the 1980s, the Christian Beacon press filed for bankruptcy, and the Christian Admiral complex, Shelton College, and Faith Theological Seminary shut down. But the old fighter wouldn't give up. In 1996, at his 90th birthday party, he asked each attendee to bring a check for \$90 so he could get back on the radio! A year later, he demonstrated outside the Presbyterian Church USA's General Assembly, sitting in a wheelchair holding a placard denouncing their liberalism.

In 1993, he proposed that a full-scale model of Noah's Ark be built as a tourist attraction that would "forever down these liberals" (*Christian Beacon*, Feb. 18–25, 1993). This massive venture was accomplished in 2016 by Ken Ham of Answers in Genesis, though it had nothing to do with Carl McIntire.

When McIntire was forced to resign his pastorate at Bible Presbyterian Church of Collingswood in 1999 at age 92, he started a new congregation in his living room and preached to his small flock until his death at age 95. Like many others, he could not let go of leadership and could not turn anything over to younger men. Many men who have built thriving ministries

have killed them by holding on to the reins too long and not preparing younger men to take over.

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

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

The only solution for America's ills is to address the root problem. Cancer is not healed by addressing symptoms. The root of America's ills is the condition of the nation's churches: unregeneracy, unqualified leaders, cowardly leaders, worldliness, carnality, lukewarmness, the priority of tradition over God's Word, pragmatism, heresy, and apostasy.

America doesn't fear God because her churches no longer preach the fear of God.

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

To educate about spiritual enemies is encompassed within the church's mandate to preach and to teach and to defend the faith.

The materials published by the ACCC that educated and warned about liberalism, communism, socialism, etc., were helpful to churches, *but to go beyond this to form mixed-multitude political alliances is a transgression of the Word of God*. Disobedience does not have God's blessing and therefore does not "work."

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?



ALBERTA PASTOR KICKS HEALTH OFFICIAL/POLICE OFF CHURCH PROPERTY AGAIN

(Friday Church News Notes, April 30, 2021, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from "Polish Pastor," *The Daily Wire*, Apr. 25, 2021: "The Polish pastor who went viral after forcefully ejecting police and health officials from his church in Calgary, Alberta, on Good Friday received another visit from them on Saturday, prompting him to kick them off church property again. Pastor Artur Pawlowski, who recorded the incident, went on to warn his viewers against what he believes is growing state tyranny in Western countries done in the name of public health. ... 'I do not cooperate with Gestapo,' Pawlowski told the health inspector, who was flanked by several armed, black-clad Calgary Police officers. 'I do not talk to the Nazis. You came in your uniforms like thugs. That's what you are. Brownshirts of Adolf Hitler. You are Nazi Gestapo, communists, fascists. I do not cooperate with Nazis. Talk to my lawyer. You are not allowed here, you are not welcomed here, and I'm not going to cooperate with Gestapo like you, okay?' The health inspector and police slunk away after Pawlowski made clear he was not interested in having a conversation. 'You are sick, that's what you are!' he yelled as they left. 'And rightfully so you change your uniforms to black, because you

are exactly acting like the Gestapo of old.' ... 'If Canadians will not rise up and stand up, if they will not come to their senses while there is still time, while there is a time to wake up and push this evil, there will be absolutely no, no rights whatsoever,' Pawlowski continued. 'If they can get away with this, they're going to come anywhere else. And, you know, that's what people do not understand. They think that this is some kind of a game. Do you think that they are here for your health? Seriously?' Pawlowski, who grew up under the jackboot of the Soviets behind the Iron Curtain in Poland, said, 'I have been warning you for 16 years about what's coming, and it's here. And it's up to you. Either you are going to keep pushing as hard as you can, or you are going to be [swallowed] by those people. The history is teaching us that those types of people will never stop.'"

ISRAEL PREPARING TO OPEN FOR TOURISM AFTER 14 MONTHS OF LOCKDOWNS

(Friday Church News Notes, April 30, 2021, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from "Israel lifts outdoor mask requirement," *The Times of Israel*, Apr. 17, 2021: "With fewer than a hundred new coronavirus cases diagnosed Friday, and just 201 Israelis in serious condition with the virus, Israel was set Sunday to lift the requirement for wearing masks outside, and to fully reopen all



schools. The latest Health Ministry figures showed 95 new cases were diagnosed on Friday, accounting for just 0.7% of the 14,182 samples tested. There were 2,680 active cases, and the death toll since the start of the pandemic stood at 6,315. ... After suffering a severe third wave of the pandemic, Israel's situation has rapidly improved in recent months as it has carried out the world's fastest per capita vaccination drive. Over half of the population is fully inoculated against COVID-19, and the results have shown, with daily new cases and serious cases dropping to levels not seen in long months. ... The national virus czar Prof Nachman Asch has said the entire economy will be able to fully reopen next month if there is no new rise in contagion.”

CONCLUDING REMARKS: In 2020, democratic countries were ruled by elected officials. Now they are ruled by czars! The prophetic hour is very late, as the world prepares for the coming of the Czar of czars! Israel is planning to open for tourism on May 23, focusing on group tours. The new regulations are still being finalized, but they will probably require a negative Covid test and proof of vaccination or evidence of antibodies produced by the virus itself.

SOUTHERN BAPTIST PASTOR APOLOGIZES FOR CREATIONIST WHO DEFENDED THE BIBLICAL SEXUAL ETHIC IN HIS PULPIT (Friday Church News Notes, April 30, 2021, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from “AiG’s Message Deplatformed,” Answers in Genesis, Apr. 16, 2021: “AiG [has been] ‘deplatformed’ by a church! And what issues do you think [caused] this ‘deplatforming’? Well,



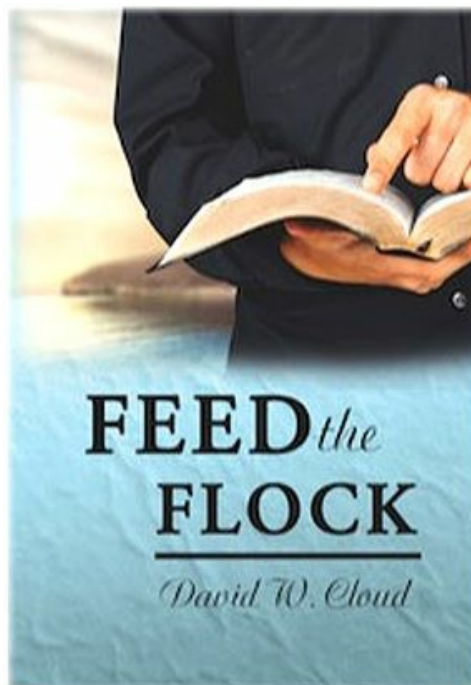
LGBTQ and the age of the earth/universe issues! ... Here is Dr. Terry Mortenson’s report in his own words: ‘Sunday morning [Grace Point Church, Bentonville, AR, on Jan. 17, 2021], I gave a message on the ‘relevance’ of Genesis, similar to what Ken Ham and all our speakers present for a first presentation in a church. I explained that Genesis 1–11 is foundational to the rest of Scripture and showed that the acceptance of millions of years and evolution undermines the Bible’s teaching on sin, marriage, death, the gospel, and morality. With respect to marriage, after quoting Jesus in Matthew 19:4–6, I said that adultery, fornication, pornography, homosexuality, and transgenderism are all wrong because they are contrary to God’s created order and commands. During the last song, the pastor asked me to go backstage to a room. He told me that what I said about the moral issues (especially my brief LGBT comment) was not what he wanted and that I needed to change the message before the second service and essentially replace that marriage section with comments about God’s greatness and design in creation. ... I found out that the next week in his sermon, the pastor apologized for what I had presented the previous Sunday morning. And all my presentations had also been removed from the church’s website and Facebook page.’”

CREATOR OF VEGGIETALES SUPPORTS HOMOSEXUAL CHRISTIANITY (Friday Church News Notes, April 30, 2021, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Veggitales creator Phil Vischer has tweeted a series of messages supporting homosexual Christianity and the holding of heresies. He says, “I’ve been listening to stories of people who left the Church or left their faith entirely, and so often it comes down to a point where they just wanted to be loved, but we couldn’t love them because they asked the wrong question or doubted the wrong tenet of our faith or reconsidered their own gender or sexual identity and for us, it was a bridge too far. This child of God was no longer ‘us.’ They are now ‘them.’ And because they were ‘them,’ we now denied they were ever truly ‘us’” (@philvischer, Apr. 25, 2021). Vischer, like a great many so-called “evangelicals,” is a confused individual who is lacking spiritual discernment and following the mores of society more than the Word of God. He doesn’t understand repentance or discipline. The gospel of Jesus Christ is God’s expression of love for all sinners, but it demands repentance and saving faith. The Lord Jesus Christ, love incarnate, preached, “I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish,” and He repeated it for emphasis (Lu. 13:3, 5). The apostle Paul preached, “God ...



now commandeth all men every where to repent” (Ac. 17:30). The first churches were composed of members who were formerly idolaters, adulterers, thieves, drunkards, and homosexuals, but they did not continue in their sins and demand that they be accepted in that condition. They were accepted as members of Christ’s church because they had repented and been born again. The following passage refutes Vischer’s theology: “KNOW YE NOT THAT THE UNRIGHTEOUS SHALL NOT INHERIT THE KINGDOM OF GOD? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. And SUCH WERE SOME OF YOU: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God” (1 Co. 6:9-11). Further, if a church member returns to a wicked lifestyle, he is to be disciplined. “But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat” (1 Co. 5:11). This is to bring the individual to repentance and also to preserve the moral purity of Christ’s church. “Your glorying *is* not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump? Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us” (1 Co. 5:6-7).

EXPOSITORY PREACHING TRAINING COURSE (Friday Church News Notes, April 30, 2021, www.wayoflife.org,



fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - *Feed the Flock: Expository Bible Preaching* is an extensive course that deals with the importance of preaching; the call of preaching; the necessity of the proper training of preachers; the preacher as a student; the characteristics of biblical preaching; the definition and benefit of expository preaching; planning the message; preparing the message; preaching the message; interpretation, illustration, and application; and following up the message. The course includes a 38-point “Preacher’s Evaluation Checklist” that we use to train preachers. The focus is on expository preaching, the goal of which is simply to let the verse or passage speak by drawing out the main lessons and then explaining and applying those lessons to the daily living experience of the audience. Expository preaching is letting a passage speak the message that God put there. A young preacher recently wrote, “I thank the Lord for you. The training in expository preaching has been, perhaps, the greatest blessing in my life. This has been a very great

blessing for my personal studies and message preparing too.” There is a free video series on *The Preacher’s Preaching* at www.wayoflife.org.

COMMENTS ON BIBLICAL SEPARATION (Friday Church News Notes, April 30, 2021, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - “Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?” (2 Co. 6:14). “We are not to associate with idolaters in their idolatry; nor with the licentious in their licentiousness; nor with the infidel in his infidelity; nor with the proud in their pride; nor with the frivolous in their gaiety; nor with the friends of the theater, or the ballroom, or the circus in their attachment to these places and pursuits. And whatever other connection we are to have with them as neighbors, citizens, or members of our families, we are not to participate with them in these things” (Albert Barnes). “The text prohibits every kind of union in which the separate character and interest of the Christian lose anything of their distinctiveness and integrity. ... We are to have no compromising connection with anything in the world which is alien to God. **Let us be as loving and conciliatory as we please, but as long as the world is what it is, the Christian life can only maintain itself in it in an attitude of protest.** There always will be things and people to whom the Christian has to say No!” (*The Expositor’s Bible*). “In a society in which idolatry runs rampant, a church that is not iconoclastic is a travesty. If it is not against the idols it is with them” (Herbert Schlossberg, *Idols for Destruction*).



CHRISTIAN MP IN FINLAND FACING PRISON FOR TWEETING BIBLE VERSES ON MARRIAGE (Friday Church News Notes, May 7, 2021, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from "Christian MP," *Christian Post*, May 1, 2021: "A Christian member of the Finnish Parliament is facing six years imprisonment for allegedly committing three crimes, including 'hate speech,' for sharing her opinion on marriage and human sexuality on social media, on television and in a pamphlet. The country's chief prosecutor has brought three criminal charges against Finnish Member of Parliament and former Minister of the Interior, Päivi Räsänen, according to the Austria-based Christian legal group ADF International. The politician, who is a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland and former chair of the Christian Democrats, has been under police investigation since June 2019 for publicly voicing her opinion on marriage and human sexuality in a 2004 pamphlet, for comments made on a 2018 TV show, and a tweet directed at her church leadership. A medical doctor, mother of five and grandmother of six, Räsänen now faces two years in prison for each alleged crime, the group said. ... A Member of Parliament since 1995, Räsänen said, '[I will] defend my right to confess my faith so that no one else would be deprived of their

right to freedom of religion and speech.' She said she holds on to 'the view that my expressions are legal and they should not be censored.' 'I will not back down from my views. I will not be intimidated into hiding my faith. **The more Christians keep silent on controversial themes, the narrower the space for freedom of speech gets,' she said.**"

MARKING DOWN STUDENTS FOR SPELLING MISTAKES IS "ELITIST," SAYS UNIVERSITY

(Friday Church News Notes, May 7, 2021, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from "Marking down students," *London Telegraph*, Apr. 11, 2021: "As part of efforts to 'decolonise' the curriculum and ensure 'equity of opportunity' between all students regardless of their background, professors and lecturers at Hull University have been advised against insisting on good written English in all circumstances. It is one of a number of universities to have adopted 'inclusive' marking policies, which cite fairness and equality between students as a reason why lecturers should be prepared to overlook spelling and grammar mistakes. ... Worcester University also has a policy on how to assess students 'inclusively' which asks lecturers to focus marking on 'how well the student has communicated their understanding' of the subject rather than on spelling, grammar and punctuation where they are not central to the assessment criteria. The policy says it is 'fairer' to concentrate on the quality of students' ideas and knowledge rather than their spelling and grammar. This was because some students are from 'diverse backgrounds' so may be at a 'disadvantage from the outset.' The



University of the Arts London tells academics to 'actively accept spelling, grammar or other language mistakes' as long as they do not 'significantly impede communication.'" **CONCLUSION:** Spelling and grammar are designed to improve communication, not hinder it. These schools are not helping their students; they are putting them at a distinct disadvantage. I am glad that I was required to take remedial English grammar in first year Bible college. I had attended mediocre public schools and had not taken education seriously until I was 23 years old. The remedial English grammar course was just what I needed to get up to speed in my communication skills, and I have built on that foundation ever since. Students who aren't capable of learning proper English should not be in university. I don't think this stupidity will go very far, because most students who pay for higher education want a real education. But then again, stupid can go pretty far in this present world.

EXCELLENT NEW HYMNAL

(Friday Church News Notes, May 7, 2021, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - *Psalms and Hymns and Spiritual Songs* is an excellent new hymnal. It has nearly 1,000 songs covering more than eight centuries of hymnody. The songs are arranged according to the timeline of Scripture, from eternity past to eternity future. It contains more than 7,000 Scripture references

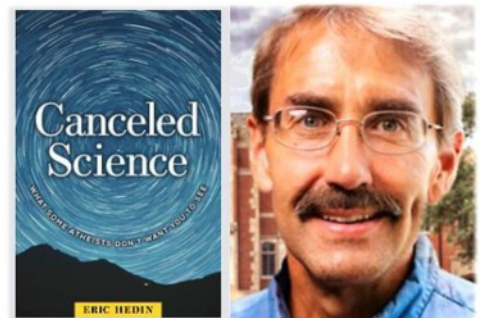


and 450 historical sketches about hymns and their writers and other interesting and educational comments. There are a great many rare old hymns, including ones by Benjamin Beddome (36), Dawson Burns (8), Benjamin Cleavland (4), William Cushing (5), Samuel Deacon (9), David Denham (9), John Fawcett (9), Benjamin Francis (5), Thomas Kelly (24), Samuel Medley (17), Lelian Morris (4), John Needham (18), John Newton (19), Johnson Oatman, Jr. (5), Joseph Swain (6), to mention a few. There are many hymns by Baptist pastors of old, such as Benjamin Keach (9), John Leland (5), John Rippon (6), John Ryland (6), and Samuel Stennett (9). There is a larger selection of songs by well-known hymn writers, such as William Cowper (8), Fanny Crosby (44), Isaac Watts (35), and Charles Wesley (25). The hymnal restores all of the lyrics that have been dropped in other hymnals, such as the full seven stanzas of "How Firm a Foundation," the 18 stanzas of "O for a thousand Tongues to Sing," the seven stanzas of "Amazing Grace," the seven of "Grace! Tis a Charming Sound," and the three stanzas that Baptist pastor John Rippon added to "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name." The tune name and meter are given for each selection, thus allowing the songs to be sung by different tunes. For example, "Give Me Jesus" and "Face to Face" are both in 8.7.8.7 meter, so the tunes can be interchanged. (The first number is the

number of syllables in the first line of the song, and the second number is the number of syllables in the second line, etc.) "Amazing Grace," "My Faith Has Found a Resting Place," and "Lead Me to Calvary" are 8.6.8.6. (called common meter) and can be interchanged. By the use of meter, known tunes can be used for unknown songs. This is facilitated by the hymnal's complete tune and metrical indexes. For example, Benjamin Keach's largely unknown hymns (died 1704) are mostly in the 8.6.8.6. meter so they can be sung to tunes such as "Lead Me to Calvary," even though they also have their own unique tunes. The songs contain notations indicating music dynamics (e.g., *pp* - very soft, *ff* - very loud, and *rall* - gradually slower) and intro marks to assist musicians. The spiritual depth of the selections is great. There is nothing contemporary here, nothing shallow and frivolous like so many of the Stamps-Baxter and Southern Gospel songs and revivalist songs. This hymnal is a much needed treasure trove for serious, biblical congregational singing. It is a source to greatly expand a church's hymn repertoire. The publisher is Melody Publications, www.melodypublications.com.

CANCELLED SCIENCE: WHAT SOME ATHEISTS DON'T WANT YOU TO HEAR (Friday Church News Notes, May 7, 2021, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - *Cancelled Science: What Some Atheists Don't Want You to Hear* is the title to Dr. Eric Hedin's new book documenting the Darwinian cancel culture. In 2013, Hedin was attacked by biologist Jerry Coyne and the Freedom From Religion Foundation for having the audacity to include

some Intelligent Design materials as recommended reading in his honors seminary course entitled *Boundaries of Science*. The material was not creationist, and it was not even required reading, but the very whiff of a possibility of "divine intelligence" entering a university science classroom was enough to set Coyne and company into a censorship frenzy. They nonsensically accused Dr. Hedin of proselytizing and teaching Christianity based on "anonymous complaints found on RateMyProfessor.com, which has no verification for whether a reviewer actually took a professor's courses or not." This was in spite of the fact that Hedin's actual students had no complaint. Typical was the following comment: "I'm an agnostic and I find absolutely nothing wrong with his teachings ... as far as intelligent and thought-provoking discussions go, it is one of the most INNOVATIVE classes I have had during my time at Ball State. ... There is nothing wrong with this class, and I would recommend it to anyone, no matter what their religious beliefs are." *Free Science* reported, "Violating its own procedures, BSU appointed a special ad hoc committee stacked with hostile faculty to investigate Hedin. Despite receiving a petition signed by more than 7,000 people urging BSU to defend Hedin's academic freedom, the university ultimately cancelled Hedin's course" ("Investigated, Silenced, Course



Canceled,” *Free Science.today*). Ball State acted against its own Faculty Personnel Handbook, which states, “Academic freedom and freedom of expression include but are not limited to the expression of ideas, philosophies, or religious beliefs, however controversial, in classroom or other academic settings.” Possibly because of widespread outcry against the cancelling of Hedin’s course, he kept his job and earned tenure in 2016. It is ridiculous that evolutionary atheists like Jerry Coyne care one way or the other about creationism and intelligent design. If they are right, nothing has any ultimate meaning. They are nothing going nowhere for no purpose to no end. That is their own professed philosophy, but they don’t live like they really believe it. Stories of a few other scientists who have been censored and blacklisted can be found here - <https://freescience.today/stories/>.



SADDLEBACK CHURCH ORDAINS THREE FEMALE PASTORS (Friday Church News Notes, May 14, 2021, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - “Saddleback Church, pastored by Rick Warren, announced on Instagram that it has ordained three female pastors. “Yesterday was a historic night for Saddleback Church in many ways! We ordained our first three women pastors, Liz Puffer,

Cynthia Petty, and Katie Edwards” (May 7, 2021). Saddleback Church is the second largest in the Southern Baptist Convention. Called by *Christianity Today* “America’s most influential pastor,” Rick Warren’s influence is vast. It reaches into every sphere of Christianity, from Catholicism to Mormonism to liberal Protestantism to evangelicalism to fundamental Baptist. Bruce Ryskamp, president of Zondervan, said, “*The Purpose Driven Life* is more than a bestseller; it’s become a movement.” Warren has been called “America’s pastor,” and it is for good reason. He is so shallow in his teaching, so positive in his approach, so slighting of repentance, so neglecting of unpopular doctrines such as hell and judgment and separation, so tolerant of heresies, so enthusiastic of rock music, so soft-spoken on the subject of worldliness, that apostate America can’t help but love him.

CHINA’S LEADER ADOPTS MAO’S TITLE “HELMSMAN” (Friday Church News Notes, May 14, 2021, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from “Xi claims ultimate authority,” *The Washington Times*, May 3, 2021: “Chinese President and Communist Party General-Secretary Xi Jinping continues to consolidate power and has reached new status, adopting the title ‘helmsman,’ a descriptor not used since Mao Zedong and denoting ultimate authority, according to U.S. intelligence officials. Army Lt. Gen. Scott D. Berrier, director of the Defense Intelligence Agency, said Mr. Xi’s increased power will fuel the Chinese military’s drive to create forces more powerful than those of the United States in the coming years. ‘I think Xi is firmly in control of the



party, of the military and every aspect of Chinese society,’ Gen. Berrier told the Senate Armed Services Committee in testimony late last week. ... The most famous sobriquet of Mao, founder of the Chinese Communist Party and hero of the Chinese Revolution, was ‘Great Helmsman.’ Mr. Xi’s use of the term highlights what analysts say is his plan to consolidate his rule under an extreme Chinese version of communism.”

PESTILENCE (Friday Church News Notes, May 14, 2021, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Pestilence is mentioned 49 times in Scripture, always in the context of God’s judgment. The first mention pertains to the judgment of Egypt (Ex. 5:3; 9:15). It is a general term for deadly plagues on man and beast (Ps. 78:50; Jer. 21:6) and crops (2 Ch. 6:28). Pestilence is often used to describe one of the three major ways that men die in wars (sword, famine, pestilence, Eze. 12:16). The pestilence of David’s day killed 70,000 (1 Ch. 21:14). At the beginning of the day of the Lord there will be “famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes” (Mt. 24:7). In the companion prophecy in Luke 21:11, these earthquakes, famines, and signs are accompanied by “fearful sights and great signs from heaven.” This will occur during the first part of the day of the Lord as described in Revelation 6. Christ called them “the beginning of

HOW MANY SMELLS CAN YOU SMELL (Friday Church News Notes, May 7, 2021, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is from CreationMoments.com, Mar. 31, 2015: "Psalm 45:8: 'All thy garments smell of myrrh, and aloes, and cassia, out of the ivory palaces, whereby they have made thee glad.' Until recently it was commonly thought that humans can smell approximately 10,000 different odors. But that's no longer thought to be true. So how many different odors can that nose in the middle of your face detect? Scientists at Rockefeller University in New York set out to test the idea of 10,000 different odors. The number dates back to 1927, but it was never scientifically investigated. So they asked 26 people to identify a scent from three samples containing 128 molecules--two that were the same and one that was different. From this, they were able to tell how many different scents the average person would be able to distinguish if they were presented with all the possible mixtures that could be made from the 128 molecules. So what was the official number? One trillion different odors--and even this, they say, is most likely an underestimate! Now, why would our Creator endow us



with such an amazing sense of smell? Could He have been showing us how much He loves us? After all, the sense of smell enables us to appreciate the delightful aroma of flowers and food. In fact, we couldn't enjoy the food we eat if it weren't for our ability to smell. Our sense of smell is one example of what is called God's common grace. He has given this gift to everyone, believers and unbelievers alike. But only believers can appreciate this as a gift from God and not an evolutionary accident of nature."



sorrows" (Mt. 24:8). Covid-19 is a pestilence, but it is not the pestilence described in this prophecy. We are not in the day of the Lord. It is still the day of the Great Commission as described in Matthew 28:18-20. The day of the Lord will begin with the Rapture of church saints, which is described in 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18. The day of the Lord is described immediately thereafter in 1 Thessalonians 5:1-9. Here we see that the believers in the church at Thessalonica were told that they were

not appointed to wrath. The day of the Lord is for "them," referring to the world of the unsaved. "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 Th. 5:2-9).

MORE ABOUT HYMNALS (Friday Church News Notes, May 14, 2021, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Following are some suggestions in regard to hymnals: **LIVING HYMNS** was first published by Al Smith in 1972; the latest edition is published by Paul Chappell's Striving Together Ministries. It has 887 songs and hymns. There is no author index, but I tried to look at the author of every song. There are two by the Gaithers but none by any of the other contemporary worship artists, as far as I could see. It has hymns that are rarely seen, such as Charles Weigle's lovely "No One Ever Cared for Me Like Jesus." There are little-known hymns by old-time fundamentalists such as R.A. Torrey, James Gray, and

Lewis Sperry Chafer. **MAJESTY HYMNS** has a wide selection of psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, many of which were written in the last 30 years. There are some entries that we would not use. (We don't recommend Majesty Music's latest hymnal *Rejoice Hymns*, as it contains many contemporary worship songs by Getty/Townend and others. It is very sad to see Majesty Music moving in this direction.) **SONGS AND HYMNS OF REVIVAL** has a large selection. Some of the Gaither songs are included, which we don't recommend. (We don't recommend the Southern Gospel music published by Golden State Baptist College.) North Valley Publications, Santa Clara, CA, www.nvpublications.net. **PSALMS AND HYMNS AND SPIRITUAL SONGS** is a good resource for expanding a church's repertoire. It has nearly 1,000 songs, more than 7,000 Scripture references, and 450 historical sketches about hymns and their writers and other interesting and educational comments. There are a great many rare old hymns, including ones by Baptist pastors of old, such as Benjamin Keach (9), John Leland (5), John Rippon (6), John Ryland (6), and Samuel Stennett (9). The hymnal restores lyrics that have been dropped in other hymnals, such as the full seven stanzas of "How Firm a Foundation," the 18 stanzas of "O for a thousand Tongues to Sing," the seven stanzas of "Amazing Grace," the seven of "Grace! Tis a Charming Sound," and the three stanzas that Baptist pastor John Rippon added to "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name." The tune name and meter are given for each selection, thus allowing the songs to be sung by different tunes. **TRINITY HYMNAL** (Baptist Edition) has 774 songs and hymns. The following description is by

Thomas Ross: "The hymns almost all have the same sort of richness and content as the psalms God has given us both to sing and to model uninspired hymns after. There is very little that is vapid and trivial. Furthermore, they actually have hymns on things like believer's immersion. If a hymn has a doctrinal problem they will fix it so we don't sing lies to the Lord. (They are not perfect in this but caring and trying is very good.) It is much better than *Living Hymns*, in my view, and significantly better than *Great Hymns of the Faith*, although that hymnal is decent. I would love it if more churches would sing God's glorious praise from a hymnal like that one." We also recommend singing the Psalms with psalteries such as Isaac Watts. N.A. Woychuk's **SINGING PSALMS WITH ISAAC WATTS** is a good study of and presentation of Watts' Psalter. It includes the meter or tunes.

ZEPPELIN'S BROBDINGNAGIAN BABY (Friday Church News Notes, May 14, 2021, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is a description of Count Ferdinand Adolf Heinrich August Graf von Zeppelin's first flight of his epoch-making airship on

July 2, 1900. This is from the excellent history of that era, *Empires of the Sky* by Alexander Rose: "The count led them in a short prayer before signaling for the great doors of the hangar to be opened to reveal the marvel hidden within. The vast hangar emptied its womb. Gasps of astonishment greeted the birth of the first Zeppelin airship as it hesitantly emerged from the darkness. At 420 feet, nothing larger had ever been built in the history of aviation. Cylindrical with bullet-shaped ends, the Brobdingnagian baby had skin that was pale, smooth, and taut, made of Pegamoid, a specially impregnated waterproof cotton designed to reduce air resistance more efficiently than (expensive) silk. At the front, for turning, were two vertical rudders made of stretched cotton; at the stern, two of the same. ... There were twin twenty-foot-long, boatlike aluminum gondolas connected to the airframe undercarriage by tubular struts and wires. Each gondola was located 105 feet from either end and nine feet below the hull. Cleverly, they could float on water in case of emergency, and in each there was one of Daimler's newest products—a four-cylinder, 850-pound water-cooled engine developing 14.7 horsepower. Personally installed by Wilhelm Maybach, the engines transmitted



power to two propellers four feet in diameter turning at 1,200 rpm. ... What the crowds couldn't see, or appreciate, was the skeleton within. Alone weighing 4.5 tons—the outer skin added another two—it contained nearly six and a half miles of Carl Berg's finest aluminum, in addition to several more of wire. Its rib cage consisted of sixteen transverse (cross-sectional) rings, each a twenty-four-sided polygon braced with a weavework of cord and radial wires. ... Within this rib cage were the organs: seventeen drum-shaped gasbags containing a total of 399,000 cubic feet of hydrogen. ... At 8:03 P.M., Zeppelin barked, 'Cast off!' ... 'thousands of hoorays sounded from the shore,' recalled Wolf, and 'all eyes followed the flight of the balloon.' ... The flight itself lasted nearly eighteen minutes, with Zeppelin and the crew trying to learn on the job how to keep an airship stable. Finally, Zeppelin decided to settle on the water some distance away to let the towboats bring it back to the hangar. He hoisted a large blue flag to warn the sightseeing boats to steer clear. 'The air ship sank slowly and rested on the water as smoothly as a sea-gull, with no bump, no crash, no rise, no jumping, no sensation whatever,' recalled Wolf."

CHICAGO MORE VIOLENT THAN IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN COMBINED

(Friday Church News Notes, May 21, 2021, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The city of Chicago is one of the most violent places on earth. According to the U.S. Department of Defense and the Chicago Police Department, over 7,000 Americans died in Afghanistan and Iraq from 2001 to 2020, while 10,000 were killed in Chicago. Nearly 4,000



people were shot in Chicago in 2020 alone, and more than 750 were killed. What has happened to this city? Following are five of the fundamental problems: **First, there is the terrible corruption of the public school system** which is a vast, godless propaganda machine, brainwashing generation after generation of America's children in myths and lies, such as evolution, moral relativism, agnosticism, racism, neo-Marxism, while keeping them uneducated in things that matter. **Second, there is the welfare state.** It has played a large role in the destruction of black families in particular. Attorney Larry Elder comments, "In 1900, you look at census reports and a black kid, believe it or not, was slightly more likely to be born into a nuclear intact family than a white. ... What's happened is we have launched this so-called war on poverty in the 60s, when literally Lyndon Johnson sent people knocking on doors apprising women of the availability of welfare, providing there was no man in the house. And we went from 25% of blacks being born out of wedlock in 1965 to 75% right now. And if we look at how much we have spent on welfare, the lines are parallel. ... What we have done, in my opinion, is economically incentivized women to marry the government and we have allowed men to abandon their financial and moral responsibility, and now we have this" (Interview with Dave Rubin, 2015). **Third,**

there is a leftist city government that is gradually defunding the police and undermining law and order in a multitude of ways. (It is an elected government, so this is fundamentally a people problem, not a government problem.) **Fourth, there is the filthy entertainment industry.** It has more influence on the average youth than any other one thing. Consider the hip hop culture. It is a direct affront to God and His holy laws. It destroys morality and stirs up rage. Empowered by technology, the hip hop culture captivates youth at an ever younger age. The smart phone delivers this culture into the very soul like a mainlined drug. This is a more fundamental problem than the welfare state. Most of the heroes in the fields of entertainment and sports represent the values of this culture. A few exceptions aside, the hip hop culture glorifies sex outside of marriage, the objectification of women, the sexualization of everything, including children, grossly immodest dressing, filthy dancing, shacking up, transsexualism, drinking, drugging, abortion on demand, rebellion against authority, gratuitous violence, etc. Because of the vast influence of the hip hop culture, these things, which were not generally acceptable in black communities 50 years ago, have become normalized even among professing Christians. **Finally we come to the greatest problem in the black community, and in every community, which is the lack of sound New Testament churches.** America is still a land of churches. There are churches everywhere in Chicago, but the vast majority are powerless. The best are like Sardis which had a name that it lived but was dead. Few members are born again. Few even know the

gospel. They are permeated with heresies. They stink to the high heavens with worldliness. And the root problem in the churches is unqualified pastors. Everything rises and falls on leadership. This is why there are two entire chapters of the Bible on God's qualifications for pastors. Flying out of Chicago last week I had a long conversation with a black grandmother who was born in Florida in 1939. She said that when she was young the pastors were more sound and the church families more intact, but now the pastors are womanizers, covetous, flippant, shallow; they don't teach the people God's Word. She said she only knows of two pastors who don't fit that bill. When she saw her own married pastor meeting a teenage girl on a dark road a few years ago she spoke out and caused a stir, but the pastor stayed on while the girl was sent away. The church alone is "the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth" (1 Timothy 3:15). If churches are unregenerate, spiritually-powerless, worldly, unholy, lukewarm, led by biblically unqualified pastors, rife with hypocrisy and heresies, neglecting discipline, failing to build up the homes in godliness, then truth falls to the ground. **In our estimation, then, the greatest need of Chicago, by far, is God-called preachers building doctrinally-sound, holy New Testament churches as the pillar and ground of the truth. This is also the greatest need in every community the world over.**

PURPLE DYE FROM KING DAVID'S TIME (Friday Church News Notes, May 21, 2021, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Archaeologists have discovered



remnants of a fabric dyed with royal purple from King David's time. The 3,000-year-old cloth, found in the Arava Desert near the Red Sea, is the first purple fabric found in Israel from that time. The remnant is still a brilliant purple after three millennia. Naama Sukenik of the Israel Antiquities Authority says, "In antiquity, purple attire was associated with the nobility, with priests, and of course with royalty. The gorgeous shade of the purple, the fact that it does not fade, and the difficulty in producing the dye, which is found in minute quantities in the body of mollusks, all made it the most highly valued of the dyes, which often cost more than gold. Until the current discovery, we had only encountered mollusk-shell waste and potsherds with patches of dye, which provided evidence of the purple industry in the Iron Age. Now, for the first time, we have direct evidence of the dyed fabrics themselves, preserved for some 3,000 years" ("Rare Purple Dye," Israel21c.org, Jan. 31, 2021). The name *Phoenicia*, referring to the trading empire based on Tyre and Sidon, was coined by the Greeks and means purple. In the book of Maccabees, the dye is called "purple of the sea" because it was made from the murex sea snail by a well-guarded process. When the snail dies, it releases a substance that turns purple. It is said that 10-12,000 of the creatures were needed to produce one gram of dye. It was used to color fabrics for the wealthy and powerful.

The children of the Roman emperor were said to be "born in the purple." The kings of Midian wore "purple raiment" (Jud. 8:26). The rich man of Jesus' parable was "clothed in purple" (Lu. 16:19). Lydia was "a seller of purple" (Acts 16:14). Ancient Tyre coins depicted the murex shell. Pits for purple dye production and heaps of crushed murex snails were discovered at the ancient Phoenician port of Dor on the coast of Israel. They date to the 4th century BC. Information about this can be seen in the Hamizgaga Museum at Dor. (For a pictorial study of ancient purple see *Bible Times & Ancient Kingdoms*, 2021 edition, PowerPoint # 12, "Phoenicia.")

FLORIDA GOVERNOR SUSPENDS ALL COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS SO PEOPLE CAN "LIVE FREELY" (Friday Church News Notes, May 21, 2021, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from "Florida Governor," *Christian Headlines*, May 14, 2021: "Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis said this week he will issue pardons to anyone in his state who is facing criminal penalties for not following Covid-19 health restrictions. DeSantis made the comments Wednesday to *Fox News* host Laura Ingraham while addressing the high-profile case of Mike and Jillian Carnevale, gym owners who refused last year to enforce local mask mandates. They were arrested. DeSantis called the arrests 'government overreach.' 'When our clemency board meets in the coming weeks, we'll issue pardons not only for Mike and Jillian but for any Floridian that may have outstanding infractions for things like masks and social distancing,' DeSantis said on *Fox News*. '... these



things with health should be advisory. They should not be punitive. And so we're happy to use our constitutional authority. I think they've been treated poorly. And fortunately, they've got a governor that cares.' ... Last week, DeSantis suspended all local Covid-19 health restrictions, saying the state has a surplus of vaccines needed to stop the virus. He said he wants people to 'live freely in the state of Florida' and 'enjoy themselves.'"

WHAT IS THE DIRECTION OF YOUR LIFE? (Friday Church News Notes, May 21, 2021, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - "And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him" (1 John 2:3-4). The following is excerpted from John Philipps' commentary on 1 Corinthians: "People who profess to be saved but who live as though they weren't are self-deceived. It is not that a saved person cannot fall, and have a need to be restored to fellowship. It is a question, really, of the flow of a person's life. For instance, the river Nile flows north from the great lakes of Central Africa to the shores of the Mediterranean Sea. Between the fifth cataract and the fourth cataract the great river turns west and then south. Between the fourth cataract and the third cataract it turns again and heads

northwest. At Derr, the river changes direction yet another time and flows south and east. Then it turns north again and heads straight for the delta. If someone at a point just beyond Derr were to be asked, 'Which way does this river flow?' he would say 'south,' but he would be wrong. The river flows north. Its various twists and turns are not the normal and general direction of the flow but only temporary aberrations. The same thing is true of the genuine believer. The great question is, in what direction does his life flow? Is it toward holiness? We see David commit adultery, we see Jonah run away from God's call, we hear Peter deny his Lord with oaths and curses, we see Elijah run away from Jezebel, and we hear Abraham deny Sarah in Egypt and again in Gerar. The stream seems to be bent. But look! There is David on his face weeping and writing his tear-drenched penitential psalms; there is Jonah heading for Nineveh after all; there is Peter preaching boldly to the multitudes; there goes Elijah confronting Ahab again; and there is Abraham heading for Mount Moriah. The real flow of life has simply reasserted itself. Things have straightened out. The life still flows toward holiness. The main direction of the life has again become clear. It is not that saved people cannot fall into the kinds of sins which characterized them in their unregenerate days. However, they do not continue in those sins. They



bitterly repent of their fall and seek cleansing and a fresh filling of the Holy Spirit. They continue on their way toward heaven. The unregenerate have no such current toward holiness in their lives. They habitually sin and excuse themselves for it" (John Phillips).



U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT EMPHASIZES IMPORTANCE OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM (Friday Church News Notes, May 28, 2021, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from "U.S. State Department," *CBN News*, May 12, 2021: "International Religious Freedom took center stage at the State Department Wednesday as Secretary of State Anthony Blinken released his department's 2020 report on the matter. Blinken addressed reporters in the department's press briefing room. 'Religious freedom ... goes to the heart of what it means to be human--to think freely, to follow our conscience, to change our beliefs if our hearts and minds lead us to do so, to express those beliefs in public and in private,' he said. 'This freedom is enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It's also part of the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Our country's commitment to defending freedom of religion and belief goes back centuries. It continues today. Religious freedom, like every human right, is universal. All people,

everywhere, are entitled to it no matter where they live, what they believe, or what they don't believe. Religious freedom is co-equal with other human rights because human rights are indivisible. Religious freedom is not more or less important than the freedom to speak and assemble, to participate in the political life of one's country, to live free from torture or slavery, or any other human right. Indeed, they're all interdependent,' the secretary continued. 'Religious freedom can't be fully realized unless other human rights are respected, and when governments violate their people's right to believe and worship freely, it jeopardizes all the others. And religious freedom is a key element of an open and stable society. Without it, people aren't able to make their fullest contribution to their country's success. And whenever human rights are denied, it ignites tension, it breeds division,' Blinken said. The secretary also noted the Pew Research Center's finding that 56 countries encompassing a significant majority of the world's people have high or severe restrictions on religious freedom."

U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT WARNS OF CHINA'S RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION AND OPPRESSION (Friday Church News Notes, May 28, 2021, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from



"Crimes against humanity," *The Washington Times*, May 12, 2021: "The State Department on Wednesday declared that the Chinese government continues to engage in genocide and crimes against humanity through the repression of predominantly Muslim Uyghurs and other minorities in western China. Secretary of State Antony Blinken made the assertion while introducing the department's annual assessment of global religious freedom. 'China broadly criminalizes religious expression and continues to commit crimes against humanity and genocide against Muslim Uyghurs and other religious and ethnic minority groups,' he said. The annual report outlined widespread abuses by the Chinese government against the estimated 200 million religious believers, including Christians, Muslims and Buddhists. ... The State Department has said crimes carried out in China's western Xinjiang province include mass imprisonment, forced sterilizations, torture, forced labor and draconian restrictions on religious freedom and freedom of movement. The U.S. government estimates that Chinese authorities since April 2017 have detained more than 1 million Uyghurs, along with ethnic Kazakhs, Hui and members of other Muslim groups, and some Christians, in internment camps and converted detention facilities. The repression has been carried out by Chinese authorities under the guise of a national counterterrorism law and a regional counterextremism policy, according to Wednesday's report."

TWITTER SUSPENDS SPANISH POLITICIAN'S ACCOUNT FOR SAYING MEN CAN'T GET PREGNANT (Friday Church News Notes, May 28, 2021,



www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from "Twitter Suspends," SkyNews.com.au, May 17, 2021: "Twitter has suspended a Spanish politician's account after he tweeted a man cannot get pregnant. Deputy of Spain's Vox Party Francisco José Contreras was locked out of his Twitter account for 12 hours, with the social media platform informing him he had violated its policies on 'hate speech.' His comments were shared with an article about a transgender male who announced they were a father after giving birth to a baby girl. The politician took to Facebook to explain to his followers why his account had suddenly disappeared on the platform. In a Facebook post on May 11 he said he had received a message from Twitter which said he had violated its policies on hate speech. ... He said, 'You can see this is already fascist biology. Next time I'll try 2 + 2 = 4.' A spokesperson for Twitter has declined to comment on the suspension."

CHRISTIAN ROCKER KEVIN MAX SAYS HE IS EXVANGELICAL (Friday Church News Notes, May 28, 2021, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Kevin Max, formerly of the popular Christian rock band DC Talk, illustrates the spiritual and doctrinal danger of the "broader church" to



Kevin Max

which contemporary Christian music is the bridge. He calls himself an “exvangelical.” The Liberty University graduate tweeted on May 15, “I’ve been deconstructing/Reconstructing/progressing/whatever you wish to call it for decades, I’ve been in the outsider/misfit/seeker club for a long time now.” He says he believes in a “universal Christ.” He says that he hasn’t given up “the faith,” but it is a faith filled with doubts, a faith in his own thinking rather than the infallible Scripture. Following are the lyrics to one of the songs for Max’s new band Sad Astronauts: “It’s OK to be estranged / from everything that you were taught /and it’s OK / to unpack all the hopeless baggage that you bought / I know the sun it never shines / in the same place twice / and I know that life is better / with a trusted vice / but you will change / when you cave / to the universal Christ.” On May 17, 2021, Max tweeted that he is “pro-LGBTQIA, pro-BLM, pro-open mindedness, anti-narrow mindedness...” In 2003, Max divorced his first wife, Alayna, and two years later married Amanda MacDonald. The emerging church is a magnet for rebels who want “Christ” and the world, too. It is a fulfillment of the prophecy of 2 Timothy 4:2-4, “Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. **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.” (For more on this see *What Is the Emerging Church?* which is available at www.wayoflife.org.)

FORMER ATTORNEY GENERAL SPEAKS OUT BOLDLY AGAINST MARXIST INDOCTRINATION IN PUBLIC EDUCATION

(Friday Church News Notes, May 28, 2021, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The following is excerpted from “Former AG Barr,” Association of Mature American Citizens, May 21, 2021: “Few speeches delivered by an American leader in the modern era have addressed the cultural crisis facing this country with such clarity, vision, and moral courage as former Attorney General Bill Barr’s remarks Friday to Alliance Defending Freedom. Accepting ADF’s Edwin Meese Award for ‘Originalism and Religious Liberty,’ Barr argued that ‘the greatest threat to religious liberty in America today’ is ‘the increasingly militant and extreme secular-progressive climate of our state-run educational system.’ ... The left-wing curriculum being taught in government-run schools, Barr argued, is so aggressively anti-Christian--and indeed anti-religious--that it represents a violation of the constitutional rights of Americans of faith. Barr began his remarks with a brief history of America’s approach to public schooling, dividing it into three distinct phases. During the first phase--which encompassed most of American history up until the 1970s--the instruction students received in the public school system was



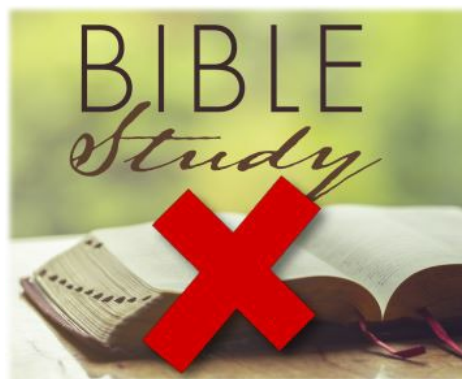
Former AG Barr

‘committed to Judeo-Christian values in the general sense.’ During the second phase which ‘came in the latter part of the 20th century,’ Barr notes, ‘the left embarked on a relentless campaign of secularization intent on driving every vestige of religion from the public square.’ God was driven out of the curriculum based on the idea that public schools should be entirely neutral toward religion. But now, Barr said, we are witnessing a third phase. Instead of merely purging schools of religion, ‘[w]e’re now seeing an affirmative indoctrination with a secular belief system and worldview that is a substitute for religion and is antithetical to the beliefs and values of traditional God-centered religion.’ ... He cited two examples. The first was the transgender ideology that is permeating public schools across the country. ... The former Attorney General went on to describe Critical Race Theory ... It was President Trump who remarked last year that school choice is ‘the civil rights issue of our time.’ ... Barr argued that ‘confronting this issue, I think, is the most urgent task for people who are concerned about religious liberty.’ ‘Religious liberty,’ Barr said, ‘is not safe in the United States as long as we have the kind of public school system we have, the forced monopoly and the indoctrination of children into these radical secular progressive orthodoxies.’”

**EVANGELICALISM'S
NEGLECT OF CHURCH**

DISCIPLINE (Friday Church News Notes, May 28, 2021, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- Neglect of discipline has spread throughout the entire realm of "evangelicalism." In "Church Discipline: The Missing Mark," R. Albert Mohler, Jr., observed: "The decline of church discipline is perhaps the most visible failure of the contemporary church. No longer concerned with maintaining purity of confession or lifestyle, the



contemporary church sees itself as a voluntary association of autonomous members, with minimal moral accountability to God, must less to each other. ... THE PRESENT

GENERATION OF BOTH MINISTERS AND CHURCH MEMBERS IS VIRTUALLY WITHOUT EXPERIENCE OF BIBLICAL DISCIPLINE. ... By the 1960s, only a minority of churches even pretended to practice regulative church discipline. ... Consumed with pragmatic methods of church growth and congregational engineering, most churches leave moral matters to the domain of the individual conscience" (from chapter 8 of *The Compromised Church*, edited by John H. Armstrong, Wheaton: Crossway Books, 1998).

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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