

O Timothy

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

A Monthly Newsletter for Spiritual Protection and Edification

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"The Bible is a supernatural Book that reveals the secrets of men's hearts. It pierces "even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit" (Heb. 4:12). In this case, the Bible peers deeply into the human soul and reveals that the unbelief of the scoffers is "willful" because their motive is to walk in their own lusts and not be bound by God's moral laws." Page 10.

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

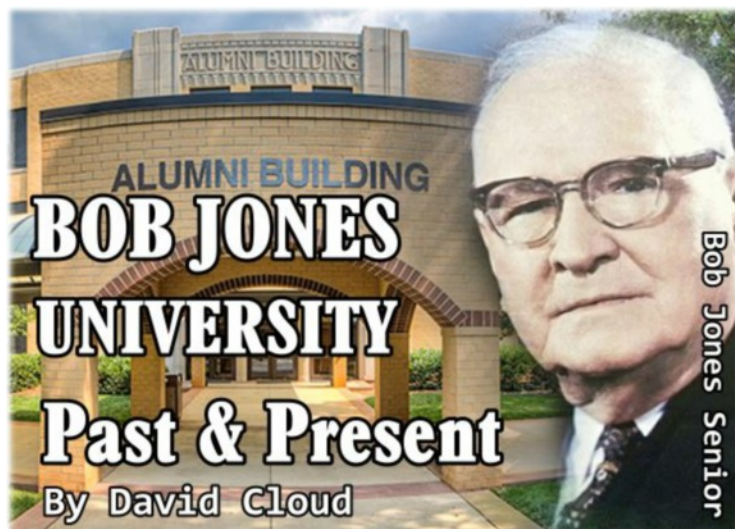


BOB JONES UNIVERSITY PAST AND PRESENT ~ By David Cloud

The following is excerpted from [The History and Heritage of Fundamentalism and Fundamental Baptists](http://www.wayoflife.org), available from www.wayoflife.org.

Bob Jones University was founded in 1927 by evangelist **BOB JONES, SR.** (1883-1968), one of the most influential men in Fundamentalism and a bridge between Interdenominational Fundamentalism and fundamental Baptists.

Bob Jones was the eleventh of twelve children and grew up on the family farm near Dothan, Alabama. His father was an "immersed" Methodist and his mother was a Primitive Baptist. He didn't receive much by way of formal education, but his parents had him memorize passages from the Bible and literature, and he was "regularly called on to perform for guests." Timid and self-conscious, he said, "I suffered agony that nobody could possibly know" (Turner, *Standing Without Apology*).



When he was converted at age 11, Bob Jones was immersed by Baptists and then joined a Methodist church. He must have gotten over his stage-fright by then, because at age 12 he held his first week-long evangelistic meeting. There were 60 conversions! At 13, he started preaching

on Sunday afternoons and a Methodist church was organized from his converts. At age 15, he was licensed as a circuit preacher for the Alabama Methodist Conference. He was known as “the Alabama boy preacher.” By age 16, he was the circuit pastor of five churches. He attended a Methodist secondary school and Southern College in Greensboro, Alabama. Later he said, “[It was a wonder that the devil did not trap me. ... I was pulled here and there and from house to house. People flocked to hear me preach. The buildings could not hold the crowds; people even stood outside and stuck their heads in the windows to listen. It’s a wonder it did not spoil me” (Turner, *Standing Without Apology*, pp. 5-6).

In 1904, at age 21, Bob Jones was already so prominent as an evangelist that he left college and went into full-time evangelism. In 1905, he married Bernice Sheffield, but she died ten months later of tuberculosis. In 1908, he married Mary Gaston Stollenwerck, who was a choir member in a church where he was preaching. Their only child, Bob Jr., was born in 1911.

By the the 1920s, when he was in his 40s, Jones was one of the most famous evangelists in America, in an age of famous evangelists. Others included Billy Sunday, Mordecai Ham, William Bell Riley, J. Wilbur Chapman, J. Frank Norris, Uncle Bud Robinson, R.A. Torrey, Gypsy Smith, Samuel Jones.

Jones’ meetings received front-page coverage in newspapers. The crowds were huge and there were large numbers of professions. In a seven-week meeting in Zanesville, Ohio, in 1917, 3,384 converts were reported and 2,200 joined churches, which means about two-thirds of the professions showed some evidence of salvation, at least joining at church (though we know nothing about what kind of churches or how long they continued). This is not what we see on Pentecost, when 100% “continued steadfastly,” but it is a much better statistic than the numbers that were reported by the biggest fundamental Baptist churches in the 1970s.

By 1923, at age 40, Bob Jones had preached 12,000 sermons in 30 countries to more than 15 million people “face-to-face without amplification.” He preached to crowds as large as 15,000. He had an estimated 300,000 conversions.

A reporter said that Jones pounded the pulpit in Zanesville, Ohio, so hard that he broke it. He kept his passion to preach the gospel and win men to Christ until the end of his life. He believed that lifeless orthodoxy was worse than modernism. He said, “It takes evangelistic unction to make orthodoxy function.”

Jones wanted to make the Word of God simple enough for common people to understand. “He could quote Goethe and Cicero without affectation, but he urged his students to make ‘truth simple and easy to grasp’—to put ‘the fodder on the ground’ and give ‘all the animals from a giraffe to a billy-goat’ an equal chance to understand the gospel” (citations from Jones’ *Comments on Here and Hereafter*, compiled by Grace Haight).

Bob Jones, Sr., was known for his pithy sayings, which were repeated so often that they were memorized by his students.

- “The acid test of our love for God is obedience to His Word.”
- “The greatest ability is dependability.”
- “The test of your character is what it takes to stop you.”
- “Trust God as if it all depends upon Him, and work as if it all depends upon you.”
- “It is never right to do wrong in order to get a chance to do right.”
- “What you love and what you hate reveal what you are.”
- “A man is a fool who leans on the arm of flesh when he can be supported by the arm of Omnipotence.”
- “It is a sin to do less than your best.”

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- “Don’t sacrifice the permanent on the altar of the immediate.”
- “If you do not do your God-assigned task, throughout eternity there will be a job that has never been done.”
- “It is wonderful when God saves a drunkard which He sometimes does, but it is more wonderful still when God saves little children before they become drunkards, libertines, and degenerates.”

Jones wanted to found a Christian liberal arts college that would be a haven for young people from the humanism that permeated the secular colleges and the theological liberalism of the mainstream denominational colleges and seminaries. Everywhere Jones traveled, parents told him heart-breaking stories of children whose faith had been destroyed by liberal education. In 1924, William Jennings Bryan leaned over to him 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). He was right, of course. Skepticism, agnosticism, and atheism has permeated American society since then.

The final straw for Jones was the Scopes Trial of 1925. Though the creationists won the trial, they lost in public opinion. The national mainstream press, already largely devoted to humanism, treated creationists like ignoramuses. After the trial, Jones told his incredulous wife that he was going to found a Christian school. She replied, “Robert, are you crazy? Honey, you don’t know anything about a school. You’re not an educator. You can’t found a school.” Jones answered, “I know I can’t. But God can.”

Bob Jones College began in September 1927 in Lynn Haven, Florida, on beautiful St. Andrew Bay in the Florida panhandle, with 88 students.

The 1920s Florida real estate bubble had burst by then and Jones could purchase property cheaply. The economic prosperity of the Roaring Twenties brought investors flocking to Florida to build magnificent winter retreat communities for the wealthy, driving up land prices far beyond reason.

For example Boca Raton was envisioned by developer Addison Mizner as “the foremost resort city on the North American continent.” He issued \$5 million in stock, which was snapped up by “noted personages” such as the Vanderbilts, Wanamakers, and du Ponts. There was to be a 220-foot-wide main street with a canal for pleasure

boats down the middle. Mizner printed brochures depicting his paradise, but he went bankrupt before it could be built.

At the height of the boom, speculators bought properties one day and sold them for as much as a ten-fold profit the next. When investors ran out of confidence and developers ran out of money, land prices plummeted and expensive development projects were left unfinished.

The early school catalog said, “The purpose of the Bob Jones College is to educate in the arts and sciences and at the same time give spiritual things their rightful place; to develop the mind and preserve the ‘faith once for all delivered to the saints’; to increase the student’s knowledge and protect his moral integrity; to enlarge the intellectual horizon and maintain the Christian hope.”

The school was the fulfillment of “an insistent demand on the part of parents for a school which would combine fundamental Christian truth with the higher educational standards, a place where the student’s religious faith would not be shaken by questionable teachings, a place where the student may grow in his religious life in a natural and sane way, a place where the cost would be within the reach of all...”

Bob Jones College was called “academically strong, spiritually safe.”

In 1929, the Great Depression began and the college barely survived bankruptcy. In 1933, it moved to Cleveland, Tennessee. The school continued to grow throughout the Depression years in the 1930s and early 1940s.

At the end of World War II in 1945, men flocked to Bible institutes and colleges with financial aid from the G.I. Bill. Seeking larger facilities, Bob Jones College relocated to Greenville, South Carolina in 1947, and the name was changed to Bob Jones University. By then, there were 2,500 students and it was the largest Christian college in the world.

Though it was a liberal arts university with many degree fields, training preachers was a major focus through the first three decades. Lawrence Hufhand says, “While I was there in 1953 thru 1957, without equivocation, it was the greatest ‘preachers school’ on the planet. There were 1,100 Ministerial Students enrolled at that time” (*The Hufhand Report*, June 28, 2019). But by the 1960s the emphasis was shifting away from preacher training.

In 1939, Bob Jones, Sr., founded the Gospel Fellowship Association (GFA) to promote evangelism and church planting, with a focus on providing support for Bob Jones graduates. In 1961, the GFA became a parachurch mission agency for the support and oversight of missionaries. The GFA “exists to partner with local churches in recruiting, training, serving, and holding our ministry workers accountable for fulfilling their role in the Great Commission.”

Like BJU itself, the GFA’s creed is brief. It holds to a pretribulational stance on prophecy. It partners “with independent Baptist and other like-minded churches that practice believer’s baptism.” The annual candidate school (now called Fitness Seminar) is held on the BJU campus. Currently there are about 280 missionaries serving in 39 countries. Most are BJU graduates.

Bob Jones University had some high caliber teachers even in the early days. There was the Hebrew teacher Dr. Antonio Honorio Perpetuo, who had studied under Robert Dick Wilson at Princeton, and Dr. Charles Brokenshire (Princeton and the University of Chicago), who spoke and read more than 35 languages. He taught at BJU from 1943 to his death in 1954.

The school was strict under Bob Jones, Sr. There was a strong emphasis on Christian character and evangelism, preaching, and church planting. Following is a description from Tom Malone’s biography:

“Bob Jones, Sr., didn’t mince words as he thundered, ‘There will be no smoking. If you want to stay here, you will obey the rules. If you don’t want to follow them, pack up your bags and leave now!’ ... School rules were strict and kept to the letter of the law. One Sunday evening during Tom’s second year, he had difficulty hitchhiking back to the college from a preaching engagement ninety miles away. Because he was thirty minutes late, he was grounded for three weeks. ...

“[Tom says.] ‘During the first chapel I listened to boys who had attended school one year testify about working in the Lord’s work during the summer. Others who had been in school two years were preaching and holding revival meetings. I would hear them one by one stand up and say, *I was able to win my mother to Christ, or, I won a brother to Christ, or, I won my sister to Christ.* I heard students say, *I went out and held meetings, and thirty-five were saved or forty-two were saved.*’ ... Students were sent out regularly, individually, two by two, or in teams to churches, missions, trailer parks, jails, nursing homes, street corners—any place that was open to them. ...

“The atmosphere at the school was designed to keep the flesh under control and to build character. Every Tuesday evening Dr. Bob had a class where he taught practical Christianity. He talked about a preacher’s character, how to avoid temptation, how to treat people and how to stay on the right track. ...

“[Tom] still quotes Dr. Bob: ‘It is never right to do wrong in order to get a chance to do right.’ ‘Don’t sacrifice the permanent on the altar of the immediate.’ ‘God will never use a quitter.’ ‘Religion without salvation leads to damnation.’ ‘The test of a man’s character is what it takes to stop him’” (*Tom Malone: The Preacher from Pontiac*, p. 30).

Bob Jones University was premillennial and pretribulational from its beginning and emphasized the imminent return of Christ. This gave an impulse to reaching the world with the gospel while there is opportunity.

The school was founded on a fundamentalist, non-denominational, Protestant platform. We have seen that Bob Jones himself was immersed by Baptists and then joined a Methodist church. He was an interdenominational evangelist. The brief school creed was composed by Methodist evangelist Sam Jones: “We believe in the inspiration of the Bible (both the Old and the New Testaments); the creation of man by the direct act of God; the incarnation and virgin birth of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ; His identification as the Son of God; His vicarious atonement for the sins of mankind by the shedding of His blood on the cross; the resurrection of His body from the tomb; His power to save men from sin; the new birth through the regeneration by the Holy Spirit; and the gift of eternal life by the grace of God.”

As for “Calvinism” vs. “Arminianism,” Jones’ position was the non-committal “whatever the Bible says is so.”

Popular speakers at BJU in the early years included Billy Sunday, Harry Ironside, W.E. Biederwolf, J.B. Culpepper, James Orr, and L.W. Munhall (who had a famous lecture called “The Book of Books”).

In 1947, Bob Jones, Jr., (1911-1997) took the oversight of the school as president, but Jones, Sr., maintained an active role, preaching in chapel services and conferences and traveling in support of the school. The ministerial students called him “Doctor Bob.” “Jones took no salary from the school, and helped support it through personal savings and income from his evangelistic campaigns.”

Bob Jones, Jr., was educated by tutors under the direction of his parents. he was a voracious reader. When he was 10, he was given 50 missionary biographies for Christmas, and he finished them in two months. He graduated from Bob Jones College in 1931 and from the University of Pittsburgh in 1933 with a degree in history. He did graduate work at the liberal University of Chicago Divinity School. He studied Shakespearean acting at Stratford-upon-Avon in England, at the Royal Shakespeare Theater.

As a preacher, Bob Jones, Jr, was outspoken against error as he saw it. Following are some of his statements:

"I think the charismatic movement may be more dangerous than all of the other false religions and the cults which we face today" (1985) (Jones, *Cornbread and Caviar*, p. 183).

"I am inclined to blame every evil on Romanism. Although I dislike everything about the harlot church, the so-called 'Society of Jesus' [Jesuits] is the most vicious creation of that religion of darkness and dead bones" (Jones, *Cornbread and Caviar*, p. 43).

"Pope Paul VI, archpriest of Satan, a deceiver and an anti-Christ, has, like Judas, gone to his own place. ... [A] pope must be an opportunist, a tyrant, a hypocrite, and a deceiver or he cannot be a pope. ... A pope claims to be Christ's vice-regent on earth; that is, he blasphemously and arrogantly claims to have the divine prerogatives to forgive sins, to assign his enemies to hell ... and to speak on matters of faith and morals with the same infallibility as the Holy Bible" (*Faith for the Family*, Oct. 1978).

"For a long time I believed that Billy [Graham] was doing more harm than any other living man. What a tragedy to see him building the church of Antichrist, masking the wickedness of popery, and providing a sheep's cloak of Christian recognition for the wolves of apostasy" (Jones, *Cornbread and Caviar*, p. 159).

"I have no brief for Oral Roberts, whom I regard as one of the biggest religious phonies in America today" (Jones, *Cornbread and Caviar*, p. 200).

"I knew, as a boy, some devout and earnest black preachers of the Word of God. There were many. Today I know of very few and am personally acquainted with only two or three black preachers in this country who emphasize the Scripture, stress the necessity of the new birth, and are in any degree biblical in their convictions or their preaching. It is small wonder then that we are seeing a whole new generation of blacks come up in America who have little moral conviction" (1985) (Jones, *Cornbread and Caviar*, p. 182).

"I certainly have never tried to avoid meeting an issue head-on, and I have always been honest and frank in

my public statements. This may not be the most politic course of action, but then I have never had a politician's ambition" (Jones, *Cornbread and Caviar*, p. 198).

"I have never known it to fail that when five-point Calvinism becomes the chief end of a man's ministry and the most important thing in his preaching, that man becomes cold, dead, egotistical, and a liar" (Jones, *Cornbread and Caviar*, p. 184).

By the 1960s, Bob Jones, Sr.'s, health was failing. He ceased his radio ministry in 1962 (having preached an estimated 10,000 times on radio, beginning in 1925) and stepped down as chairman of the BJU Board of Trustees in 1964. He spent the last two years of his life in the campus hospital with "mental confusion," though it was said that he could pray with clarity to the end. He died in 1968, his last words being, "Mary Gaston, get my shoes; I must go to preach."

A non-denominational stance is biblically weak. One must limit the message to those things that are held in common by various denominations. A lot of Bible truth was preached at the BJU chapels, but many truths had to be avoided in the context of the mixed multitude, such as baptism, the Lord's Supper, church membership, church discipline, church government, and ordination.

BJU's non-denominational fundamentalism was on display in 1987 when Bob Jones III joined with the American Council of Christian Churches to created the Council of Bible Believing Churches International. It was intended to be "a worldwide fellowship crossing many denominational lines and bring separatist churches together under the banner of truth for the glory of God."

As the non-Baptist fundamentalists went the way of New Evangelicalism in the 1950s and 1960s, Bob Jones University has increasingly been supported by fundamental Baptists.

Bob Jones University played a major role in the split between Fundamentalism and New Evangelicalism.

Billy Graham attended Bob Jones for a year before moving to Wheaton College, and in 1947, Bob Jones conferred an honorary degree on him. But when Graham conducted his first ecumenical crusade in New York City in 1957, openly joining hands with theological liberals who denied such fundamental doctrines as the infallible inspiration of Scripture and Christ's deity, Bob Jones separated from him and warned of his compromise. Because of this, Jones was persecuted. Six members of

the BJU board resigned. Graham's father-in-law, Nelson Bell, sent a letter to thousands of pastors slanderously accusing Jones of "hatred, distortions, jealousies, envying, malice, false witnessing, and untruthfulness." BJU's student body decreased by about 10%. That Jones stood his ground is a testimony to his love for Christ, his commitment to truth, and his faith in God.

Though Bob Jones University is not a church, it held campus services on Sundays (called Sunday Morning Worship) until 2013. These were formal, Protestant-style services. Of course, there was no communion or baptism or church discipline. Resident students were required to attend these services unless they had permission to attend local area churches. In 2013, President Stephen Jones shut down Sunday Morning Worship and required that all students attend approved local area churches. Among these are two Presbyterian churches, a Methodist church, a Gospel Chapel, a Christian Fellowship, Bible churches, and Baptist churches. In 2019, BJU President Steve Pettit said, "Our passion is to teach our students how to carefully and prayerfully choose a church based on a sound biblical model of worship. ... BJU will provide a list of the top 20 or 30 churches our students currently attend in the greater Greenville area as a guide for both students and parents. It is important for you to understand that BJU functions as a historic, fundamentalist, non-denominational, independent, Christian university."

Bob Jones University requires that every student join a society, which is patterned after a secular university standard.

Bob Jones, Jr., loved religious art and bought his first Russian icon at age 13. After World War II, he was authorized to spend \$30,000 a year on art by the BJU Board of Directors. Eventually he spent vast amounts of money building "a collection that now includes works by Rubens, Tintoretto, Veronese, Cranach, Gerard David, Murillo, Ribera, Van Dyck, Honthorst, and Dore." The collection represents great spiritual darkness. The Roman Catholic paintings from the Counter-Reformation era (the Council of Trent) proclaim gross Catholic heresies (such as Mariolatry) and brazenly attack Bible truth. In BJU's Catholic art, Christ is depicted as an "emaciated, long-haired, pitiful being--even looking effeminate." And there is much nudity. BJU's art collection also includes large numbers of idolatrous Orthodox icons. A secular newspaper reporter commented, "If one did not know better, one might well regard this as a Roman Catholic

show. Something strange is going on here" (Paul Richards, "Baroque, Bob Jones University Has the Best," *The Greenville News*, Aug. 30, 1984).

BJU's Fine Arts department has the largest faculty in the university and puts on two Shakespearean plays and one opera each year. All students are required to attend. This, too, was the work of Bob Jones, Jr., who, as we have seen, studied Shakespearean acting in England. He toured the U.S. four weeks a year from 1933 to 1945 with his one-man Shakespearean show *Curtain Calls*. After that, though, he turned down a lucrative contract with a prominent booking company for scheduling his program for one season, telling them that he was going to preach the gospel instead (Monro Parker, *Through Sunshine and Shadows*, p. 155).

Many of the BJU plays and operas are sensual. "Why would BJU want its students to become learned in, and have appreciation for, the works of heathen composers who play on the lustful emotions and feelings of audiences, i.e., the flesh? Opera music itself may be beautiful and the attire fairly modest, but the activities depicted are worldly at best and immoral or blasphemous at worst. And there lies the danger--operas demonstrate how one may be deceived into dwelling on sinful behavior because the music is so appealing" (J. Beard, "A Bastion of Biblical Christianity?" jbeard.users.rapidnet.com). In the 1990s, BJU put on Donizetti's *Elixir of Love*, "that depicts romantic foolishness unbecoming to God-fearing Christians, drunkenness (the 'elixir' is really wine), and deception by a quack 'doctor.'"

Bob Jones University's unrestrained emphasis on art and literature holds many spiritual dangers. Consider a student who was influenced by his BJU studies on C.S. Lewis to enter the Anglican ministry and from there, the Roman Catholic priesthood. "At Bob Jones I majored in Interpretative Speech with a minor in English. At this stage I immersed myself in English literature, and was greatly influenced by C.S. Lewis and his band of literary Christians, the Inklings. This drew me to the whole culture of England. I remember a friend gave me a picture book called *The World of C.S. Lewis*. One look made me realize it was a world I wanted to enter. The book was full of soft-focus photographs of Oxford quadrangles and people punting at Cambridge. There were black and white photos of Lewis and his chums swilling dark beer in dark English pubs" (Fr. Dwight Longenecker, "From Bob

Jones University to the Catholic Church,” dwightlongenecker.com). C.S. Lewis was an extremely dangerous man, and any Christian school that promotes his writings is not faithful to God’s Word and is not protecting Christ’s sheep. Even *Christianity Today* acknowledges his heresies. “Clive Staples Lewis was anything but a classic evangelical, socially or theologically. He smoked cigarettes and a pipe, and he regularly visited pubs to drink beer with friends. Though he shared basic Christian beliefs with evangelicals, he didn’t subscribe to biblical inerrancy or penal substitution. He believed in purgatory and baptismal regeneration” (“C.S. Lewis Superstar,” *Christianity Today*, Dec. 2005). (See *C.S. Lewis and Evangelicals Today*, a free eBook available from www.wayoflife.org.)

In 1969, BJU joined the martial arts craze. The school’s “Judo Gentlemen” used martial arts to “entertain” and “evangelize.”

Bob Jones University has a Psychology Department that is filled with heresies and spiritual dangers. “The BJU Course Catalog lists 16 ‘courses of instruction’ in its Psychology Department. One could substitute the name of any secular college in the country on the front of the Catalog, and the descriptions of the psychology courses would fit precisely. BJU justifies its psychology curriculum as challenging students ‘... to know what they believe and why. ... It’s all part of the psychology of the Christian life’ (Winter 1990, *BJU Review*, ‘Not Your Ordinary Shrink,’ pp. 12-13). BJU Press’s *ShowForth* video division has produced a highly psychological 2-hour video titled ‘Scriptural Principles for Counseling the Abused’ (1994). The teacher on the video is Dr. Bob Wood, a BJU faculty member specializing in ‘training ministerial students as biblical counselors.’ Wood is also an executive vice president in administration at BJU. BJU claims that Dr. Wood’s video ‘presents biblical solutions for helping those who are struggling to overcome the pain of their past’ (2/95, *Frontline* advertisement; and the *ShowForth* video jacket). When I ordered the video (via BJU’s toll free order number), the order-taker recommended I also order Mrs. Jones’ (Bob Jones III’s wife, Beneth Peters Jones) latest book, *Mount Up on Wounded Wings: For Women from Hurtful Home Backgrounds*, which ‘might help your wife if she ministers to those from abusive childhoods.’ Both the video and the book reveal just how incredibly far BJU has gone down the path paved by the world’s pop psychology/victimization teachings. (An excellent

resource that exposes victimization teachings in the professing church would be Jim Owen’s 1993 book, *Christian Psychology’s War on God’s Word: The Victimization of the Believer*.)” (J. Beard, “A Bastion of Biblical Christianity?” jbeard.users.rapidnet.com).

Bob Jones University was never as socially conservative as many of the fundamental Baptist schools. For example, the 1964 BJU catalog featured an attractive young woman with a low-cut dress, and extremely short hair. As the decades have passed, the dress standards have lowered precipitously. BJU has always had a big dating culture which is more a reflection of American pop culture than the Bible.

In 1964, the U.S. Congress passed the Civil Rights Act. Bob Jones, Jr., labeled it “a highhanded scheme to force all educational institutions under the control of a federal agency.”

In 1971, Bob Jones III (b. 1939) became the BJU president, and the first black student was admitted.

In the 1970s, the school continued to grow. BJU Press was founded and a complete homeschool curriculum was published. The 7,000-seat Founder’s Memorial Amphitheater was dedicated in 1973.

In 1983, the IRS revoked BJU’s tax-exempt status because of its refusal to accept interracial dating and marriage.

Bob Jones University has promoted the critical Greek text from the beginning, while using the King James Bible in chapel and most classes. This was the same position held by Tennessee Temple. In 1981, Stewart Custer, chairman of the division of Bible and professor of graduate studies at BJU, published *The Truth about the King James Version Controversy*.

Instead of giving the truth, though, Dr. Custer tried to defend Westcott and Hort from charges of liberalism, falsely claiming that the liberal statements were from their youth. But Dr. D.A. Waite refuted this in *Dr. Stewart Custer Answered on the Textus Receptus and the King James Version* (Bible for Today). Waite gives quotes from Westcott and Hort’s commentaries. When Westcott was 65 years old, he wrote, “No one now, I suppose, holds that the first three chapters of Genesis, for example, give a literal history—I could never understand how anyone

reading them with open eyes could think they did” (B.F. Westcott, March 4, 1890). Westcott and Hort had no a personal testimony of salvation and taught the heresy of the Fatherhood of God. In the 1990s, Pensacola Christian College held a forum on the subject of texts and versions and produced a series of videos featuring Dell Johnson, J. Michael Bates, Theodore Letis, and others defending the Greek Received Text and the King James Bible and warning about the critical text position. Bob Jones University was mentioned by name as the chief culprit in the promotion of the critical text. This was called “the leaven in fundamentalism.” The titles of the Pensacola videos were *The Bible ... Preserved from Satan’s Attack* (1996), *The Bible ... the Text Is the Issue* (1997), *Additional Thoughts on The Text Is the Issue* (1997), and *Doctrine and History of Preservation of the Text* (1998). In 2001, some men affiliated with BJU (J.B. Williams, Mark Minnick, and John Hutcheson, Randolph Shaylor, J. Drew Conley, and Mark Simmons, all BJU graduates) published *From the Mind of God to the Mind of Man* to defend the critical Greek text and to denigrate what they labeled “King James Onlyism.” They call the defense of the King James Bible “unnecessary confusion and division.” In the 21st century, BJU is promoting the English Standard Version (ESV), which is popular among new Reformed Calvinists.

In 2000, BJU’s interracial dating ban was dropped.

In 2005, Stephen Jones became BJU president. In 2008, he apologized for the school’s past racial discrimination.

In 2014, Steve Pettit was elected president and is leading the school in directions that are serious changes from the past.

For one thing, **BJU is quickly capitulating to the siren song of contemporary worship music.** The school now supports the use of *some* contemporary worship music, which is a dramatic change from its former position. Speaking at a chapel service as recently as March 12, 2001, Dr. Frank Garlock of Majesty Music warned, “If a church starts using CCM it will eventually lose all other standards.” Note that he said that if a church even STARTS to use CCM, it is on an inevitable slide away from its founding standards. At the time, that was still the prevailing view at BJU, but this is no longer the case. The view that “contemporary Christian music” is wrong and dangerous and should be avoided has been replaced with the view that it can be used safely *with discretion*.

This is a dramatic change in philosophy, and it will produce an ever-increasing acceptance of CCM.

In particular, BJU is accepting some Sovereign Grace and Getty Townend Music (GTM). Twenty-nine GTM songs are featured in *Hymns Modern and Ancient*, published by Heart Publications, a ministry of Steve Pettit Evangelistic Association and compiled by Fred Coleman who heads up Bob Jones University’s Department of Church Music. Getty-Townend are out-and-out contemporary rockers with no boundaries either in musical styles or associations. Getty is new Reformed Calvinist, while Townend is a “gibberish tongues-speaking, prophesying is for today, apostles are among us, kingdom now” charismatic. The Gettys partner with Roman Catholics such as Matt Maher, Margaret Becker, and Máire Brennan. GTM is a bridge to the one world church as surely as Hillsong. We have documented this extensively in the report “The Gettys--Pied Pipers of Contemporary Worship Music,” www.wayoflife.org, and in the video presentation “Bob Jones, Majesty Music, the New Calvinism, and the Gettys,” which is a part of 2020 *The Satanic Attack on Sacred Music* video series, available for free viewing and downloading at www.wayoflife.org.

In the Internet age, to recommend *some select* GTM songs is, in effect, to point people to Stuart Townend and the Gettys online and to their influence.

The new Bob Jones University position on music is quickly becoming the majority position among fundamental Baptists. It is obvious that a major corner has been turned, and it is only a matter of time when a complete capitulation to full-blown, anything-goes CCM will dominate.

The other major change is **Bob Jones University’s plunge into new Reformed Calvinism.**

In recent decades BJU is producing a stream of preachers who hold to Calvinistic “sovereign election.” I know of several non-Calvinist Baptist churches that have become Calvinistic after BJU graduates were called to the pastorate.

In 2005 an extensive survey was done of “young fundamentalists.” Entitled “Young Fundamentalists’ Beliefs and Personal Life,” the survey results were available online at www.sharperiron.org. For the purpose of the survey, a “young fundamentalist” is one who is

under 35 years old. The survey contained 135 questions pertaining to life and doctrine, and roughly 1,100 surveys were completed. The vast majority of respondents identified themselves with three fundamentalist schools: Bob Jones University (29%), Maranatha Baptist Bible College (22%), and Northland Baptist Bible College (21%). An amazing 58% of the respondents held a Calvinist view of sovereign election, with another 8% unsure. **THUS ONLY ABOUT 35% OF THE RESPONDENTS TO THE YOUNG FUNDAMENTALIST SURVEY REJECTED CALVINISM.** Some 14% of the respondents held to either amillennial (8%) or postmillennial (5%) views, which goes hand-in-hand with Reformed theology.

We will doubtless see this percentage increase in coming days, with a growing rejection of the pre-tribulation position.

In October 2019, Steve Pettit participated in the “Greenville Conference on Reformed Theology” at the Second Presbyterian Church. The other two speakers were Joel Beeke and Richard Phillips. Beeke is a professor at Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary and Phillips serves on the board of The Gospel Coalition, among other things.

On November 11-12, Andy Naselli was the guest speaker at BJU for the Stewart Custer Lecture Series. Naselli is a professor at John Piper’s Bethlehem College & Seminary and an elder of Bethlehem Baptist Church. Naselli is also on the staff of The Gospel Coalition (TGC). It is becoming more clear why Bob Jones University is building bridges to Keith Getty, who is a Reformed Calvinist and whose pastor, Alistair Beggs, is a prominent member of The Gospel Coalition. TGC represents the new Reformed Calvinism.

Unlike old Reformed Calvinism, new Reformed Calvinism is ecumenical. The old Reformed men believed that Rome is the great whore of Revelation 17, drunken with the blood of the martyrs, but the new Reformed have ecumenical relationships with Rome, or at least are open to it. On the TGC web page “Should Christians Be Ecumenical,” we find the following: “Can evangelicals and Catholics truly be together? ... Jesus’ prayer for unity in the Body obligates me to see the ecumenical task as important for Christianity” (Trevin Wax, a Southern Baptist Wheaton College professor who associates with the Gettys). This is false. Jesus’ prayer in

John 17 has nothing to do ecumenism. In fact, Christ emphasized obedience to God’s Word and the importance of truth (Joh. 17:6, 8, 14, 17, 19), which are *incompatible* with ecumenism.

Lou Martuneac makes the following observation, “What has BJU president Steve Pettit shown us by taking an active role in this conference, with these speakers? First, he has removed any lingering doubt of having led the University to embrace Reformed Theology. Second, The Gospel Coalition (TGC) includes men in its leadership who are some of the most egregious of ecumenical compromisers among the so-called ‘conservative’ evangelicals. ... To any objective observer surely enough has been seen to erase any lingering doubt that BJU has abandoned its foundational, separatist principles. ... The University has always been theologically broad. So--that’s not new. What is new is the association with compromised denominations that have *never* espoused fundamentalism” (“This Is Not Your Father’s Bob Jones University, A Continuation,” *In Defense of the Gospel*, Nov. 14, 2019).

On March 2020, Bob Jones hosted Roman Catholic pro-life speaker Abby Johnson. “Then on March 5, 2020, BJU hosted the Piedmont Women’s Center (PWC) for their fundraising event. The speaker for the evening was Abby Johnson. During the event, Johnson ‘preached the gospel.’ ... She used the words ‘cross, gospel, sinners, Jesus.’ Folks left the event believing Johnson to be a born again Christian.

Here is what they did not know: Johnson was raised a Southern Baptist. Through a series of events, she converted to Roman Catholicism ... Johnson explains her journey away from a gospel-preaching church and into Romanism. She proudly admits that she uses the pro-life platform to evangelize for Romanism” (Machen White, “BJU Then and Now...Abby Johnson,” Apr. 7, 2020, *Musings of a Fundamentalist*).

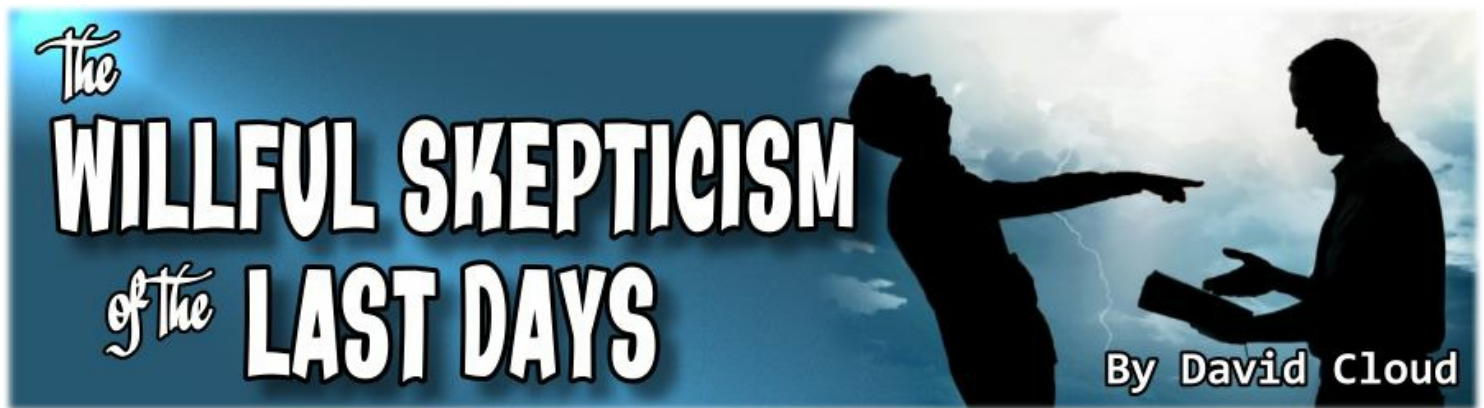
In March 2020, John Street, professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and Chair of Biblical Counseling at John MacArthur’s Master’s University, spoke at BJU. And Steve Pettit spoke at MacArthur’s Shepherd’s Conference.

By 2019, Bob Jones University had lost more than 50% of its enrollment compared to 25 years previously, from 5,000 to 2,400.

In 2019, Lou Martuneac of *In Defense of the Gospel* blog said, “It is with regret and sadness that many BJU alumni, ministerial graduates in particular, see the University now as having drifted far from the doctrinal foundations it once staunchly held to for many decades. A departure from the moorings that accelerated significantly in 2014.”

The only way that we would have sent a student to Bob

Jones University, even in its heyday, would have been if the student had a clear call from God to be a nurse, doctor, engineer, or something that required the type of education that only BJU could provide, and only if the student was well grounded in the truth and well versed in the school’s errors and weaknesses, and only if the student was an *active, serving member* of a sound New Testament church in the area where he or she could stay grounded.



The following is excerpted from the new edition of *Understanding Bible Prophecy*, one of the courses of the Advanced Bible Studies Series published by Way of Life Literature. One of the new sections of the course is “Bible Prophecies Being Fulfilled Today,” and the following study is from that section. The new edition of *Understanding Bible Prophecy* (September 2012) is completely rewritten and significantly enlarged.

“Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, 4 And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation. 5 For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water: 6 Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished: 7 But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men. 8 But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. 9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness;

but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. 10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up” (2 Peter 3:2-10).

This amazing 2000-year-old prophecy describes the skepticism that prevails in the 21st century. “Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers...” (2 Pet. 3:3).

The prophecy indicates that the 19th century marked the beginning of the “last days” of the church age, because it was in the 19th century that this prophecy began to be fulfilled to perfection. The 19th century witnessed the explosion of skepticism in the form of theological modernism, humanism, Unitarianism, Darwinian evolution, communism, and agnosticism.

1. We see the rejection of the Bible’s teaching on the Flood (2 Peter 3:4-6).

Peter describes the scoffers in the last days who will say that “since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as

they were from the beginning of the creation” (2 Pet. 3:4). This is a perfect description of the “uniformitarian” view of geology, which came to the fore in the 19th century through the influence of Charles Lyell’s *Principles of Geology*. According to this view, the geological strata were laid down gradually over millions of years and there was no global Flood. Walt Brown, Ph.D. in mechanical engineering from MIT, describes the view that has prevailed since those days. “Professors in the new and growing field of geology were primarily selected from those who supported the anti-catastrophe principle. These professors did not advance students who espoused catastrophes. An advocate of a global flood was branded a ‘biblical literalist’ or ‘fuzzy thinker’--not worthy of an academic degree” (*In the Beginning*, p. 253).

Prior to the 19th century, it was generally believed even by scientists that God created the world and that there was a catastrophic universal Flood. In 1930 Merson Davies observed, “We should remember that, up to 100 years ago [up to 1830], such a marked prejudice against the acceptance of belief in the Deluge did not exist.” For example, in the 17th and 18th centuries Cambridge University scholars believed in a universal Flood, but by Darwin’s day they did not. Thomas Burnet (1635-1715), royal chaplain to king William III, argued for a worldwide flood in *A Sacred Theory of the Earth* (1681). This was one of most popular works on geology prior to the 19th century. John Woodward (1665-1728), founder of the Woodwardian Professorship of Geology at Cambridge, argued that the global Flood was the cause of the fossil beds. This position was published in *An Essay Toward a Natural Theory of the Earth* (1695).

But by the 19th century, the evolutionary view took control and the prophecy of 2 Peter 3 was being fulfilled.

2. We see mankind’s rejection of divine creation (2 Peter 3:5).

Peter says the scoffers will reject the Bible’s teaching that the world was made “by the word of God.” The doctrine of evolution has gone hand-in-hand with agnosticism, atheism, and a denial of the supernatural. It was Thomas Huxley, “Darwin’s Bulldog,” who coined the term “agnosticism” to describe the view that man cannot know whether or not there is a God, that man can only know the truth through science and that “religion” isn’t allowed a voice, and that even if there is a God it

really doesn’t matter, because He isn’t involved in man’s affairs.

The scoffers do mention “creation” (2 Pet. 3:4), but by this they don’t mean the six days of creation according to the Bible. Even Charles Darwin used the word “creation” at the end of *On the Origin of Species*, but he later explained that he simply meant by this that life “appeared by some wholly unknown process” (Darwin, *Autobiography*, p. 272).

3. We see the motive of the scoffers (2 Pet. 3:3).

The Bible is a supernatural Book that reveals the secrets of men’s hearts. It pierces “even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit” (Heb. 4:12). In this case, the Bible peers deeply into the human soul and reveals that the unbelief of the scoffers is “willful” because their motive is to walk in their own lusts and not be bound by God’s moral laws. It is their love of sin that puts them in rebellion against God. Men first refuse to believe, then Satan blinds their minds (2 Cor. 4:4).

The will of man must surrender to God and His truth for the blindness to be lifted (2 Cor. 3:14-16). The will is the difference between a Ph.D. like Lowell Coker (microbiology and biochemistry, author of *Darwin’s Design Dilemma*), who believes the Bible, and a Ph.D. like Richard Dawkins (author of *The Blind Watchmaker*), who doesn’t. Both men are trained in modern science at a high level and both look at the same evidence, but they come to completely different conclusions, and this is because one man simply refuses to believe the implications of what he sees with his own eyes.

Evolutionist Richard Lewontin admitted as much when he said, “We have a prior commitment to materialism. ... we cannot allow a Divine Foot in the door” (“Billions and Billions of Demons,” *The New York Review*, Jan. 9, 1997, p. 31).

This is a pointed reminder that every child growing up in a Bible-believing church must make his own choice about God and salvation, and that a desire to walk after one’s own lusts will produce spiritual blindness. Each child has the ability to believe or not to believe. God gives men a choice, but they must suffer the consequences of those choices. I grew up in a Baptist church and heard the gospel from my earliest years, and

I don't recall ever rejecting Jesus and the Bible in a conscious manner. What happened was that I simply loved sin and pursued sin; I was captivated by the rock & roll pop culture; and because of that my mind became blinded and I ended up being a skeptic until I was converted at age 23.

4. We see their ignorance (2 Pet. 3:5).

Skeptics tend to be proud of their knowledge, but in reality they are ignorant of the knowledge that counts the most, which is knowledge of God's Word. The fear of God is the beginning of wisdom (Psalm 111:10).

Most of the committed skeptics don't know any more about Bible than I did before I was saved. In fact, most of them probably don't know as much. I thought I knew the Bible, because I had grown up in a Bible-believing church and had attended faithfully until my teenage years, but actually I just knew some disjointed Bible stories that didn't seem to have any real bearing on daily life. I didn't understand the overall theme of the Bible; didn't understand how each part of the Bible fits together to form the whole; didn't know the rules of proper Bible interpretation or how to apply them. I had never been taught how to defend the Bible against skepticism, and didn't even know it was defensible. I didn't know any of the evidences for the Bible's divine inspiration. I didn't even have a really clear understanding of the gospel, though I had made a profession of faith in my youth. I had never read the whole Bible through, but I argued against Bible-believing Christians as if I were a true expert!

5. We see their faith (2 Pet. 3:4-5).

Evolutionary skeptics typically pride themselves in thinking that they are following the scientific facts, whereas the Bible believer is pursuing "blind religious faith."

The truth is exactly the opposite. In reality, they are pursuing their own lusts rather than truth. They are willfully ignorant and are holding blindly to myths.

There is nothing more mythical than to believe that everything came from nothing, that life came from non-life, that intelligence came from non-intelligence, and that great intelligence is a product of small intelligence!

6. We see their undeserved opportunity (2 Pet. 3:9).

God is not willing that any perish. The reason that He sent His Son to die for man's sin is His love for the world (John 3:16) and every skeptic has an opportunity to be saved through repentance and faith in Christ.

Many highly educated scientists have believed God's Word. The book *Testimonies of Scientists Who Believe the Bible* contain biographical sketches of about 70 men and women with Ph.D.s in the hard sciences that believe in a six-day creation. This free eBook is available from the Way of Life web site -- www.wayoflife.org.

God cannot be blamed for man's judgment. Unlike the caricature of God that many evolutionists believe, God is compassionate. For example, the late atheist Christopher Hitchens called God a "divine dictator" and likened Him to the brutal dictator of North Korea. In fact, God is so merciful and compassionate that He Himself came to this sin-cursed earth, through His Son, and suffered on the cross in the place of the sinful creatures who had rebelled against Him. God has not sinned against man; man has sinned against God and broken His holy laws.

I am thankful that skeptics can be saved. I was a skeptic in 1973 when God convicted me of my sin and showed me the truth through His Word and I bowed my knees before His majesty and repented of my rebellion and trusted Jesus as my Saviour. Multitudes of skeptics have been saved by God's grace, and you can be, too.

7. We see the future of skeptics who persist in unbelief (2 Pet. 3:9-10).

God is merciful and compassionate and longsuffering, but He is also holy and just and He does not ignore the breaking of His laws. Salvation is available in Jesus Christ for every man, but if a man dies in his sin without the Saviour he will suffer eternal condemnation. There will be no end to the judgment because there is no end to the sinning. Sinners who die in their sin do not cease to exist; the body dies but the spirit lives, either in heaven or in hell. And unconverted sinners persist in their rebellion against God even beyond the grave. To reject Jesus Christ is to reject the only divinely-appointed means of salvation. To reject God's gracious offer of salvation in Christ, to resist the Spirit of God who is in the world to draw men to Christ, is the only unforgivable sin.

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?



MARK LEVIN'S WAY OR GOD'S WAY (Friday Church News Notes, June 4, 2021, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- I listened to Mark Levin's radio broadcast last week and was reminded of two things. First, Levin is one of the most knowledgeable, clever, sincere, and passionate personalities in America's conservative political movement. Second, other than sharing a love for America, we have radically different world views. I'm not criticizing Mr. Levin; I am thankful for the good he has done for America, he and every other "conservative." I'm only singling him out insofar as he represents the most zealous, thoughtful, practical side of influential political conservatives. My point is that regardless of what we have in common about America, we have very little in common in reality. If God's redeemed people are followers of secular voices, no matter how knowledgeable and zealous, it is evidence of carnality and worldliness because God's thoughts are not their thoughts. Following are some of the differences: **(1) We have a different God.** My God is the Sovereign of the universe. He has an eternal plan which encompasses all of human history, and that plan is "that in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ" (Ephesians 1:10).

Toward this end, God "worketh all things after the counsel of his own will" (Ephesians 1:11). "He changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings" (Daniel 2:21). This God created all things, and in Him we live and move and have our being, and by Him all things consist. "For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom *be* glory for ever" (Romans 11:36). Knowing this God, I don't have to wring my hands at human affairs. They are safely in His hands. **(2) We have a different gospel.** My gospel is the gospel of eternal salvation by God's grace through the vicarious atonement of Jesus Christ. It is God's free gift, without works and sacrament. It is a gospel for individuals. It saves souls, not nations. It is spiritual, not political. **(3) We have a different authority.** My authority is the Holy Bible, which I hold to be the verbal, plenary inspired Word of God and sole authority for faith and practice. That is what it claims to be and that is what it is shown to be by many infallible proofs. **(4) We have a different citizenship.** My citizenship is in heaven, and I am a pilgrim in this present world. "For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ" (Philippians 3:20). **(5) We have a different perspective.** My perspective of life is viewed from God's eyes, not man's. This

perspective is revealed in God's Word, where I am told, "If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, *who is* our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory" (Colossians 3:1-4).

(6) We see different fundamentals at work. I see spiritual fundamentals as the root of America's ills. A primary fundamental is the condition of the churches, which in turn dramatically affects the character of the people. The church is the pillar and ground of the truth (1 Timothy 3:15), and America has always been a nation of churches. **(7) We have a different goal.** My goal in life is to please the God who has saved me by His amazing grace and to fulfill His calling, which is to be an ambassador of Christ (2 Corinthians 5:20). "For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's" (1 Corinthians 6:20). **(8) We fight different battles with different weapons.** My battles are spiritual and are fought with spiritual weapons. "For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds; Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ" (2 Corinthians 10:4-5). **(9) We have a different spirit.** Because of my faith in Jesus Christ and in His infallible Word, I have the spirit of faith and trust and patience and hope and encouragement, not frustration and anger and fighting and bitterness and disappointment.



EUROPEAN PRIESTS VOW TO BLESS SAME-SEX UNIONS IN DEFIANCE OF VATICAN DECREE (Friday Church News Notes, June 11, 2021, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from "European Priests," *The Christian Post*, Mar. 18, 2021: "The Austrian Priests' Initiative, which has supported the practice of blessing same-sex unions, released a statement this week expressing their intention to disobey Monday's decree from the Vatican's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. The group of priests stated that they were 'deeply appalled by the new Roman decree that wants to prohibit the blessing of same-sex loving couples. This is a relapse into times that we had hoped to be overcome with Pope Francis,' the group's statements reads, as reported by CBS News. ... The initiative, founded in 2006, has about 350 members who mostly reside in Austria. The group argued that same-sex couples can be as loving as heterosexual couples. ... In a statement authored by Spanish Jesuit Cardinal Luis Ladaria, Vatican's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith declared that it is 'not licit to impart a blessing on relationships, or partnerships, even stable, that involve sexual activity outside of marriage. As is the case of the unions between persons of the same sex.

The presence in such relationships of positive elements, which are in themselves to be valued and appreciated, cannot justify these relationships and render them legitimate objects of an ecclesial blessing, since the positive elements exist within the context of a union not ordered to the Creator's plan,' the Vatican's statement reads."

MAX LUCADO APOLOGIZES TO "LGBTQ COMMUNITY" FOR NOT PREACHING IN SUPPORT OF SAME-SEX MARRIAGE (Friday Church News Notes, June 4, 2021, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Max Lucado, an influential Church of Christ pastor and author whose books are used by many Baptists, published a letter on Feb. 11 apologizing for a sermon that he preached on the topic of same-sex marriage in 2004. He said, "I now see that, in that sermon, I was disrespectful. I was hurtful. I wounded people in ways that were devastating. I should have done better. It grieves me that my words have hurt or been used to hurt the LGBTQ community. I apologize to you and I ask forgiveness of Christ. Faithful people may disagree about what the Bible says about homosexuality, but we agree that God's holy Word must never be used as a weapon to wound others. To be clear, I believe in the traditional biblical understanding of



marriage, but I also believe in a God of unbounded grace and love. LGBTQ individuals and LGBTQ families must be respected and treated with love. They are beloved children of God because they are made in the image and likeness of God” (Max Lucado). This is heresy. Unbelievers are never called children of God in Scripture. One must be born again through saving faith in Jesus Christ to be a child of God. To preach what the Word of God says about homosexuality or any other sin is not unloving or harmful. Paul was not unloving or hurtful when he preached the truth about the evils of homosexuality in Romans 1, calling it “uncleanness,” “dishonoring their own bodies,” vile affections,” “against nature,” “burning in lust,” “unseemly,” “not convenient,” and “a reprobate mind.” Though God does have unbounding love and grace to the unsaved, the God of love is also a God of judgment, and if His gospel is rejected, judgment will surely fall. The Lord Jesus Christ twice warned, “Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish” (Lu. 13:3, 5). Christ often warned of the danger of hell fire, nine times in one sermon (Mr. 9:43-48). He described hell as “the fire that never shall be quenched.” Christ said, “He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him” (John 3:36).

GOVERNOR SAYS FLORIDA SCHOOLS WILL NOT TEACH CRITICAL RACE THEORY (Friday Church News Notes, June 4, 2021, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The following is excerpted from “Ron DeSantis,” *The Federalist*, Mar. 17, 2021: “Republican Florida Gov.



Ron DeSantis denounced critical race theory at a press conference Wednesday afternoon, vowing to ‘expressly exclude’ it from the state’s public schools. ‘Florida civics curriculum will incorporate foundational concepts with the best materials and it will expressly exclude unsanctioned narratives like critical race theory and other unsubstantiated theories,’ DeSantis said. ‘There’s no room in our classrooms for things like Critical Race Theory. Teaching kids to hate their country and to hate each other is not worth one red cent of taxpayer money. No matter if your family came on the Mayflower or you became a naturalized citizen, these principles belong to you,’ DeSantis said. ... In his speech, the governor laid out a plan to put ... \$7 million for civics curricula that provide students with ‘foundational concepts.’ The proposed plan directly opposes civics mandates in the state of Illinois that call for critical race theory training, for instance. Illinois recently approved ‘Culturally Responsive Teaching and Leading Standards’ that call for educators to assess their biases, and how those biases affect, ‘how they access tools to mitigate their own behavior (racism, sexism, homophobia, unearned privilege, Eurocentrism, etc).’”

ON THE WARPATH AGAINST ERROR (Friday Church News Notes, June 4, 2021,

www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - “Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ” (2 Corinthians 10:5). The apostles exemplified this aggressive stance against error, as we see in their epistles. They were on the warpath against errors pertaining to the resurrection (1 Co. 15:12, 35-36; 2 Ti. 2:17-18), false christs and false spirits, (2 Co. 11:1-4), false gospels (2 Co. 11:4; Gal. 1:6-9), ministers of Satan who transform themselves into the ministers of righteousness (2 Co. 11:14-15), errors pertaining to Israel (Ro. 9-11), errors pertaining to philosophy and the tradition of men (Col. 2:8) and “the rudiments of the world” (Col. 2:18-23), errors pertaining to doctrines of devils (1 Ti. 4:1-3), profane and vain babblings, and oppositions of science falsely so called (1 Ti. 6:20), a form of godliness that denies the power thereof (2 Ti. 3:5), evil men and seducers (2 Ti. 3:13), apostates who turn away their ears from the truth (2 Ti. 4:3-4), cunningly devised fables (2 Pe. 1:16), damnable doctrines (2 Pe. 2), scoffers (2 Pe. 3:1-7), antichrists (1 Jo. 2:18), ungodly men who turn the grace of God into lasciviousness (Jude 1:4), errors pertaining to church leadership (3 Jo. 1:9-11), church discipline (1 Co. 5), the Lord’s Supper (1 Co. 11), the gifts of the Spirit (1 Co. 12), and tongues speaking (1 Co. 14). Every preacher and every church must follow this example and make warfare on every false thing. “Therefore I esteem all *thy* precepts *concerning* all *things* to be right; and I hate every false way” (Psalm 119:128).



SCOTTISH TEACHER'S UNION SPONSORS BLASPHEMOUS PORTRAYAL OF JESUS AS TRANSGENDER (Friday Church News Notes, June 11, 2021, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The following is excerpted from "Scottish teacher's union," *The Christian Post*, June 6, 2021: "A Scottish teachers union's decision to promote a controversial play depicting Jesus Christ as transgender in celebration of June, what LGBT activists call 'Pride Month,' has outraged Christians who've long opposed the play, noting that 'true biblical Christianity is becoming marginalized through political correctness.' The union, called Education Institute of Scotland, which claims to represent around 80% of the country's lecturers and teachers, plans to hold an LGBT event where they will feature excerpts of 'The Gospel According to Jesus Queen of Heaven,' as the production is titled, according to The Christian Institute. The play, which will be featured as part of a 'Pride' event, 'School's Almost Out! Celebrate Pride,' on June 17, 'invites us to imagine Jesus coming back to Earth in the present day as a trans woman,' the EIS says. The play's creator, Jo Clifford, a man who identifies as female and says he also identifies his religion as Christian, says the play recreates biblical stories with a 'different slant.' 'The play imagines a transgender

Jesus coming back to the world today,' Clifford told *BBC News* in a previous interview. 'She pitches a sermon and tells a few very familiar Gospel stories,' Clifford added, 'She has a communion, shares bread and wine with the audience, which is really a gesture of solidarity in the face of death, and she gives a blessing. So it's a very important, very intimate show.'"

CONCLUSION: This type of thing is a clear fulfillment of Bible prophecy and is a sign of the times: "But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of. And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not. For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast *them* down to hell, and delivered *them* into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment; And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth *person*, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly; And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrha into ashes condemned *them* with an overthrow, making *them* an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly; And delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked: (For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed *his* righteous soul from day to day with *their* unlawful deeds;) The Lord knoweth how to

deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished: But chiefly them that walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness, and despise government. Presumptuous *are they*, selfwilled, they are not afraid to speak evil of dignities" (2 Peter 2:1-10).

SCHOOL CHAPLAIN FIRED, REPORTED TO ANTI-TERRORISM PROGRAM FOR SERMON QUESTIONING LGBT POLICIES (Friday Church News Notes, June 11, 2021, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The following is excerpted from "My world fell apart," *Premier Christian News*, June 4, 2021: "Rev Dr Bernard Randall was suspended from Trent College, a Church of England school, in 2019 after he preached that it was acceptable for students to hold traditional views on marriage, sex and gender identity. The chaplain said he was asked by a student to talk about LGBT+ issues, following the adoption of teaching material from 'Educate and Celebrate.' ... The school subsequently took disciplinary action after Rev Randall shared the sermon with his students. It was while going through the documentation related to the disciplinary action that Rev Randall discovered that he had also been referred to Prevent, an anti-terrorism programme designed to stop radicalisation in the UK. ... The police later ruled that Rev Dr Randall was



not a ‘counter-terrorism risk’ nor ‘risk of radicalisation’. ... He went on to say that although the process has been traumatic, it has actually pushed him to become more vocal about freedom of speech, especially as a Christian. ... ‘I think as a Christian in particular, speaking about truth is really important, as Jesus said, I am the way the truth and the life. He didn’t say, I am the opinion, the feeling and the lived experience, or whatever some of these things that people attach themselves to might be, and truth really, really matters. I’ve become all the more convinced of the importance of standing up to speak truth, and to challenge what appear to me to be untruths in our society,’ Rev Randall concluded.”

ISRAEL LIFTS MOST COVID RESTRICTIONS (Friday Church News Notes, June 11, 2021, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from “Israel Lifts,” *CBN News*, June 2, 2021: “Israel lifted nearly all of its COVID-19 restrictions on Tuesday as the daily infection rate remains at virtually zero. Now, Israelis will no longer need to use the proof of vaccination or recovery certificate known as the Green Pass to enter public venues like restaurants and gyms. The country also lifted restrictions on indoor and outdoor gatherings. ‘Today is a very special day,’ said Hezi Levi, Israel’s Health



Ministry Director-General. ‘Now we are opening all the activity in Israel and no more green pass,’ he added.” Israel has also announced that the mask mandate will be lifted for indoor activities on June 15.

ONTARIO CHURCH FINED \$166,000 FOR DISREGARDING COVID RESTRICTIONS

(Friday Church News Notes, June 11, 2021, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from “God Has Been Forgotten,” *Christian Headlines*, June 4, 2021: “A Canadian church and its leaders were fined a total of \$66,000 this week for holding three outdoor services in violation of local health restrictions. The Church of God congregation in Aylmer, Ontario, held outdoor services on its property on May 16, May 23 and May 30 after a court ordered the doors locked because members were meeting indoors in violation of COVID-19 restrictions. With its doors locked by order of the government, the church members went outside. ‘Our building may be locked, but our God deserves all honour, glory, and praise,’ the church said in a May 15 Facebook post. ‘The Church must gather!’ Superior Court Justice Bruce Thomas ordered the church and two of its officials to pay \$66,000 after they violated provincial stay-at-home orders, according to Canadian radio station 980 CFPL. The \$66,000 fine is on top of a \$100,000 fine received by the church and its officials on May 14. Police monitored the outdoor services and counted attendees. On May 30, 283 attended. On May 23, it was more than 300. On May 16, it was 400-plus. Local media have reported on each violation. ... The church’s pastor, Henry Hildebrandt,



appeared on a live Facebook video on May 14, reading from Acts 5 and saying the congregation would ‘obey God rather than men.’ The leaders of the country and the province, he said, have ‘forgotten’ God.”

CALIFORNIA ORDERED TO PAY \$2.1 MILLION FOR CHURCHES’ LEGAL FEES

(Friday Church News Notes, June 11, 2021, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from “Religious Liberty Triumphs,” Thomas More Society: “Attorneys with the Thomas More Society recently secured settlements in two major cases: *South Bay United Pentecostal Church, et al. v. Newsom, et al.* and *Father Trevor Burfitt v. Newsom, et al.* In both cases, the State of California agreed to enter into permanent injunctions that prohibit the State from ever again imposing discriminatory restrictions on all houses of worship statewide. In addition, the State of California agreed to pay \$2,150,000 in ‘prevailing party’ attorneys’ fees to settle both cases (\$1,600,000 in *South Bay* and \$550,000 in *Burfitt*). Thomas More Society Special Counsel Charles LiMandri and Paul Jonna, partners at LiMandri & Jonna LLP, both expressed satisfaction with the resolutions. According to LiMandri, ‘The *South Bay* case represents an unprecedented three trips to the



Attorney Charles LiMandri

United States Supreme Court in a one-year period, which resulted in a landmark decision that opened up the churches in California for 40 million people. The permanent injunctions in these cases uphold and protect one of the most cherished principles of our republic: The Free Exercise of Religion.’ Jonna stated that ‘The settlement terms in these cases track the United States Supreme Court’s seminal holding in *South Bay v. Newsom*, and the basic constitutional principle is simple and now cemented into permanent statewide injunctions. Restrictions on churches cannot be more severe than restrictions on retail. We are pleased with the final results in these two important cases.’ ... ‘The injunction in *Burfitt* was the first of its kind in the country, anticipating what the Supreme Court would later hold definitively, that houses of worship must receive the same treatment as the most favored secular comparators. If favored businesses are allowed 100% occupancy during a pandemic, so must churches be allowed, said Christopher Ferrara [of the Thomas More Society].”

DIVER SWALLOWED BY A WHALE (Friday Church News Notes, June 18, 2021, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - A commercial lobster diver was swallowed by a whale off the Massachusetts coast on June 11 and

A ROSE IS STILL A ROSE

(Friday Church News Notes, June 11, 2021, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is from CreationMoments.com, May 3, 2021: “Roses have fascinated people for thousands of years. While modern rose strains are the result of two centuries of breeding, the Greek naturalist Theophrastus wrote about the hundred-petaled rose 2,400 years ago. The Autumn Damask rose, which blossoms in both spring and fall, was nurtured and cultivated by the ancient Romans. The first settlers in China began to cultivate roses over 4,000 years ago. Rose breeding is one of the oldest human experiments in the science of genetics. Roses are bred for variations in size, color, frequency of bloom and scent. More than 25 distinct scents have been identified in roses. By the mid-19th century, breeders had developed some 4,000 varieties of roses. Perhaps roses with names like Chrysler Imperial, Charlotte Armstrong or Mirandy sound familiar to you. The man who developed those roses and has won over a dozen ‘All America Rose of the Year’ awards is Walter



Lammerts. He became one of the world’s leading authorities on roses while he worked as the senior breeder at Armstrong Roses. He also developed four varieties of peaches. Dr. Lammerts is a creationist. He not only rejects evolution, but he blames belief in evolution for slowing the development of better strains of plants. He points out that breeders who think change takes place slowly and through evolution don’t expect to make much progress, and they waste time trying to fit what they learn into evolution. He adds that, despite thousands of years of breeding, roses are still roses. Author: Paul A. Bartz. Ref: Mohs, M. 1987. ‘Where has all the fragrance gone?’ *Discover*, June. p. 90.”

expelled with only minor injuries. Michael Packard, 56, was released hours later from a Cape Cod hospital. Packard said, “All of a sudden, I felt this huge shove and the next thing I



knew it was completely black. I could sense I was moving, and I could feel the whale squeezing with the muscles in his mouth. I was completely inside; it was completely black. I thought to myself, ‘there’s no way I’m getting out of here. I’m done, I’m dead. ... I saw light, and he started throwing his head side to side, and the next thing I knew I was outside (in the water)” (“I was completely inside,” *Cape Cod Times*, June 11, 2021). The prophet Jonah was in a whale’s belly for three

days and three nights, but it wasn't a natural event. God supernaturally prepared the fish and accomplished the event as a sign of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. "For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth" (Matthew 12:40).

EDINBURGH PAYS \$35,000 TO CHRISTIAN MINISTRY FOR CANCELING EVENT OVER SPEAKER'S BIBLICALLY-BASED VIEWS

(Friday Church News Notes, June 18, 2021, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from "City pays," *The Christian Post*, June 13, 2021: "Facing a full hearing of a lawsuit, the Edinburgh city council agreed to apologize and pay over \$35,000 (£25,000) to the Scotland-based Destiny Church for canceling a three-day conference because its keynote speaker, U.S. Pastor Larry Stockstill, had spoken against homosexuality and abortion. Apart from offering to pay the damages, the council has acknowledged that it had 'failed to meet its equalities duties to Destiny Ministries in terms of the Equality Act 2010 and therefore acted unlawfully,' and that it had failed to take account of Destiny's rights as protected by the European Convention on Human Rights, Christian legal firm ADF U.K. said



in a statement. The authorities canceled the conference that had been scheduled to be held in Edinburgh's Usher Hall last summer after some groups complained about views held by its guest speaker, Louisiana pastor Larry Stockstill, former pastor of the multicampus Bethany World Prayer Center. Stockstill is also the author of the 2007 book *He Teaches My Hands to War*, in which he calls homosexuality 'not normal behavior' and 'not accepted by God.' Along with Stockstill, the head of the U.K.-based Evangelical Alliance, Gavin Calver, was also scheduled to speak. A city council spokesperson had earlier told the *Edinburgh Evening News* that the event was canceled 'due to the keynote speaker's publicly-stated views about same-sex relationships which are, in the council's opinion, offensive and discriminatory.' ... ADF U.K. conducted a nationwide poll in which two in five students said events were frequently canceled on campus due to the views held by speakers and pressure from other student groups. Half of the Scottish students also said they felt lecturers would treat them differently if they expressed their true opinions on some important issues. 'Freedom of speech and freedom of religion are foundations of every free and democratic society, and must be protected for all people,' ADF U.K. Legal Counsel Jeremiah Igunnubole commented."

TEACHER WINS LAWSUIT AGAINST SCHOOL SYSTEM OVER TRANSGENDER PRONOUN ISSUE (Friday Church News Notes, June 18, 2021, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from "Judge Lifts Suspension," *Christian*



Headlines, June 9, 2021: "A teacher in Virginia has won a lawsuit in the Loudoun County Circuit Court against the Loudoun County School System through Alliance Defending Freedom after the district's administration placed him on leave for opposing measures that would promote transgender ideology in local schools. Byron Tanner Cross, a physical education teacher at Leesburg Elementary School, sued the Loudoun County School Board last week for penalizing him for voicing concern about two proposed policies. The Circuit Court agreed with him and halted the School System's actions against Cross. Alliance Defending Freedom's Michael Farris commented, 'We are pleased at the court's decision to halt Loudoun County Public Schools' retaliation against Tanner Cross while his lawsuit continues. Educators are just like everybody else--they have ideas and opinions that they should be free to express. Advocating for solutions they believe in should not cost them their jobs.'"

RECORD PERCENTAGE OF AMERICANS FAVOR SAME-SEX "MARRIAGE" (Friday Church News Notes, June 18, 2021, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from "Record High," Gallup.com, June 8, 2021: "U.S. support for legal same-sex marriage continues to trend upward, now at 70%--a new high in



Gallup's trend since 1996. This latest figure marks an increase of 10 percentage points since 2015, when the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that all states must recognize same-sex marriages. Today's 70% support for same-sex marriage marks a new milestone in a trend that has pointed upward for a quarter of a century. A small minority of Americans (27%) supported legal recognition of gay and lesbian marriages in 1996, when Gallup first asked the question. But support rose steadily over time, eventually reaching the majority level for the first time in 2011. By the time of the Supreme Court's *Obergefell v. Hodges* decision in 2015, support for gay marriage had reached 60%. ... Republicans, who have consistently been the party group least in favor of same-sex marriage, show majority support in 2021 for the first time (55%). The latest increase in support among all Americans is driven largely by changes in Republicans' views. Democrats have consistently been among the biggest supporters of legal same-sex marriage. The current 83% among Democrats is on par with the level of support Gallup has recorded over the past few years. ... As would be expected at a high-water mark in national support for same-sex marriage, all age groups are the most supportive they have been to date. Still, age differences remain, with 84% of young adults, 72% of middle-aged adults, and 60% of older adults

saying they favor same-sex marriage.”

MAN RENOUNCES QANON AFTER ARREST FOR PARTICIPATING IN JANUARY 6 RIOT AT U.S. CAPITOL (Friday Church News Notes, June 18, 2021, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The following is excerpted from “Pre-trial release hearing set,” *Des Moines Register*, June 8, 2021: “A District of Columbia judge said on Tuesday he will review later in June whether U.S. Capitol attack suspect Doug Jensen can be released from jail while he awaits trial. Jensen, of Des Moines, was arrested three days after the Jan. 6 riot at the U.S. Capitol, which left five people dead. After several indictments, he now faces seven charges, including allegations that he brought a folding knife into the Capitol. Jensen was photographed aggressively confronting officers in the building, including at one point chasing one up a staircase at the head of a larger mob. ... After his arrest, prosecutors described Jensen as a ‘true believer’ in the QAnon conspiracy theory, which held that then-President Trump was fighting a secret global cabal of Satanic pedophiles who had infiltrated elite society and the Democratic Party. ... In his new motion, Jensen forswears his former faith in QAnon. Attorney Christopher Davis writes, ‘For reasons he does not even understand today, he became a *true believer* and was convinced he was doing a noble service by becoming a digital soldier for Q. Maybe it was [a] mid-life crisis, the pandemic, or perhaps the message just seemed to elevate him from his ordinary life to an exalted status with an honorable goal. In any



event, he fell victim to this barrage of internet-sourced info and came to the Capitol, at the direction of the President of the United States, to demonstrate that he was a *true patriot*. Six months later, languishing in a D.C. jail cell, locked down most of the time, he feels deceived, recognizing that he bought into a pack of lies. [The QAnon conspiracy was] being fed to him over the internet by a number of very clever people, who were uniquely equipped with slight, if any, moral or social consciousness.”

RESURRECTION FERN (Friday Church News Notes, June 18, 2021, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The resurrection fern is an air plant that is common in the southeastern part of the United States. Typically it attaches itself to the branches of large trees such as live oaks and draws nutrients from the air and the tree's bark. It gets its name from the fact that God has designed it to survive long periods of drought by appearing nearly dead and then springing to life when the rain comes. In the absence of water, its attractive, bright green leaves wither up and turn brownish. On a visit to the Myakka State Park in central Florida in December 2012, the fern was in its “dead mode.” I took a photo of it in that condition on a particular tree branch, then poured several bottles of water on it. When I returned the next morning, it had

resurrected! This fascinating, and exceedingly complicated plant (imagine what is happening at the cellular level to allow this plant to live, survive, and reproduce), is a reminder that Jesus, the Son of God, rose from the dead the third day after His sacrifice whereby He was punished in the sinner's place to purchase eternal salvation for those who receive Him as Lord and Saviour. The resurrection fern also illustrates the new birth. When an individual is born again by repentance and faith in Jesus Christ, he is given the gift of eternal life. In this present world, the child of God can grow weak spiritually and temporarily backslide, but the life of God cannot be extinguished, and as soon as the soul is watered with the Word of God it will flourish. This is the reality and evidence of salvation. God's world is filled to the brim with testimonies of His power and wisdom for those who have eyes to see. When I travel to beautiful places in various parts of the world, which I have the great privilege to do frequently, I can enjoy the things the unbeliever enjoys, such as the scenery and the facilities, but I have so much more enjoyment on so many different levels because of God's Word and God's enlightenment. I can see and marvel at His handiwork and praise Him for His character, because I know Him personally. I see clearly what is happening today, and I also see the future through Bible prophecy. I understand that this present world is nothing compared to that which is to come. I can meditate upon *that* world and my place in it!

PROTESTORS GATHER AROUND CALGARY PRISON TO SUPPORT JAILED PASTOR
(Friday Church News Notes, June 25,



2021, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from "Protesters Gather," *The Daily Wire*, June 22, 2021: "A group of pastors and protesters gathered around the Calgary Remand Centre in Alberta to support Pastor Tim Stephens, who was jailed earlier this month after a police helicopter found where his congregation was meeting outside. Heavy police presence hovered over the gathering, according to video of the event from *Rebel News*, but the demonstration remained peaceful despite many of the participants expressing disgust toward the Alberta government for how they are treating Stephens and other pastors. Among the participants in the protest was Pastor James Coates of GraceLife Church in Edmonton, who drew international attention earlier this year when he spent more than a month in maximum-security prison for continuing to hold church services in defiance of the Alberta Public Health Act. After he was released, Alberta Health Services (AHS) and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) raided his church in the early morning and barricaded it behind three layers of fence, forcing the congregation to meet in secret. ... 'This country, the whole Western Civilization as we know it, is being systematically altered,' Coates told the crowd. 'And all we're going to do in the mean time is proclaim the Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus

Christ...' Another person who spoke at the event was Pastor Trevor Stephens, who is Tim Stephens' brother and associate pastor of Victory Baptist Church near Edmonton. 'What's happened here is reprehensible,' Stephens said. 'Jailing a pastor for being obedient to God for an injunction that really doesn't apply to him...' Stephens also warned that the way government is overreaching during the COVID-19 pandemic will not stop with the virus."

U.S. SUPREME COURT RULES IN FAVOR OF CATHOLIC ADOPTION AGENCY IN H O M O S E X U A L DISCRIMINATION DISPUTE

(Friday Church News Notes, June 25, 2021, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from "Supreme court rules in favor," *Religion News Service*, June 17, 2021: "A city-funded foster and adoption agency that opposes same-sex marriage on religious grounds can be exempted from serving such couples, the Supreme Court ruled on Thursday (June 17). In a unanimous ruling, the justices once again showed they were receptive to claims by religious groups--in this case Catholic Social Services, which refuses to work with same-sex couples. The agency had contracted with the city of Philadelphia to screen potential foster parents. Beginning in



2018, the city of Philadelphia ended its contract with CSS, claiming that the organization violated a city ordinance banning discrimination. In *Fulton v. Philadelphia*, the court said Philadelphia was wrong to end a contract with the Catholic agency. Catholic Social Services and two foster parents--one named Sharonell Fulton--sued the city, claiming the free exercise clause in the First Amendment gives the agency the right to opt out of the nondiscrimination requirement. A lower court and a federal circuit court ruled in the city's favor, so CSS appealed to the Supreme Court. The opinion, by Chief Justice John Roberts, reversed the circuit court ruling. 'The refusal of Philadelphia to contract with CSS for the provision of foster care services unless CSS agrees to certify same-sex couples as foster parents violates the Free Exercise Clause of the First Amendment,' the opinion states. ... A study published earlier this year found a 35 percentage-point increase in the rate of Supreme Court rulings that favor religion over the past 70 years."

COVID LOCKDOWNS PRODUCED A COSMETIC SURGERY "ZOOM BOOM"

(Friday Church News Notes, June 25, 2021, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The following is excerpted from "The Cosmetic Surgery 'Zoom Boom,' *Refinery29*, June 3, 2021: "For video-chat giant Zoom, lockdown delivered an opportunity--and, within no time, a windfall--which had a curious sort of ripple effect on another industry: plastic surgery. ... Fearing the risk of infection, millions of people traded IRL [in real life] interactions for



screen time--navigating new platforms that forced us to face our reflections, or a slightly skewed version of them, for hours on end. ... We witnessed our faces take shapes we've never seen before--our expressions exposing unfamiliar lines, folds, and asymmetries. ... When elective procedures were eventually greenlit last spring, dermatologists and plastic surgeons were met with an overwhelming demand for their services. ... In Grosse Pointe, Michigan, board-certified dermatologist Fatima Fahs, MD, had many people coming in saying that they'd never spent so much time looking at their own faces--and how traits that never used to bother them have become distractingly apparent. ... And, thus, the 'Zoom boom' was born--this unanticipated rise in cosmetic procedures propelled by the ubiquity of video conferencing. ... Recently various plastic surgery societies have released statistics substantiating the reported boom." The Bible prophesies, "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness,

but denying the power thereof: from such turn away" (2 Timothy 3:1-5).

DEMOCRATS BACK BILL ELIMINATING ALL ABORTION LIMITATIONS

(Friday Church News Notes, June 25, 2021, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The following is excerpted from "Abortion without limitations," *Christian Headlines*, June 9, 2021: "A bill that would overturn hundreds of state abortion restrictions and guarantee the right to abortion 'without limitations' was introduced Tuesday by a coalition of Congressional Democrats, who said it was needed with *Roe v. Wade* under attack. The bill, known as the Women's Health Protection Act, would codify *Roe v. Wade* and legal abortion in federal law--goals that President Biden set during his 2020 campaign. It has 48 co-sponsors in the Senate and 176 co-sponsors in the House of Representatives. All are Democrats. The 224 co-sponsors represent 80 percent of the Democratic coalition, according to *Newsweek*. The bill says its purpose is to 'permit health care providers to provide abortion services without limitations or requirements.' The bill's legislative findings note that nearly 500 abortion restrictions have passed on the local and state level since 2011. ... The bill explicitly says it 'supersedes' all state laws."

EX-BLACK LIVES MATTER LEADER EXPOSES "UGLY TRUTH"

(Friday Church News Notes, June 25, 2021, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The following is excerpted from "Ex-BLM leader," *The Christian Post*, June 1, 2021: "A Black Lives



Matter chapter founder in St. Paul, Minnesota, has shared a video exposing what he calls the political organization's 'ugly truth,' arguing that it shows 'little concern for rebuilding black families' and improving the quality of education for black students. 'I believed the organization stood for exactly what the name implies,' Rashad Turner, who founded the St. Paul BLM chapter in 2015, said in the May 26 video posted by TakeCharge Minnesota. 'Black lives do matter. However, after a year on the inside, I learned they have little concern for rebuilding black families, and they cared even less for improving the quality of education for students in Minneapolis.' ... Turner is now the president and executive director of the school choice advocacy group,

Minnesota Parent Union, which helps parents move their children from failing schools to successful schools. ... Turner said he eventually realized BLM did not care about improving educational opportunities for black children. 'That was made very clear when they publicly denounced the charter schools alongside the teachers' union,' he said. 'I was an insider in Black Lives Matter, and I learned the ugly truth. The moratorium on charter schools does not support rebuilding the black family, but it does create barriers for a better education for black children.'"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wncYj2xfV6A>

CALIFORNIA COUNTY CUTS COVID DEATH TOLL BY 25%

(Friday Church News Notes, June 25, 2021, www.wayoflife.org,

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

- The following is excerpted from "California County Cuts," *Fox News*, June 6, 2021: "A California county cut its COVID-19 [death](#) toll by around 25% after determining that



some deaths were not a 'direct result' of the [virus](#). Alameda County [revised](#) the total number of deaths caused by the coronavirus to 1,223, down from 1,634. County officials decided to revise the numbers to align with the California Department of Public Health's guidance on how to classify deaths. The county previously included deaths of anyone infected with the virus, regardless of whether COVID-19 was a direct or contributing cause of death. Neetu Balram, a spokesperson for Alameda County Public Health, said that some of the deaths 'were clearly not caused by COVID,' [the Los Angeles Times reported](#). 'Obviously our definition was broader than the state's,' Balram said, adding that the department had always planned to conduct an update 'when cases and deaths stabilized.'"

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- Exalting the Lord Jesus Christ; His eternal perfect, and preserved Word; and the Gospel of his Grace. (2 Peter 3:1-2, 18)
- Standing for the whole counsel of God. (Acts 20:27; Jude 3)
- 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.
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