O Timothy

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

A Monthly Newsletter for Spiritual Protection and Edification

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"The only thing that can really help America is for Bible-believing churches to take the eternal Word of God seriously, stop playing games, stop partying, stop focusing on politics, shut down the gym and open up the prayer rooms, stop the feasting and start the fasting, start rebuking and disciplining sin, start building godly homes..." Page 10.

Digging in the Walls: A month's worth of news items, republished from Friday Church News Notes. **Page 11.**

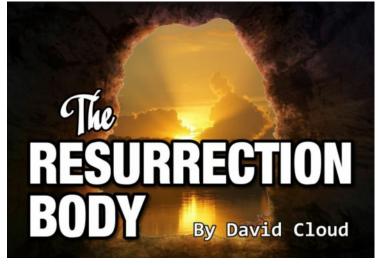


THE RESURRECTION BODY ~ By David Cloud

The bodily resurrection is a doctrine that is unique to the Christian faith. While Islam has an ill-defined doctrine of resurrection, most pagan religions do not believe in it. Hindus, Buddhists, New Agers, Animists, Wiccans, and many others believe in reincarnation or the transmigration of the soul.

1 Corinthians 15 is the clearest teaching in the Bible on the nature of the bodily resurrection and is therefore one of the most amazing and precious chapters in the Scripture. These are things that are impossible to know apart from the Bible. There is no other source in the world for such information.

"But some man will say, How are the dead raised up? and with what body do they come? Thou fool, that which thou sowest is not quickened, except it die: And that which thou sowest, thou sowest not that body that shall be, but bare grain, it may chance of wheat, or of some other grain: But God giveth it a body as it hath pleased him, and to every seed his own body. All flesh is not the same flesh: but there is one kind of flesh of men, another flesh of beasts, another of fishes, and another of birds. There are also celestial bodies, and bodies terrestrial: but the glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another. There is one glory



of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars: for one star differeth from another star in glory. So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption: It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power: It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body. And so it is

written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit. Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual. The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven. As is the earthy, such are they also that are earthy: and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly. And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly. Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption" (1 Co. 15:35-50).

Note that Paul calls the man who doubts the resurrection a "fool" (1 Co. 15:35). It is not wrong to call a man a fool if he is a fool or to say that he is foolish if he is, so long as one is not speaking in a hurtful way with the goal of cursing someone or wishing harm to them.

Speaking the truth in love is not wrong even when the truth is harsh. God calls the rich man in Luke 12:20 a fool. Jesus called the Pharisees fools (Mt. 23:17). Twice the Bible says the atheist is a fool (Ps. 14:1; 53:1). The book of Proverbs describes the characteristics of the fool (e.g., Prov. 10:18, 23; 11:29; 12:15-16; 13:16; 14:16; 15:5; 17:10; 18:6-7; 20:3; 26:11; 28:26).

When Jesus warned against calling someone "thou fool" in Matthew 5:22, He was referring to speaking in anger and wishing harm on someone. It is wrong to curse someone as a fool; but it not wrong to say that a person is foolish if indeed he is; and nothing is more foolish than denying the gospel of Jesus Christ!

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Bethel Baptist Church 4212 Campbell St. N. London, Ontario, N6P 1A6 Canada 519-652-2619 It is not wrong to ask questions about divine things, but it is wrong to ask in a doubting manner. It is reasonable to want to know how God will raise up the body after it disintegrates and returns to dust. Many bodies have been burned to ashes or devoured by wild beasts, and every dead body eventually disintegrates. To ask how the elements of the body will be recollected and reorganized is not an unreasonable question.

And it is not unreasonable to wonder about the nature of the resurrection body, whether the person will look like he did before he died and other such things.

But the man that Paul rebukes as a fool was not asking questions in order to know the truth about the resurrection; he was asking questions in order to cast doubt on the truth of God's Word. This is a "foolish and unlearned question" that Paul warned about (2 Ti. 2:23). It is not a question asked sincerely but insincerely in order to cause strife and doubt and confusion. Asking foolish questions is a tactic of false teachers.

THE NATURE OF THE RESURRECTION BODY

1. The resurrection body is related to the mortal body as wheat is to grain; the mortal body is the seed for the resurrection body (1 Co. 15:36-38).

Paul uses an example from the natural order of things to show the foolishness of the argument against bodily resurrection. God has given men the ability to reason from the physical to the spiritual and are accountable to God if they do not exercise this reason properly. We see the same thing in Romans 1:19-20. There is no excuse for not understanding from creation that there is an almighty Creator.

The destruction of the seed proves that the decaying of the dead body is no obstacle to resurrection (1 Co. 15:36). See also Joh. 12:24. "The objection was, that the body died, and returned to dust, and could not, therefore, rise again. The reply of Paul is, 'You may make the same objection to grain that is sown. That dies also. The main body of the kernel decays. In itself there is no prospect that it will spring up.' Should it stop here, and had you never seen a grain of wheat grow--had you only seen it in the earth, as you have seen the body in the grave--there would be the same difficulty as to HOW it would produce other grains, which there is about the resurrection of the body" (Barnes).

As the seed is different from the plant that springs from it, so the resurrection body is different from the mortal body (1 Co. 15:37). The resurrection body will be very different from the natural body while retaining some basic similarities, just as the plant does not look like the seed from which it springs. "It is implied here, that the body which will be raised will not be the same in the sense that the same particles of matter shall compose it, but the same only in the sense that it will have

sprung up from that; will constitute the same order, rank, species of being ... as the grain produced is subject to the same laws, and belongs to the same rank, order, and species as that which is sown" (Barnes).

In the seed we see the same power and wisdom of God that operates in the resurrection (1 Co. 15:38). The God who is able to make a mighty oak tree spring from a tiny acorn is well able to do anything He pleases, and the bodily resurrection is not impossible when considered in this light. "The apostle replies by telling them this was to be brought about by divine power, that very power which they had all observed to do something very like it, year after year, in the death and revival of the corn; and therefore it was an argument of great weakness and stupidity to doubt whether the resurrection of the dead might not be effected by the same power" (Matthew Henry).

This picture of the natural body being the seed of the resurrection body that is "sown" (1 Co. 15:42-44) supports the practice of burial as opposed to cremation. The farmer does not burn the seed; he plants it. Burying the body of a deceased believer is a testimony of our faith in the resurrection. The Hindu, on the other hand, burns the body because he has no such faith. If a body is burned, that is no hindrance to the resurrection, but it is not a proper biblical practice.

God gives bodies ("But God giveth it a body as it hath pleased him," 1 Co. 15:38). Only God can make a living body, whether vegetable or animal or human. All are miraculous. All are exceedingly complicated beyond man's ability even to understand. The existence of living bodies that are produced by living seed is irrefutable evidence for an almighty Creator for those who are not willfully blind.

This passage is a reminder of the truth of Genesis 1, which says that the herbs and trees reproduce after their kind (Ge. 1:11-12). This is an evidence for divine creation and is contrary to what we would expect if evolution were true.

2. The resurrection bodies will differ one from another (1 Co. 15:39-41).

God is a God of variety. Every individual has a different appearance and personality in this world, and the same will be true in the resurrection. We will know one another by our appearance, just as the disciples recognized Moses and Elijah on the Mount of Transfiguration (Mt. 17:3).

The same God who made all of the different bodies in this universe, both terrestrial (of this earth) and celestial (above the earth), is the God who will create the resurrection body. One is not more difficult than the other. As there is a great difference between the earth and the sun in glory, there is a great difference between the mortal and the resurrection bodies (1 Co. 15:41).

This passage implies that the resurrection bodies will differ one from another in glory (1 Co. 15:41). Modern science has proven that the stars differ from one another in glory. Hebrews 11:35 says there is the possibility of obtaining a "better resurrection." This does not refer to salvation itself but to rewards in eternity. In 1 Ti. 6:17-19 we learn that the believer can lay up in store a good foundation against the time to come by doing good and communicating in this present life. This is what Jesus was talking about in Mt. 6:19-21, when He taught about laying up treasures in heaven by giving. In the Parable of the Talents, the Lord Jesus taught that believers that serve God faithfully will receive greater rewards (Mt. 25:14-23). "We are all saved by the same grace and through that same grace we will be raised and changed at the coming of the Lord. But we will not all be rewarded in the same way, for reward is for faithful service, and I am afraid many of us are going to lose a great deal at the judgment seat of Christ because we have not been more true and real in all our ways down here. The day is soon coming when you and I would give worlds, if we possessed them, if we had only let God have His way absolutely in our lives. ... There is not one soul with Christ today who looks back on his earthly life and says, 'I wish I had not been quite so out-and-out for God; I wish I had been less self-denying; I wish I had been more concerned about my own comforts.' But I fancy there are many who say, 'If I had my life to live over again, no matter what suffering, what renderings of the heart-strings it might mean, I would never hesitate a moment to let God have His will in everything in my life.' It is not a question of whether or not we get to heaven. All who are saved by grace will be there, but there will be a difference in our rewards" (Harry Ironside).

3. The resurrection body is incorruptible (1 Co. 15:42).

This means that the resurrection body is incapable of any type of corruption, deterioration, injury, pain, sickness, disease, infirmity, aging. All of that will be gone. Incorruption means there will be no indwelling sin. The "old man" will be gone, hallelujah! There will be no evil thoughts, no fleshly or satanic temptations.

The incorruption will mean perfect joy, unblemished by even a hint of sorrow. Everlasting joy will be upon their heads. "they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away" (Isa. 35:10). Their mouths will be filled with laughter and their tongues with singing (Ps. 126:2). "There will be great joy, and that joy will be perpetual and unfading. … this joy is not short-lived and fading, like the garland of flowers on the head; it is constant, increasing, everlasting" (*Believer's Bible Commentary*).

4. The resurrection body is a glorious body (1 Co. 15:43).

"Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body" (Php. 3:21). The term "*glory*" refers to the splendor and majesty of Christ's kingdom (Mt. 19:28; 25:31;

Col. 3:4). We read of "Solomon in all his glory" (Mt. 6:29). His kingdom was incredibly wealthy and beautiful (1 Ki. 10), but it was only a little foretaste of Christ's glory. The resurrection glory was prefigured by the transfiguration of Christ. Luke says, "... the fashion of his countenance was altered, and his raiment was white and glistering ... in glory" (Lu. 9:29-31), and Matthew says, "his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light" (Mt. 17:2). The resurrection body is described as shining as the brightness of the firmament (Da. 12:3). See also Mt. 17:2.

"Glory" is honor, the opposite of "dishonor" ("it is sown in dishonour, it is raised in glory"). A beautiful, shining person demands much honor! See Jas. 2:2-3; Mt. 28:3; Lu. 24:4; Ac. 10:30. Even in this world, spectacularly beautiful people are given great honor, and the glorious body will be far, far more beautiful and spectacular than anything we have ever seen in this world! Every glorified saint will be altogether beautiful! There will be no "common" saints, though apparently they will not be equal in glory. "There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars: for one star differeth from another star in glory. So also is the resurrection of the dead" (1 Co. 15:41-42). The resurrection body "shall be adapted to a world of glory; and everything which here rendered it vile, valueless, cumbersome, offensive, or degraded, shall be there removed" (Barnes). The natural body is dishonorable in imperfection, weakness, sickness, corruption, and death. The resurrection body is a body of magnificent honor, honorable in shining beauty and fantastic ability.

The resurrection to glory is described in Romans 8:18-23 in terms of liberation. Here the believer's present condition is contrasted sharply with his future condition in glory. The present condition is described as subject to vanity, the bondage of corruption, groaning and travailing. That about sums up life in the natural body in this fallen world! Resurrection is called "the manifestation of the sons of God" (v. 19). Every born again believer is an adopted son of God. Christ is the firstborn of many brethren (Ro. 8:29). It does not yet appear what the sons of God will be, but they will be manifested in the resurrection. This is described as being "delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God" (v. 21). Resurrection will be liberation! The bondage and restraints of this present life will be gone. The poor creepy-crawly caterpillar will be liberated as a glorious butterfly! In this present life I am constrained by severely limited intelligence, limited skill, limited memory, limited strength, limited health, limited time (there's never enough time to do anything to the fullest), limited in space (bound to this planet, restrained by physical objects), limited capacity to enjoy life, limited joy, constrained by the necessity of eating and sleeping and attending to a myriad of mundane, repetitive chores. In the resurrection, I will be liberated to vastly increased intelligence, skill, memory, strength, time, space,

joy, and the capacity to enjoy life. I will be liberated from being subject to the vanities of this life, from being a slave to tedious chores. I will be liberated to perfect health and immortality. Consider joy. Instead of a small temporal joy intermingled with sorrow, there will be continual joy, joy unspeakable and full of glory, joy without admixture of any sorrow whatsoever (Isa. 35:10). Consider intelligence and skill. Adam doubtless was a genius in intelligence, perfect in memory, brilliant in understanding, highly skilled. He named all of the animals and didn't have to ask Eve to help him remember what he had named them! The second man in the resurrection body will far exceed Adam. In the resurrection, genius will not be limited to a few as it is in this world. I suspect that in the resurrection, every saint will have the musical genius of David and Handel and the broad intelligence of Solomon, who spoke 3,000 proverbs, whose songs were 1,005, who had knowledge of trees and beasts and fowl and creeping things and fish (1 Ki. 4:30-33). The resurrection saint's strength will far exceed that of Samson. In the resurrection, they will literally and truly "mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint" (Isa. 40:31). The resurrected saint will not be omnipotent and omniscient as God is, but he will be magnificently expanded in every realm of ability. As for space, Christ walked through walls, appeared at various places, and ascended up through the atmosphere of this world to heavenly realms. As for time, there will be no more time constraint. We will dwell in eternity. This is described in Scripture as endless aions or ages. "Forever" is eis tous aionas (Mt. 6:13), literally "into the ages." "For ever and ever" (Re. 22:5) is eis tous aionas ton aionon, literally "to the ages of the ages." It describes endless aions of God's eternal purposes and activities, with Christ as King over them and His people enjoying God and delighting in paradise. An age of a million years will be but a moment, less than a moment. Liberation!

The glory of the resurrection body is **illustrated by the butterfly's metamorphosis**, which is a four-stage process (egg, larva, pupa, butterfly).

It begins life as a tiny, brilliantly-designed **EGG** that the female butterfly attaches to the exact type of vegetation needed by the caterpillar when it hatches.

The creature emerges from the egg as a larva or **CATERPILLAR**. It is an eating machine that increases its weight 3,000 times in 20 days, doubling in size about every 12 hours. The caterpillar has three pairs of "true legs" and up to six pairs of "prolegs." The prolegs have rings of tiny hooks called crochets that help them grip the leaves and stems of plants. The creature's brain and nervous system control the extremely complex coordinated movement of its legs.

When it has grown to the right size, the caterpillar locates a suitable place on a milkweed leaf (in the case of a monarch).

It spins a silk pad, from which it hangs by its prolegs to form a **PUPA OR CHRYSALIS**. The caterpillar attaches itself firmly to the silk pad by means of a cremaster that has microscopic hooks. After a few hours the pupal skin hardens. The creature's body and organs dissolve into a cellular liquid referred to as "**SOUP**."

This "soup" reorganizes itself into a gorgeous butterfly! The caterpillar has 16 short legs, a chewing mouth, six simple eyes that see only in black and white, eats leaves, and it crawls. The butterfly has six long articulated legs, a sucking mouth, antennae, a proboscis, four wings, reproductive organs, two complicated compound eyes that can see in color, drinks nectar, and it can fly!

The resurrection body is a more magnificent transformation even than that of the amazing butterfly!

(For a multimedia study of metamorphosis, see <u>An Unshakable</u> <u>Faith: An Apologetics Course</u>, PowerPoint # 16 - "Icons of Creation," available from <u>Way of Life Literature</u>.)

5. The resurrection body is a powerful body (1 Co. 15:43).

"Power" is the Greek dunamis, from which the English dynamite comes. It refers to ability, strength, capacity, capability. It is also translated "mighty," referring to Christ's mighty works (Mt. 11:21, 23) and "strength" (Re. 1:16). Like Jesus, in the resurrection the redeemed will be above the angels (Heb. 2:6-9), and angels are exceedingly powerful. Angels are called "mighty" (2 Th. 1:7). One angel destroyed the entire Assyrian army (2 Ki. 19:35). One angel will bind Satan and cast him into the bottomless pit (Re. 20:1-3). Angels can ascend in fire (Jg. 13:20), unlock the most secure prisons (Ac. 12:5-10), and control natural forces (Re. 7:1). They can travel from heaven to earth (Lu. 2:13-15). In the resurrection, all things will be put under our feet as joint-heirs of Christ. We will not be subject to the limitations of the earthly body. There will be no weakness, fatigue, hindrances, lacks. "But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint" (Isa. 40:31). There will be greatly increased capacity and ability. The believer will never be God, never have infinite knowledge, etc., but he will be great. Even the earthly body is amazing. Man was made in God's image. Adam would have been a genius mentally and capable of great feats physically. A remnant of this remains after the fall. It is witnessed in men and women of genius in all areas of endeavor. Some men still have perfect memories. There are strong men to run races and do physical exploits. Samson removed an entire city gate weighing between five and ten tons and carried it to Hebron, which was 36 miles away and 3,200 feet higher in altitude (Jg. 16:3), but the glorified saint will make Samson seem like a poor weakling! Eric Liddell, the Scottish Olympic runner who became a missionary

to China, testified of the joy of running. He believed that God was pleased with it and was running with him, and doubtless He was, because God made man in all of his capabilities. In the resurrection, all of God's people will run like Eric Liddell, only faster and much more joyfully and with no weariness whatsoever! "... they shall run, and not be weary" (Isa. 40:31).

The greatest feats done in the natural body--the greatest achievements of musicians, athletes, mountain climbers, chess champions, inventors, engineers--will probably be child's play compared to the capabilities of the resurrection saint. The resurrected saint will probably be a glorified genius at everything! "The future body will abound with energy, endowed perhaps with faculties of which we now have no conception" (Charles Hodge). "When we receive our resurrection bodies we shall be able to use all the vast, unsuspected resources, as yet untapped, which God built into the human brain when He fashioned it, with omniscient genius, from the dust of the earth. Who can tell what limits there will be to our achievements throughout the endless ages of eternity" (John Phillips).

I suspect that the glorified saint will be able to play a thousand instruments, sing like an angel, ride a glorified horse with the wind, ponder the deep things of God with phenomenal capacity, travel from heaven to earth. He will learn and learn and learn and never forget! He will be able to quote and discuss everything he has ever learned in perfect detail.

There will be a perfect capacity to enjoy and use God's creation to the fullest. The glorified saint will enjoy everything in complete delight and in perfect fellowship with the Lord and in loving association with all the saints. "Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore" (Ps. 16:11). Even in this fallen world, there are countless things to enjoy and appreciate and study--the ocean, the sky, the animals, the plants, food, colors, smells, sounds--but our enjoyment is deeply tainted with our fallenness and by the corruption of the creation itself. In the resurrection, we will be able to enjoy, contemplate, study, use the creation of God to perfection. The senses will doubtless be enlarged to a great degree beyond anything that we understand in this present body. There is no telling what God will create in the coming aions upon aions, but in God's infinite foreknowledge the resurrection body is designed for eternity in the new heaven and the new earth. We do not know what God will create in the aions, but the resurrection body will be capable of using and enjoying it.

Note that death is described in terms of "dishonor." There is no "dignity in death" as the euthanasia movement believes. Death is the wages of sin; it is the curse of the law. Death cannot be escaped by suicide, because death is eternal. The first death takes the individual out of this world, but the second death carries him into the lake of fire for eternal judgment (Re.

20:11-15). The only dignity in death and the only escape from eternal death is salvation through faith in Jesus Christ.

6. The resurrection body is a spiritual body (1 Co. 15:44-46).

It is not a spiritual body in the sense that it is non-material. It is a spiritual body in the sense that it is not a natural body, but it is still a real body (Lu. 24:36-43).

The resurrection body is a spiritual body in that it is not a body of flesh and blood (Heb. 2:14), but it is a body of flesh and bones (Lu. 24:39). The life of the resurrection body is in the spirit and not the blood (1 Co. 15:50; Le. 17:11). Christ is not a spirit in the sense that He has no body, but in the sense that He has a spiritual body ("The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit," 1 Co. 15:45).

It is a spiritual body in that the old fleshly nature will be gone. The resurrection body is a body designed for the redeemed to live in perfect holiness and righteousness in God's righteous kingdom into the ages of ages. "Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father" (Mt. 13:43). There will be nothing to hinder holiness and joy. No longer will there be a battle between the flesh and the spirit (Ga. 5:16-17), between the "old man" and the "new man" (Eph. 4:22-24). The "old man" will be gone! The flesh in which "dwelleth no good thing" and which is "present with me" and hinders me from performing that which is good (Ro. 7:18), will be gone forever. There will be no internal enemy to tempt me and resist my spiritual life. I will be holy as God is holy (1 Pe. 1:16). I will bear the image of Christ (Ro. 8:29; 1 Jo. 3:2). I will see Him face to face (1 Co. 13:12) and not as in a mirror (2 Co. 3:18). I will bear the fruit of the Spirit in perfection, "love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance" (Ga. 5:22-23). I will walk in perfect charity (1 Co. 13:4-7). The resurrection body is a body designed for the royal priesthood (1 Pe. 2:9) to live out the "royal law" of God's love (Jas. 2:8).

It is a spiritual body in that the life of the resurrection body will not depend upon the natural functions of the mortal body nor will it be limited by them, such as eating, sleeping, resting, performing toiletries, and exercising. The resurrected believer can eat and enjoy food (Lu. 24:42), but apparently he will not be dependent on this. It is not a soulish body, meaning it is not subject to bodily appetites (sleep, food), not subject to physical weariness, not controlled by emotions. It is the soul that hungers (Pr. 27:7). It is the soul that is sad and in turmoil (Ps. 119:25, 28; 42:5, 11). It is the soul that is cast down (Ps. 42:5, 6, 11). It is the soul that is weary (Job 10:1; Jer. 31:25). In this present body, a large portion of life is spent in meeting the needs of the soulish body, cleaning it, feeding it, giving it rest, exercising it, attending to its sicknesses, dealing with its depressions, bearing its infirmities. Of the present body, Christ said, "the spirit indeed is willing but the flesh is weak" (Mt. 26:41), but this will no longer be true of the spiritual body. There will be nothing to limit the operation of the spirit. There will be no need of rest, sleep, food, bathing. Imagine not having to sleep!

It is a spiritual body in that it is a body made to be controlled by the spirit and not limited by or hampered by the soul ("it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power," 1 Co. 15:45). "A natural body is a body of which the physical life is the animating principle; and a spiritual body is a body adapted to the rational, immortal principle of our nature" (Charles Hodge). "Not a spirit-phantom, but a spiritual body in its adaptation to the spirit. As we have now a natural body which is suited for an earth-life, so the believer shall have a body suited for a glory-life. We shall be like Him to be with Him in eternal glory and in these wonderful bodies we shall rule and reign with Him" (Annotated Bible). "Our present, fledgling attempts to 'walk in the Spirit' (Ro. 8:9) will become an uninterrupted way of life. We, too, shall be taken up into the life of the Spirit. Our nature, person, and personality, our intellect, emotions, and will, our physical frame and vital senses will be under the control of the Spirit of God. The life-giving Holy Spirit already inhabits the believer's spirit. The full potential of all this, however, awaits the day when we receive our resurrection bodies" (John Phillips). Harry Ironside makes this observation: "In the natural body I am not all spirit; I am also soul (1 Th. 5:23). The soul is the seat of my emotional nature, the seat of all my natural instincts; as a man, it is my human self; but the spirit is the highest part of my nature to which God can make Himself known. 'The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God' (Ro. 8:16). As a Christian I ought to be constantly under the control of the spirit, I ought to live according to the highest part of my nature; but every little while I find that instead of being controlled by the spirit part of me I am controlled by my soul, and I am more or less a creature of emotions. I am easily influenced this way or that emotionally, and often to my detriment and to that of others. And this is called here 'the natural body.' The word translated 'natural' is simply the Greek adjective from the word 'soul,' that is, a soulish body. This body is the suited vehicle for the expression of the emotions of my soul. The spirit is often willing to do certain things but the flesh is weak. The body being a soulish body is a hindrance to the spirit. But in the resurrection I shall have a body that is spiritual, that is, a body suited to and dominated by the spirit. There will be nothing then to hinder the full expression of the spirit, and I shall be absolutely subject to God who is a Spirit" (Harry Ironside). "[O]ur present bodies are imperfect mediums through which the regenerated Spiritfilled inner life of the believer seeks unsuccessfully to express itself in the fullest measure. The Greek word 'vile' in Php. 3:21 speaks of the unfitness of our present bodies to fulfil the claims of the spiritual life" (Kenneth Wuest).

It is a spiritual body in that it is not limited by physical time and space. The resurrected Christ can walk through walls and

appear and disappear at will (Joh. 20:19, 26; Lu. 24:30-31). He can appear in a different form (Mr. 16:12). Apparently the believer's spiritual body will share these attributes, because "when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is" (1 Jo. 3:2).

"And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit" (1 Co. 15:45). The first Adam was made a living soul when God breathed into him (Ge. 2:7). The last Adam, Christ, is a quickening spirit. He has the power to give life. See Joh. 5:21, "For as the Father raiseth up the dead, and quickeneth them; even so the Son quickeneth whom he will." Christ is the resurrection and the life (Joh. 11:25). Christ is called the "last Adam" because He is the last Adam. There are only two Adams, the first one who sinned and fell, and the last one who is God manifest in the flesh. Christ is called the "second man" (1 Co. 15:47) because He is not the last man. He is the firstborn among many brethren (Ro. 8:29).

7. The resurrection body is a heavenly body (1 Co. 15:47-49).

The resurrection body is designed to dwell in the heavens and not merely on earth. It is capable of dwelling on earth, as we see in the fact that Jesus dwelt on earth for many days after His resurrection, but it is not limited to earth and is not designed strictly for earth-dwelling. Php. 3:20 says, "our conversation is in heaven." We are already seated in heavenly places in Christ positionally (Eph. 2:6) but we don't yet have a heavenly body. Christ could ascend up to heaven in His resurrection body. "And he led them out as far as to Bethany, and he lifted up his hands, and blessed them. And it came to pass, while he blessed them, he was parted from them, and carried up into heaven" (Lu. 24:50-51).

The resurrection body is made of heavenly elements, not earthly. The natural body is literally made up of the elements of this world. It is "earthy" (1 Co. 15:47). The name "Adam" means "red earth" and refers to the fact that the first man was fashioned out of the dust of the ground (Ge. 2:7). The resurrection body is a heavenly body which is fashioned out of different elements. In 2 Corinthians 5 Paul describes the resurrection body as "an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens" and "our house which is from heaven" (2 Co. 5:1, 2).

The New Testament believer will operate both in heaven and in earth during the Millennial Kingdom. Christ said the overcomers in the churches will rule with him with a rod of iron (Re. 2:26-27). That refers to the Millennial Kingdom (Ps. 2:9; Re. 19:15). At the same time, we are heavenly people who are already seated in the heavenlies (Eph. 2:6) and who have a home in heaven (Joh. 14:1-3).

Jesus Christ is "the second man" (1 Co. 15:47). This means He is "the second who sustained a relation to men that was materially to affect their conduct and destiny; the second and the last who

should sustain a peculiar headship to the race" (Barnes). All men are in Adam by natural birth and are condemned because of sin; those that believe the gospel and experience the new birth are in Christ and have all blessings by the gift of grace (Ro. 5:12-21). Jesus is a man as fully as He is God, and contrary to what some false teachers have taught, He is a man throughout eternity. After His resurrection He remains "the man Christ Jesus" (1 Ti. 2:5). "He is the second man for two reasons: (1) He is the second man because man in sin is not man as God intended man to be; so God calls Adam the first man, and Christ the second man. (2) He is the second man because He is not the last man. He is the 'last Adam' (1 Co. 15:45) but not the last man. God intends to populate heaven with a race of men and women just like Jesus. The Son of God became the Son of man so that the sons of men might become the sons of God. Man was made in the image and likeness of God; Jesus came in the image and likeness of men. Now we can be made anew in the image and likeness of Him: ;We shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is' (1 Jo. 3:2). Luke specialized in keeping before us the wondrous sinless humanity of Him who 'was made in the likeness of men'" (John Phillips).

Jesus Christ is the "Lord from heaven" (1 Co. 15:47). This denotes His deity and the fact that He originated from heaven and not from earth. He was not conceived in a natural fashion but was virgin born. His beginning was not in Mary's womb; He is the eternal Son of God. Even when He was on earth, He was in heaven (Joh. 3:13). (The corrupt Egyptian Greek text on which the modern Bible versions are based omit "the Lord" in 1 Co. 15:47, but these words are in the majority of extant Greek manuscripts and they went to the ends of the earth in the Reformation Bibles based on the Received Text, and we have no doubt that they were penned by Paul.)

8. The resurrection body is an immortal body (1 Co. 15:53).

The resurrection body cannot die. Death will not be possible. We will be like Christ. "Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him" (Ro. 6:9). In the days before the Flood, men lived to great ages. Adam lived 930 years, and Methuselah lived 969 (Ge. 5:5, 27). A millennium seems like a long life, but in light of eternity it is but a moment. The born again believer possesses eternal life as God's gift in Christ, but the natural body is not made for eternity. For that, God will give the immortal resurrection body.

It is nearly impossible to imagine living in an immortal body, with death forever past, with no possibility of dying. In this present body, we live in constant remembrance of death. We are always apprehensive about death. We live in a world of death. We know about the multitudes of ways man can die. We have seen loved ones and friends die. And we know that death awaits us at some appointed time.

Excerpted from the <u>Way of Life Commentary Series</u>, The <u>Corinthian Epistles</u>, <u>www.wayoflife.org</u>



hat can God's people do in this present world, in the midst of lawlessness and apostasy? God has told us exactly what to do.

Don't be surprised

God's Word prophesies the condition of the world and of professing Christianity, and this is exactly what we see in our day.

"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).

Make sure you are saved

The Bible warns that Christianity in the last days will be a powerless one. "Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away" (2 Timothy 3:5).

It is imperative to make sure that you are really born again and ready to meet Christ.

Be ready for the Shout

"For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive *and* remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words" (1 Thessalonians 4:15-18).

"The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light" (Romans 13:12).

"Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord *is* at hand" (Php. 4:5).

"Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh. Grudge not one against another, brethren, lest ye be condemned: behold, the judge standeth before the door" (James 5:8-9)

"But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer" (1 Pe. 4:7).

"And he saith unto me, Seal not the sayings of the prophecy of this book: for the time is at hand" (Revelation 22:10).

Focus on your heavenly citizenship

"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).

Build real New Testament churches

"But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth" (1 Timothy 3:15).

"Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added *unto them* about three thousand souls. And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers" (Acts 2:41-42).

Fulfill Christ's Great Commission

"And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am

with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen" (Matthew 28:18-20).

Pray

"I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth" (1 Timothy 2:1-4).

"Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints" (Ephesians 6:18).

Be law-keepers and supporters of law-enforcers

"Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of

God. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation. For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same: For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil. Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake. For for this cause pay ye tribute also: for they are God's ministers, attending continually upon this very thing. Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour" (Romans 13:1-7).

"But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer."

1 Peter 4:7

THE INSECT WITH TWO BRAINS (Friday News Notes, August 27, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is from Creation Moments.com, Aug. 5, 2021: "We have all looked in wonder at the amazing transformation of a caterpillar into a moth. However, did you realize that a moth needs an entirely different kind of brain than a caterpillar? We can truly say that here we have an insect with two brains! In the caterpillar stage, the moth lumbers around in a body that is primarily designed for eating. Its brain must be able to command powerful jaws and a comparatively huge digestive system as well as the complexities of caterpillar locomotion. The world of the caterpillar is very different from the world of the moth. During metamorphosis the caterpillar completely dissolves and the moth is rebuilt from the liquid. The brain, for example, requires new nerve cells and new connections between brain cells, while some brain cells change function, migrate to new locations, or even die. The result is a brain that is 10 times the size of the caterpillar's and ready to control flight. The moth's primary purpose in life is to reproduce. So its new brain is able to generate the odors used by moths to identify and communicate with potential mates. It is also equipped to detect the



scents of a potential mate. Only our almighty Creator could completely rebuild a caterpillar into a moth. Only He could rebuild and increase its brain ten-fold in only a week or two. Even more amazing is how He remakes people. Through the forgiveness of sins, Jesus Christ turns us from people who wish to escape Him to new creatures who love Him and find joy in Him. Author: Paul A. Bartz. Ref: Miller, Julie Ann. 1983. 'A brain for all seasons,' *Science News*, v. 123, Apr. 23. p. 268."



The root of America's problem is not politics or economics, it is sin. "Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin *is* a reproach to any people" (Proverbs 14:34).

Racism isn't the problem. The Bible is color blind. According to the Bible, all men are children of Adam. There is only one race, and that is the human race. Skin colors are simple variations in genetic pigmentation (melanin). Skin color is skin color, but only the heart has moral and spiritual significance, and man's heart is universally corrupt. "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?" (Jeremiah 17:9). That is the white man's heart, the black man's heart, the brown man's heart, et al. The Bible doesn't specify a sin called "racism." It describes, rather, idolatry, hate, pride, envy, covetousness, theft, kidnapping, murder, malignity, boasting, disobedience to parents, blasphemy, fornication, lying, false witness, and other such things. Jesus said that these come from man's heart and defile him (Matthew 15:18). All colors of men are made by God, all live and move and have their being in God, and all are accountable to God.

The only thing that can change hearts is the gospel of Jesus Christ, and this is the business of the New Testament church, which is the only institution on earth that is called "the pillar and ground of the truth" (1 Timothy 3:15).

The thing that made America strong once upon a time was New Testament churches, and the only thing that can help America today at the most fundamental level is strong New Testament churches.

Yet even the churches that consider themselves to be staunch Bible-believing "fundamentalist," "Baptist," etc., are as weak as water, for the most part. They are party churches, not prayer churches. They are entertaining the saints, not discipling them, coddling them, not reproving

them. They are so eager for members and pew sitters and tithers that they care almost nothing for maintaining a regenerate membership, though that is the first mark of a true New Testament church (Acts 2:41-42). A true New Testament church is a spiritual house made of living stones, and a living stone is divine miracle (1 Peter 2:5)! The fathers aren't the spiritual leaders of the homes. The mothers aren't the keepers of the home. The children aren't properly disciplined. The families are worldly. The youth are worldly. Even the elderly are worldly. The members aren't true pilgrims; they are settled down in the world, flowing along comfortably with the world. Just look at their social media. The pastors are so backslidden and cowardly that they accept this as the status quo, yet still consider their churches to be true churches. If Christ would remove a church's candlestick for recently leaving its first love (Revelation 2:4-5), what does he think of churches that left their first love decades ago?

The only thing that can really help America is for Bible-believing churches to take the eternal Word of God seriously, stop playing games, stop partying, stop focusing on politics, **shut down the gym and open up the prayer rooms**, stop the feasting and start the fasting, start rebuking and disciplining sin, start building godly homes, start requiring *serious* Christianity of anyone who serves in *any* ministry, get serious about the requirements of church membership, get really zealous about getting the gospel to every soul as far afield as possible, training leaders, starting new churches, emphasizing the imminent return of Christ, preaching the judgment seat of Christ, caring more about God's feelings than man's, fearing God more than man.

I'm very glad that I know of churches that are doing exactly this, and they are prospering, but they are in the very extreme minority.

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?



IS "THOUGHT WIKIPEDIA POLICE" FOR LIBERALS, CO-FOUNDER WARNS (Friday Church 23, News Notes, July 2021. www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from "Wikipedia has become," Just the News, July 5, 2021: "Larry Sanger, the co-founder of Wikipedia, is warning that the online encyclopedia has become too one-sided and overloaded with liberal sources in a way that harms democracy. 'In short, and with few exceptions, only globalist, progressive mainstream sources--and sources friendly globalist progressivism--are permitted,' Sanger wrote on his website in an article last week headlined 'Wikipedia is more one-sided than ever.' 'It is not too far to say that Wikipedia, many other deeply biased institutions of our brave new digital world, has made itself into a kind of thought police that has de facto shackled conservative viewpoints with which they disagree,' he added. 'Democracy cannot thrive under such conditions: I maintain that Wikipedia has become an opponent of vigorous democracy.' Sanger cited as examples the entries for Black Lives Matter, the 2020 election, former President Donald Trump's impeachments, and other politically divisive topics. He also lamented that conservative sites like Fox News, the New **York** Post, and the **Federalist** are banned as official sources. 'Those might be contrarian or conservative, but they are hardly radical; they are still mainstream,' he wrote. 'So, how on earth can such viewpoints ever be given an airing on Wikipedia? Answer: often, they cannot, not if there are no reliable sources available to report about them."

TRUMP FORMER **ADVISOR** LAUNCHES NEW SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORM GETTR (Friday Church Notes, July 23, 2021, News www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) -The following is excerpted from Fox News, July 2, 2021: "Former Trump senior adviser Jason Miller is launching a new social media platform on July 4 to declare 'independence' from Big Tech, billing it as a 'cancel-free zone' focused on free speech, with 'superior technology' that he says will 'be the envy' of Silicon Valley. The platform is called 'GETTR,' which Miller, the CEO of the company, told Fox News evolved from the idea of 'getting together.' ... 'We think it will ultimately be a global platform--not just conservatives in the U.S.' He added: 'We want people from all political stripes to join the platform.' ... 'This ties in with Independence Day,' Miller said. 'Independent from social media monopolies, independent from cancel culture; embracing free speech--our launch on Sunday is very much intentional.' ... 'We believe there needs to be a new social media platform that really defends free speech, and one that doesn't de-platform for political beliefs,' he continued. 'This is a challenge to social media monopolies.' ... GETTR allows users to post longer messages with up to 777 characters. Miller said GETTR will also allow users to post 'clearer pictures,' post videos that are up to three minutes long, and have the ability to edit the videos within the app. Miller told *Fox News* that upon signing up for GETTR, users will have the option to 'import their existing tweets into this new platform.' ... Miller also told Fox News that GETTR will



have a live-streaming option, as well as an option for users to donate to political candidates. ... Miller told *Fox News* that Trump is not funding the platform in any way. ... Trump was banned from Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, and Snapchat following the Jan. 6 Capitol riot."

AMERICA'S LARGEST TEACHERS UNION VOWS TO TEACH CRITICAL RACE THEORY IN ALL 50 STATES (Friday Church Notes. July 23, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) -The following is excerpted from "Nation's Largest Teachers Union," The Daily Wire, July 5, 2021: "The nation's largest teacher's union pledged to teach critical race theory--the ideology that claims America is irredeemably rooted in racism--in all 50 states and across the more than 14,000 school districts the union works with. ... In what the NEA claims to be the inclusion of 'accurate and honest teaching,' it vowed to 'oppose attempts to ban critical race theory' and the New York Times' '1619 Project,' which has been scrutinized by historians as ahistorical. Several states across the country are fighting back against critical race theory by banning educators from teaching it as fact in public school classrooms. Idaho was the first state to pass laws banning critical race theory, and other states such as Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Florida, and Iowa passed similar legislation. Despite the bans, thousands of teachers nationwide have pledged to continue teaching critical race theory." **CONCLUDING COMMENT**: The teacher's union quickly removed its pledge to teach critical race theory from their web site after the issue became national news, but this does not indicate



a change of heart, just cowardly deception.

BEN CARSON SAYS CRITICAL RACE THEORY IS "A BUNCH OF GARBAGE" (Friday Church News July Notes. 23, 2021. www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) -The following is excerpted from "Critical Race Theory," ChristianHeadlines.com, July 6, 2021: "Neurosurgeon and former HUD Secretary Ben Carson on Sunday called Critical Race Theory 'a bunch of garbage,' saying it would redefine what American society 'is based on.' Carson made the comments during an Independence Day interview with Newsmax's Eric Bolling, who began by asking Carson to define CRT. 'It's an attempt to use race as a mechanism for redefining our society, redefining what it was based on, and how it impacts everybody,' Carson said. 'And it wants our people to believe that your race is the most critical determinant of who you are and what happens to you in our society. In other words, it's a bunch of garbage.' ... Britannica says Critical Race Theorists 'hold that the law and legal institutions in the United States are inherently racist insofar as they function to create and maintain social, economic, and political inequalities between whites and nonwhites, especially African Americans.' Critical Race Theory, Carson said, is dividing America. ... 'Our country is a magnificent place,' Carson said. 'It can't be destroyed by Russia or China, or Iran or North Korea. But it can be destroyed from within--there's no question about that. That's what Jesus meant when he said a house divided cannot stand. Lincoln reiterated that, and we need to recognize that we, the American people, are not enemies. ... America's schools, Carson said, are changing--for the worse--what America's youth believe about the country. 'It was Vladimir Lenin who said, Give me your children, to teach for four years, and the seeds that I plant will never be uprooted,' Carson said. Supporters of CRT, he said, 'know the



importance of getting into the school systems, and indoctrinating the young people, and that will have a permanent effect.' ... 'They've been taught to hate the United States [and] hate who we are. If they were taught the true history, they would recognize that this is a time to celebrate who we are, and particularly in the black community. When I was a kid growing up, it was a big deal when some black person came on television in a non-servant role. And now you have black admirals and generals and CEOs of Fortune 500 presidents companies and [of] universities – even Ivy League schools, a black president, black vice president. I mean, give me a break!"

WASHINGTON D.C. FORCED TO PAY CHURCH'S \$220,000 LEGAL FEES (Friday Church News Notes, July 2021, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) -The following is excerpted from "D.C. to Pay," Christian Headlines, July 9, 2021: "Nine months after losing in federal court, the city of Washington D.C. has agreed to pay more than \$200,000 in legal fees for a church that sued over restrictions on religious gatherings. Capitol Hill Baptist Church (CHBC) sued the city last year over rules that banned religious gatherings larger than 100 individuals, even if such services were held outside. The city denied the church's request to meet outside even though church officials pledged to practice social distancing and use masks. In October, District Judge Trevor McFadden sided with the congregation, ruling in an injunction that the restrictions 'substantially burden the Church's exercise of religion.' This week, the city agreed to pay \$220,000 in



legal fees for the church. It also promised to abide by Supreme Court precedent during any future outbreaks. 'The District agrees that it will not enforce any current or future COVID-19 restrictions to prohibit CHBC from gathering as one congregation in the District of Columbia,' the settlement says. ... WilmerHale LLP and First Liberty Institute represented the church. 'All Capitol Hill Baptist Church ever asked is for equal treatment under the law so they could meet together safely as a church,' said Hiram Sasser, executive general counsel for First Liberty Institute. 'The church is relieved and grateful that this ordeal is behind them. Government officials need to know that illegal restrictions on First Amendment rights are intolerable and costly.' ... 'The Church believes that its congregation must meet in person each Sunday to worship together,' McFadden wrote. 'The Church traces its commitment in part to the scriptural exhortation that adherents should not forsake the assembling of ourselves together.""

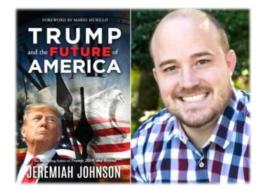
THE TALK BENEATH YOUR FEET

(Friday Church News Notes, July 23, www.wayoflife.org, 2021, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) -The following is from CreationMoments.com, June 16, 2021: "Some of the most fascinating discoveries in recent years have to do with our growing knowledge of plant communication. New research continues to reveal even more amazing facts about the exquisite intricacy of God's marvelous work. Naturalists have long noted that plants often choose to grow at precise spacing from each other and plants of other species. Scientists at the University of California at Santa Barbara theorized that this precision might be a

result of communication between the roots of these plants. So they devised an experiment to find out. They designed a network of interlocking, partially transparent growth boxes. These boxes allowed them to watch how root growth took place in single plants, two plants of the same species, and plants of different species. They discovered that when burro weed roots neared the roots of the creosote bush, the roots of the creosote bush slowed the growth of the nearing roots. They also discovered that burro weed roots will stop growing when they encounter other burro weed roots. This allows the plants to send their roots out where they will not compete with their own kind. Most astonishing is the discovery that burro weed roots continue to grow if they encounter other roots from their own plant. The amazed scientists noted that this means that even plants may have a sense of self. When the Bible tells us that the whole creation praises its Creator, it certainly suggests that at least every living thing has a sense of itself as well as its Creator. Author: Paul A. Bartz Ref: Weiss, R. 1991, 'Root words,' Science News, v. 139, Mar. 23. p. 188."

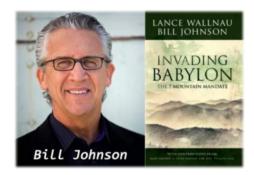
BOGUS CHARISMATIC **PROPHECIES** OF **TRUMP ELECTION** (Friday Church News Notes, July 30. 2021, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Dozens of charismatic "prophets" stirred up a hornet's nest of political passion by claiming that Donald Trump is God's man to make America great again and that he would be reelected in 2020. At a Trump rally in Las Vegas in Oct. 2020, Denise Goulet told the crowd, "The Lord spoke to me and said, 'I am going to give your president a second wind." Charisma magazine editor Stephen Strange predicted that Trump would top 400 electors. Kat Kerr said that God caught her up to heaven and told her that Trump would win in 2020 and that he would be followed by eight years of a Pence presidency and eight more years of Pence's vicepresident. Kerr concluded, "For 24 years, we will have God in that White House."

Alex Jones said that Trump is advancing "a Kingdom agenda." Lana Vawser claimed she had a vision of Jesus clothing Trump with a purple robe and crown. These and similar prophecies were viewed millions of times on social media. A few of the "prophets" have acknowledged that they were wrong and apologized. These include Jeremiah Johnson, who published his mea culpa on a YouTube series "I Was Wrong: Donald Trump and the Prophetic Controversy" and lost large numbers of supporters. He said, "I believe that this election cycle has revealed how desperately we need reformation in the prophetic movement." In fact, it has revealed yet again that the prophetic movement so-called unscriptural at its very foundation. There is no such thing biblically as a true prophet of God who mis-prophesies like these people routinely do! Kris Vallotton of Bethel Church in Redding, California, a "chief prophetic voice" who has the "office" of a prophet and has written books on prophecy, acknowledged that he was wrong in his prophecy about Trump, but he added, "I think it doesn't make me a false prophet." But what else could it possibly make you, Kris! Michael Brown, who was one of the leaders of the so-called Brownsville Revival in Pensacola, Florida, said about the Trump prophecies, "As a full-blooded charismatic, I'll say we've earned the world's mockery for our foolishness." He's right, but they have been earning well-deserved mockery since the inception of Pentecostalism at Azusa Street, and all because the movement is not Bible-based and thus has been absolutely permeated with heresies and nonsense. The Brownsville meetings that Brown was associated with witnessed the



pastor, John Kilpatrick, lying on the church platform for as long as four hours, "drunk in the spirit" and unable to get up and exercise his responsibilities as a pastor. Whatever this "revival" is, it is not Bible based. Brown recently asked, "How did so many of us end up with almost a cultlike devotion to a [political] leader, compromise our ethics for a seat at the table and drape the Gospel in an American flag?" That's a question that a whole bunch of non-Pentecostals should also be asking. We see no political aspects to the apostle Paul's Christian life and ministry. It is impossible to conceive of Paul being a Trump fan and being caught up in conservative politics. "And if thou say in thine heart. How shall we know the word which the LORD hath not spoken? When a prophet speaketh in the name of the LORD, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing which the LORD hath not spoken, but the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously: thou shalt not be afraid of him" (Deuteronomy 18:21-22).

DONALD TRUMP AND THE SEVEN **MOUNTAINS MANDATE** (Friday Church News Notes, July 30, 2021, www.wavoflife.org.fbns@wavoflife.org. 866-295-4143) - The movers and shakers of the Seven Mountains Mandate (7M) saw Donald Trump as their ticket to government power. This mandate (also called seven pillars and seven spheres) aims to take dominion of education, religion, family, business. government/military, arts/entertainment, and media to usher in the return of Christ. It grew out of dominion theology with the addition of "prophets and apostles" from C. Peter Wagner's New Apostolic Reformation (NAR). Proponents of NAR include Bethel Church in Redding, Calif. (Bill Johnson), Harvest Rock Church in Pasadena (Che Ahn), MorningStar Church, Charlotte, NC (Rick Joyner), International House of Prayer (Mike Bickle), Aglow International (Jane Hansen), and TheCall (Lou Engle). 7M has connections with Latter Rain, Joel's Army, Manifest Sons of God, Word-Faith, prosperity gospel, and charismatic spiritual warfare heresies. It was given



impetus in 2013 with the publication of Invading Babylon: The 7 Mountain Mandate, co-authored by Lance Wallnau and Bill Johnson of Bethel Church, a veritable hothouse of charismatic error. 7M is based on an allegorical interpretation of prophecy (such as Isaiah 2:2) and replacement theology. Some promoters of the Seven Mountains, including Paula White-Cain, were spiritual advisors to President Trump and had access to the White House. White has said any number of nutty things, including, "I saw Trump riding a golden horse alongside Jesus during Armageddon" ("I Saw Trump," The Business Standard News, Jan. 8, 2020). Ted Cruz's father, Rafael Cruz, is an "apostle" who promotes 7M theology in his book A Time for Action. Many of the charismatic prophecies of Trump's 2020 reelection were by 7M proponents. On Feb. 25, 2020, Turning Point USA founder Charlie Kirk told the Conservative **Political** Action Conference, "Finally we have a president that understands the seven mountains of cultural influence" (Right Wing Watch, Feb. 27, 2020). The 7M proponents claim they have divine "authority to administrate over earth and all demonic opposition." It is dangerous heresy. Biblical churches have no such authority and no such mandate. Christ's Commission. Great which emphasized in Scripture by a five-fold repetition (Mt. 28; Mr. 16; Lu. 24; Joh. 20; Ac. 1) is to preach the gospel to every soul in every nation and to baptize and disciple believers in New Testament churches. There is not a hint of a Seven Mountain Mandate in the book of Acts and the Epistles. Even as an apostle, Paul exercised no such power and led no such program, and he said, "Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample" (Philippians 3:17). The Seven Mountains Mandate is a demonic alternative to Christ's Great Commission, and doctrines of demons produce confusion rather than blessing. False teaching ultimately brings reproach upon biblical Christianity. (For more about these things, see *The Pentecostal-Charismatic Movements: The History and Error*, www.wayoflife.org.)

MICK JAGGER'S 78TH BIRTHDAY

(Friday Church News Notes, July 30, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) -Mick Jagger, founder and frontman for the Rolling Stones rock band, turned 78 on July 26. He's still prancing around the rock stage. The band is planning a USA tour to begin in September. The Rolling Stones have had a vast influence on society, and it has been an evil one. From their inception they have preached the false gospel of "I'm free to do what I want any old time." A Stones' concert has been described as "an orgy of sexual celebration, with Jagger as head cheerleader. Strutting and prancing across the stage, his androgynous performances delight both men and women" (Larson's Book of Rock, p. 181). As he has aged, Jagger has even sung about seeing Jesus Christ, "finding a state of grace," and "joy" making his heart sing (the song "Joy" in the album Goddess in the Doorway), but it is a false christ and a false grace when tested by God's Word. Rock & rollers have sung about spirituality since the 1950s, but the rock & roll christ is a new age christ who does not claim to be the only God and Saviour, who is not holy, does not warn about judgment and hell, does not demand



repentance, and does not require the new birth. The rock & roll spirituality is a syncretistic one that is all-encompassing and all-accepting. Mick Jagger has never renounced thumbing his nose at God's holy laws and his anti-christ past. In the 1970s, Newsweek magazine called Jagger "the Lucifer of rock" and "the unholy roller." In 1968, the cover to Their Satanic Majesty's Request depicted the Stones posed as warlocks. The 1969 *Rock* 'n' Roll Circus tour ended with the song "Sympathy for the Devil" and Jagger ripping off his shirt to reveal a tattoo of the devil on his chest. In 2010, Keith Richards, another member of the Rolling Stones, said, "I'm not putting death on the agenda. I don't want to see my old friend Lucifer just yet" ("Richards: Mick Jagger Was "Unbearable," Reuters, Oct. 15, 2010). At the end of the day, Mick Jagger and Keith Richards, et al, are just sinners in need of the salvation that God offers. They could be saved through repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 20:21), but time is fast running out.

ANGLICAN PASTOR FIRED FOR SINGING "THINE BE THE GLORY" WITHOUT MASK (Friday Church News Notes. July 30. 2021. www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) -The following is excerpted from "Church Authorities," Christian Concern, July 20, 2021: "Rev. Charlie Boyle, vicar of All Saints Church, Brankscome, Dorset, is facing disciplinary action and potential dismissal for allegedly not following strict Covid guidance at his church. 'The fact that someone would report me to the [church] authorities over this is quite upsetting,' he confides. Following a complaint made on Easter Sunday about him walking down the aisle singing the hymn 'Thine Be The Glory' without wearing a face mask, Charlie was visited by the Archdeacon of Dorset, who told him that he should leave his post and the vicarage by the end of July."

BIGGEST LOCKDOWN IS COMING (Friday Church News Notes, July 30, 2021, www.wayoflife.org,



fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) -Lockdowns have dominated the news for 2020 and 2021, but the truly big lockdown is in the future. Bible prophecy was fulfilled literally and precisely in the first coming of Christ, and it will be fulfilled in the same manner in His second coming. As a precursor, the Antichrist will lockdown the whole world with his worship program and economic control scheme, backed up by the death penalty. It will be a global North Korea. "And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed. And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name" (Revelation 13:15-17). The Covid pandemic is child's play compared with the trouble that looms on the horizon. Billions of people will die during the Great Tribulation from wars, famine, pestilence, earthquakes, and totalitarianism on a scale that will make Stalin and Mao seem like choir boys. It is all described in the book of Revelation for those who are interested. It is called "the day of the Lord" because it will spell doom for "the day of man."

VACCINATIONS PROTECTING AMERICANS (Friday Church News Notes, August 6, 2021, www.wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from Mark Thiessen, "Vaccinated Americans are more likely to die from a lightning strike than covid," *The Washington Post*, July

27, 2021: "The data [are] clear: According to the CDC, as of July 19, a grand total of 4,072 vaccinated Americans had been hospitalized with symptomatic breakthrough infections, out of more than 161 million who have been fully vaccinated. That is a breakthrough hospitalization rate of less than 0.003 percent. Better still, of those hospitalized, only 849 have died of covid-19. That means the death rate from those breakthrough infections is 0.0005 percent. To put that in perspective, your chance of dying from a lightning strike is .0007 percent, and your chance of dying from a seasonal flu is 0.1 percent. If you're vaccinated, you have a much greater chance of dying from a hornet, wasp or bee string, a dog attack, a car crash, drowning, sunstroke, or choking on food than you do of dying from covid-19. The vast majority of those who become seriously ill breakthrough infections are older or have underlying conditions. According to the Minnesota Department of Health, the median age of those hospitalized with breakthrough infections is 74. An Israeli study of patients hospitalized with breakthrough infections found that only 4 percent had no co-morbidities. The rest had preexisting illnesses such as cancer congestive heart failure that predisposed them to severe covid-19. What this means is that for otherwise healthy vaccinated people--and those who have natural immunity from previous infection--the chance of dying of covid-19 is close to zero."

COVID DELTA NOT AMONG TOP CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE U.S. (Friday Church News Notes, August 6, 2021, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from "Kristi Noem Throttles CDC on Revised Masking Guidance," Townhall, July 27, 2021: "[A]s Townhall managing editor Spencer Brown reported Tuesday, the much-ballyhooed Delta variant, despite causing a rise in cases, isn't even among the top several causes of death in the United States. 'For the week ending July 23, the 7-day moving average of new



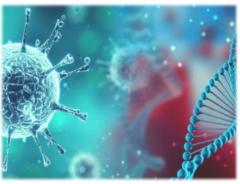
deaths was 223. Mortality data from the CDC's National Center for Health Statistics and the American Heart Association put the daily death averages--calculated by taking the latest available annual numbers and dividing by 365--in perspective that ought to calm our panicinciting experts, lockdown- and mandateprone officials, and their media allies. For example, each day 2,380 Americans die from cardiovascular disease--405 per day due to strokes alone. More than 1,680 Americans sadly lose their battle with cancer each day. 474 die from unintentional or accidental injuries. 332 die from Alzheimer's. 240 lives end due complications from diabetes."" CONCLUDING NOTE: There is no vaccination against death, but there is God's gift of salvation in Jesus Christ for those who repent and believe. "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Romans 6:23).

DELTA VARIANT BULLET POINTS

(Friday Church News Notes, August 6, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) -The following is excerpted from Scott "Delta Variant," Powerlineblog.com, July 28, 2021: "My law school classmate Kevin Roche went on to become general counsel of UnitedHealth and then chief executive officer of its health information/data technology division Ingenix. As any regular reader of his Healthy Skeptic site can quickly surmise, he has mastered the research on Covid-19 and related issues. ... I called Kevin this morning to ask if he would restate his findings regarding Delta variant and vaccine effectiveness in the form of bullet or numbered points. He has responded to

my request in the post 'What more can I say.' [Following is an excerpt from his post:] 'Notwithstanding my exasperation with the failure of common sense and skepticism to prevail, I will try one more time to simply list why we shouldn't get all hysterical again ... Let's start with Delta. Contrary to the misinformation being spread by many, including the so-called experts, the research to date shows: It has a lower hospitalization and death rate. It is perhaps somewhat more transmissible. It does not result in substantially higher viral loads. Vaccines are only marginally less effective against Delta infections. It does not have a worse impact on children. Now let us move on to vaccine effectiveness, where we find that: People who are vaccinated can get infected, but do so at lower rates than the unvaxed. People who are vaccinated and get infected have lower viral loads than the unvaxed who become infected. People who are vaccinated and get infected are less likely to be infectious and transmit. People who are vaccinated have much lower rates of hospitalization and death than do those who are unvaccinated and get infected. The research is actually mixed as to whether vaccination or prior infection provides a stronger adaptive immune response.""

ARE COVID VACCINES KILLING **THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE?** (Friday Church News Notes, August 6, 2021, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) -The following is excerpted from "Fact Check-VAERS data," Reuters, Apr. 2, 2021: "Viewed more than 21,000 times on Facebook, a video showing data collected by the U.S. Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) claims that thousands of people died from receiving COVID-19 vaccines. The video, which fails to mention that anyone can report events to VAERS and that the database contains unverified information, describes reported deaths of individuals who died after receiving the vaccine as deaths caused by the vaccine, when the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has so far



found no evidence that vaccinations led to patient deaths. ... The video's caption links to the VAERS online database (wonder.cdc.gov/vaers.html), which is run by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The general public may report events to VAERS, and a disclaimer on the CDC website says: 'The reports may contain information that is incomplete, inaccurate, coincidental, or unverifiable.' When downloading the data, users are presented with a further disclaimer that the data does not include information from investigations into reported cases. The disclaimer also says 'the inclusion of events in VAERS data does not imply causality.' ... Of the 145 million COVID-19 vaccine doses administered in the United States from Dec. 14, 2020 through March 29, 2021, 'VAERS received 2,509 reports of death (0.0017%) among people who received a COVID-19 vaccine.' Having reviewed 'available clinical information including certificates, autopsy, and medical records,' the CDC found 'no evidence that vaccination contributed to patient deaths.' Dr. Dana Mazo, an assistant professor of medicine who specializes in infectious diseases at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York, stressed to Reuters phone the importance distinguishing between association and causation when looking at post-vaccine death records. 'The idea is that we are vaccinating millions of people,' Mazo said, 'and, unfortunately, when you look at 96 million people, some of them might die, and they would have died if they hadn't been vaccinated.' The fact that medically vulnerable individuals have had the earliest access to COVID-19 vaccines in the United States has also

impacted the rate of post-vaccine deaths, Mazo said."

ALBERTA IN **PROCESS** DOWNGRADING COVID-19 TO A **COMMON FLU** (Friday Church News 6. Notes. August 2021. www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from "Alberta Declares," PJMedia, July 30, 2021: "Alberta is satisfied with the vaccine uptake among its citizens, and COVID-19 is losing special status. 'On Wednesday, Premier Jason Kenney's government took a bold step and announced that quarantines are no longer mandatory for anyone who tests positive for the virus beginning on July 29th. Nearly 75.6 percent of eligible Albertans have now received at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine, and 64.3 percent are fully immunized. Vaccines dramatically reduce the risk of severe outcomes and the risk of infection. While COVID-19 cases may rise in the coming months, a surge of hospitalizations and other severe outcomes is much less likely thanks to vaccines. In the coming weeks, Alberta's health system will take steps to make sure that it is ready to support all patients, including those with COVID-19 and other respiratory viruses, like influenza, which health officials expect to increase this year' (citing 'Adapting Covid-19 measures,' alberta.ca, July 28, 2021). ... Asymptomatic testing is now discouraged. This is the recommendation for all other respiratory viruses and what many areas of Sweden recommended from the start. Contact tracing will be limited to high-risk settings, and health officials will concentrate on surges in



infections with severe outcomes. Mandatory masking in schools and in public will end on August 16."

FIRST TEMPLE-ERA SEGMENT OF JERUSALEM'S CITY WALL UNCOVERED (Friday Church News August 6. www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) -The following is excerpted from "First Temple," Israel National News, July 14, 2021: "Archaeological excavations in the City of David National Park have uncovered the remains of the city wall, which was built during the Iron Age--the days of the First Temple in the Kingdom of Judah--to protect Jerusalem from the east. ... According to the directors of the excavation, Dr. Filip Vukosavović of the Ancient Jerusalem Research Center and Dr. Joe Uziel and Ortal Chalaf on behalf of the Israel Antiquities Authority: 'The city wall protected Jerusalem from a number of attacks during the reign of the kings of Judah, until the arrival of the Babylonians who managed to break through it and conquer the city. The remains of the ruins can be seen in the archaeological excavations. However, not everything was destroyed, and parts of the walls, which stood and protected the city for decades and more, remain standing to this day' ... The new section that was exposed connects two sections that were previously excavated on the eastern slope. Over the years, claims have been made that despite the impressive nature of the remains, these remnant stone structures should not be seen as wall remains. However, with the uncovering of this new section that connects with these past discoveries, it seems that the debate has been settled, and that this was unequivocally the eastern wall of ancient Jerusalem. ... In 2 Kings 25:10, there is a description of the conquest of the city by the Babylonians: 'The whole Babylonian army under the commander of the imperial guard broke down the walls around Jerusalem.' However it looks like the Babylonians did not destroy the eastern wall ... Near the wall, a Babylonian stamp seal made of stone



was unveiled, depicting a figure standing in front of symbols of the two Babylonian gods Marduk and Nabu."

CANADIAN PASTOR ATTACKED BY ANTIFA IN PORTLAND (Friday Church News Notes, August 13, 2021, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) -The following is excerpted from "Portland Cops Do Nothing," *PJMedia*, Aug. 8, 2021: "If you wondered what it would look like when Nazi brown shirts went after the churches in Germany, wonder no more: it probably looked like Portland on Saturday when black blocoutfitted antifa thugs burst into a waterfront prayer event featuring persecuted Canadian Pastor Artur Pawlowski. ... 'Where is your God, now?' taunted one of the attackers. ... Portland Police observed as the terrorist group bear-sprayed parents and their kids, lobbed 'flash bombs' into the sparse crowd, and reportedly threw the group's sound equipment into the Willamette River. ... Pastor Pawlowski is known for being arrested and jailed [in May] for hosting in-person church services in defiance of local pandemic diktats in Calgary. Pawlowski, who fled from a communist country, famously ordered health inspectors and police from his church, calling them brown shirts and Nazis. ... Antifa watcher and



author Andy Ngo curated some of the video from the event showing the attack, the destruction, and the injuries. 'Shocking video recorded in Portland show a large group of antifa carrying shields & weapons move in to attack & shut down a family Christian prayer & worship event on the waterfront. Police did not intervene."

ARCHAEOLOGISTS UNCOVER **EVIDENCE OF BIBLICAL EARTHQUAKE** (Friday Church News Notes. August 13. www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) -The following is excerpted from "Archaeologists Unearth," The Times of Israel, Aug. 5, 2021: "[I]n the first verse of the Book of Amos, the 8th century BCE biblical prophet referred to 'two years before the earthquake' as an anchor to the events he was about to relate. Two centuries later, the prophet Zechariah again referred to this destructive earthquake period, so deeply was it ingrained in the collective psyche. Now, for the first time, a team of Israel Antiquities Authority archaeologists in Jerusalem's City of David report that they have found unprecedented concrete evidence of this 8th century BCE earthquake in the ancient capital. In an upcoming research paper, the archaeologists chart, for example, that in one particular 8th century BCE structure the destruction layer did not show signs of fire, yet other factors suggested the building had been damaged in a traumatic event. apparently earthquake. 'This was most notable on the earliest floor of the southernmost room,' they write. 'In this room, a row of smashed vessels was uncovered along its northern wall, above which fallen



stones had been found. It appears that these stones were the upper part of the walls of the room, which had collapsed, destroying the vessels which had been set along the wall.' ... Dr. Joe Uziel [excavation co-director] told *The Times of Israel* that although his team was the first to identify this destruction layer, in reviewing previous excavation reports, they have concluded that other areas of the eastern slope near the Gihon Spring where the team is excavating also exhibited similar destruction."

THE WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES' APOSTASY (Friday Church News Notes, August 13, 2021, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - I receive text summaries of news from the World Council of Churches, and the reports are a continual reminder of the organization's utter apostasy. The WCC has a false christ, a false gospel, and a false spirit, as Paul warned about to the Corinthian church (2 Co. 11:1-4). They don't preach the gospel of eternal salvation for sinners through faith in the blood of Jesus Christ. They preach a gospel of salvation for the world through social-justice projects. These days they are busy trying to save the world from global warming and Covid-19. On the "eco" front, the WCC is promoting the United Nations upcoming climate change conference in Glasgow (COP21). For example, WCC-affiliated churches in Scotland are pushing "Climate Sunday" to "call on local churches across Great Britain and Ireland to hold a climate-focused service" ("Climate Sunday," WCC News, Aug. 3, 2021). On the Covid front, the WCC and the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue recently published "Serving a Wounded World" to "encourage churches and Christian organizations to reflect on the importance interreligious solidarity in a world wounded by the COVID-19 pandemic." All of this is blatant disobedience to the Bible which forbids "interreligious" projects. "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with



unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you" (2 Corinthians 6:14-17). As for global warming, the only thing the Bible says along that line is the warning that God is going to destroy this present fallen creation and replace it with a new one, and He is going to do it with fire. "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. Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ve to be in all holy conversation and godliness, Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness" (2 Peter 3:10-13). For more about the World Council of Churches, see the free eBook by that title at www.wayoflife.org.

AN EPIDEMIC OF MISINFORMATION (Friday Church News Notes, August 13, 2021, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The term "epidemic of misinformation" is how Peter Salk, son



of Jonas Salk, developer of the polio vaccine, described the anti-vax movement in a 2014 interview with The Atlantic. The interview begins with the following facts: "In the peak [polio] year of 1952, there were nearly 60,000 cases throughout America; 3,000 were fatal, and 21,000 left their victims paralyzed. Then, in 1955, American children began lining up for Jonas Salk's new polio vaccine. By the early 1960s, the recurring epidemics were 97 percent gone." When asked, "Do you remember when you first started hearing about widespread opposition to vaccines?" Salk replied, "I don't remember exactly when, but it first came to my attention through some of my friends. I read some of the materials they sent me, and it just was really hard for me to follow some of the logic--particularly when it came to the polio vaccine, which I knew something about. People were claiming that it was all a myth, that the disappearance of polio had nothing to do with vaccines. The reality is that back in 1954, there was a huge double-blind study involving 1.8 million schoolchildren. The results were clearcut: If you got the polio vaccine, you were protected; if you didn't, you were not. When you have that kind of data, you just can't say that the disappearance of polio is due to other things. What strikes me is--I don't know quite how to put this, but it's like there's an epidemic of misinformation, and we've got to inoculate the public against it" ("The Anti-Vaccine Movement Is Forgetting the Polio Epidemic," The Atlantic, Oct. 28, 2014).

COULD IT BE THE CROWNING DAY? DEPENDS ON YOUR THEOLOGY (Friday Church News

Notes. August 13, 2021. www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) -The following is from Pastor Steve Rogers: "One old staunch Pretrib Preacher used the old song 'Is It the Crowning Day?' to make a point about prophecy. The songs goes, 'Jesus may come today, Glad day! Glad day! And I would see my friend; Dangers and troubles would end If Jesus should come today. Glad day! Glad day! Is it the crowning day? I'll live for today, nor anxious be, Jesus, my Lord, I soon shall see; Glad day! Glad day! Is it the crowning day?' To drive home the point that only the pre-trib view is consistent with imminency, he loved to point out that if prewrath/mid-tribers or posttribers sang this song they would have to say, 'Jesus can't come today, Sad day! Sad day! And I won't see my friend; Dangers and troubles won't end Because Jesus can't come today. Sad day! Sad day! Today is not the crowning day? I won't live for today, and anxious I'll be, The Beast and the False Prophet I soon shall see, Sad day! Sad day! Today is not the crowning day.' The Pre-Trib view is the only view that honestly holds that Jesus could come today. It is the Biblical view of the rapture!"

THE SPIDER AND THE FLY (Friday Church News Notes, August 6, 2021, www.wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is from CreationMoments.com, July 26, 2021: "One would never expect to find any insect sharing living arrangements with a spider. That's why scientists were amazed to find a tiny fly in the rain forests of Central America who shares both room and board with a spider! The



fly spends most of his time on the back of the golden web spider, who does not seem to object. This spider does not deal with its victims in the same way most spiders do. When a large insect gets caught in the tough web of the spider, the golden web spider injects the victim with digestive juices to prepare it for eating. The fly keeps track of meal preparations from the spider's back. Just before the meal is liquefied to the spider's satisfaction, the fly buzzes over and drinks its fill in a few seconds. By the time the spider approaches lunch, the fly is back napping on the spider. Both the spider and the fly are designed with special features to make this most unlikely arrangement work. If the golden web spider's eating habits were like most spiders', there would be no liquefied meal for the fly. The fly itself has a mouth that is specially designed to allow it to drink a full meal in seconds. This helps keep him out of the spider's way. How can a spider and a fly live together? God can design a solution to any problem. Why design an arrangement between a spider and a fly anyway? So that we would know there is a Creator and that He can meet any challenge! There is nothing you cannot take to Him in the name of His Son, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Author: Paul A. Bartz. Ref: 'Random chance or intelligent design?' Associates for Biblical Research Newsletter, Jan.-Feb. 1991. p. 2."

FIRST CHURCH OF FACEBOOK (Friday Church News Notes, August 20,

2021, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from "Mark Zuckerberg Is Planting the First Church of the Metaverse," *The Federalist*, Aug. 2021: "The Church of Facebook is set to capture the human soul in silicon. On July 25, the *New York Times* reported that since 2017 the social media giant has quietly cultivated exclusive partnerships with select religious communities. As always, money is involved. While Facebook's ultimate goals remain sealed behind non-disclosure agreements, the *Times* article does hint at things to come:



'The company aims to become the virtual home for religious community, wants churches, mosques. synagogues and others to embed their religious life into its platform, from hosting worship services and socializing more casually to soliciting money.' ... 'Facebook is shaping the future of religious experience itself, as it has done for political and social life.' ... If Facebook's history is any guide, every digital prayer will be scooped up and turned into a data point. Livestreamed preachers who deny the sanctity of LGBT lifestyles will be flagged and punished as 'extremists.' ... According to Facebook's chief operating officer, Sheryl Sandberg, 'Faith organizations and social media are a natural fit because fundamentally both about are connection. Our hope is that one day people will host religious services in virtual reality spaces as well, or use augmented reality as an educational tool to teach their children the story of their faith.' ... Technology has become a religion. If you look at the personalities behind techno-fetishism, they frequently describe digital culture in spiritual terms. ... Striking a dissonant note, in 1976 the first Apple computer went on sale for \$666.66. Despite the cuddly Steve Wozniak's insistence that it was just a fluke, the numeric symbolism has dark resonance in the Christian imagination. You don't have to be superstitious to appreciate the mythical implications. When I visited the famous Apple Museum in Prague, Czech Republic, a large decal on the front window read: 'Three apples changed the world. The first tempted Eve, the second inspired Newton, and the third was offered to the world half-eaten by Steve Jobs."" **CONCLUDING NOTE:** We know, of

course, that Eve was not tempted by an apple. Steve Jobs didn't know his Bible.

A CHURCH STAYING FOCUSED ON GOD'S WORD IN THE COVID ERA (Friday Church News Notes, August 20, 2021, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) -Many have become focused on Covid vaccines. I have received a large number of links to anti-Covid vaccine material. I've looked at a lot of them, tested them as best I can, prayed about the matter. If someone thinks I haven't looked at all sides, they are wrong. But life is very short, and I am confident that I have more important things to do with my time. And if you are saved, so do you. Since the beginning of the Covid pandemic, I have led our church to stay off social media and to stay focused on the Bible (reading, study, memorization, meditation, using the Weekly Memory Verse Journal, etc.), on prayer (private, family, corporate, prayer partners, "no prayer, no power; little prayer, little power; much prayer, much power"), on discipling every new member (one on one discipling with the *One Year* Discipleship Course), on building the families in God's will (on mothers being the keepers of the home and fathers being the spiritual heads, on educating and disciplining and discipling the expository children). on preaching, on personal and family Bible courses, and on evangelism (every member being engaged, daily prayer for the unsaved, gospel Bible studies with the Seeker's Bible Study. tracting, drug rehab guys, monthly gospel meetings, etc.). We want to be a Philadelphia church (Re. 3:7-13). God has blessed. I've never seen such unity in a congregation. Every single member of our church is faithful and growing spiritually, from the youngest to the oldest. This is our goal in obedience to Colossians 1:28, "Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus." We are witnessing amazing conversions. We are nothing, of course, and we don't

evidence that God has blessed this church for obeying Him and not getting off track in the Covid era.

NEW COVID WAVE RAMPAGING IN LOW VACCINATION STATES

(Friday Church News Notes, August 20, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) -The following is excerpted from "Alabama says it is out of ICU beds," Washington Times, Aug. 19, 2021: "Alabama ran out of intensive-care unit beds at midweek, according to hospital officials who say they're entering 'uncharted territory' as the delta variant rips through states with poor COVID-19 vaccination rates. ... 'We've never been here before. We are truly now in uncharted territory in terms of our ICU capacity,' Alabama Hospital Association President Don Williamson told WSFA 12 News. The state is the first to run out of ICU beds but isn't alone in its plight. Neighboring Mississippi set up two field hospitals within the last week, while parts of Texas built overflow tents at their hospitals. ... 'We are clearly at the worst part of the pandemic that we've seen, throughout, and it's continuing to worsen,' Mississippi State Health Officer Thomas Dobbs said at a Wednesday press briefing. He said nearly 90% of hospitalizations are in unvaccinated persons and 86% of deaths are in people who haven't gotten the shots. The 14% of deaths in vaccinated persons tend to be older residents--in their mid-70s on average--or those with weaker immune systems. ... [Alabama] has the worst vaccination rate alongside Mississippi, each at 36% of their populations fully immunized."



20 1 Timothy 6:20,21

claim to be anything; but I can see every



TALIBAN **GOING** DOOR-TO-DOOR SEEKING CHRISTIANS (Friday Church News Notes, August 20, www.wayoflife.org, 2021. fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) -The following is excerpted from "Official Statement from Underground Church," Frontier Alliance International (FAI), Aug. 17, 2021: "What we are witnessing right now is the decimation of the country and people of Afghanistan. We are watching twenty years of work and the strengthening of a nation being destroyed in a single day. The Taliban has a hit list of known Christians they are targeting to pursue and kill. The US Embassy is defunct and there is no longer a safe place for believers to take refuge. All borders to neighboring countries are closed and all flights to and from have been halted, with the exception of private planes. People are fleeing into the mountains looking for asylum. They are fully reliant on God, who is the only One who can and will protect them. The Taliban are going door-to-door taking women and children. The people must mark their house with an 'X' if they have a girl over 12 years old, so that the Taliban can take them. If they find a young girl and the house was not marked they will execute the entire family. If a married woman 25 years or older has been found, the Taliban promptly kill her husband, do whatever they want to her, and then sell her as a sex slave. Husbands and fathers have given their wives and daughters guns and told them that when the Taliban come, they can choose to kill them or kill themselves--it is their choice."

U.S. TO ADD 3RD GENDER ON PASSPORTS (Friday Church News Notes, August 20, 2021,

www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) -The following is excerpted from Christian Headlines, July 2, 2021: "The U.S. State Department said Thursday it will add a third gender to passports for Americans who identify as 'non-binary, intersex, and gender non-conforming,' although the department added it will take time to implement. Secretary of State Antony Blinken made the announcement in a statement, saying the change is part of the Biden administration's commitment promoting the freedom, dignity, and equality of all people--including LGBTQI+ persons.' 'We will be updating our procedures to allow applicants to self-select their gender as M or F and will no longer require medical certification if an applicant's self-selected gender does not match the gender on their other citizenship or identity documents,' Blinken said." The Bible says, "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him: male and female created he them" (Genesis 1:27).

LONDON STREET PREACHER WINS CASE AFTER BEING FINED DURING COVID LOCKDOWN (Friday Church News Notes, August 20, www.wayoflife.org. fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) -The following is excerpted from "Magistrates rule street preachers were entitled to evangelise and gather," Christian Concern, July 23, 2021: "London magistrates have thrown out a case against a Christian preacher, who was fined and prosecuted by the Metropolitan police for evangelising on Good Friday, 2020. Joshua Sutcliffe, 31, along with one socially distanced friend,

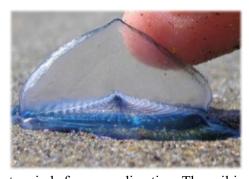


were preaching and handing out leaflets in Camden, North London, on 10 April 2020 when they were stopped by the police. Detained and surrounded by four police officers, Mr Sutcliffe was told that he was outdoors without a reasonable excuse and acting contrary to government lockdown Covid regulations. Despite Mr Sutcliffe informing the officers that he was a pastor and worship leader and was therefore allowed to be outdoors providing charitable services, he was cautioned and received a fixed penalty notice of £60. Supported by the Christian Legal Centre, Mr Sutcliffe contested the fine at the City of London Magistrates Court on 6 July 2021. Mr Sutcliffe told the court on the way home that he handed his shoes to a homeless man, which clearly he could not have done if he had just been preaching online. Handing down judgment, the Magistrate said: 'We find the defendant not guilty on all charges. We find that the defendant was outside and that he had a reasonable excuse as he was travelling to his place of work, as a worship leader. Whilst he was in a gathering and therefore in breach of regulation 7, however, the parties were together and were allowed to rely on articles 9, 10 of the European Convention of Human Rights. Their gathering was limited in duration, and they were entitled to gather for street evangelising."

ONTARIO CHURCH FINED **ADDITIONAL \$85,000** (Friday Church News Notes, August 20, 2021, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) -The following is excerpted from "Ontario Church Fined," The Christian Post, July 29, 2021: "A Canadian pastor whose church has been fined over \$80,000 a second time for holding a worship service during Ontario's ongoing restrictions on church gatherings said: 'Jesus is worth it.' Trinity Bible Chapel, a Waterloo-based church, was sentenced Tuesday for a worship service it held in April that violated provincial restrictions on inperson gatherings in response to

COVID-19. Justice John Krakchenko ordered the church and its leaders to pay \$85,000 in fines after finding the church in contempt of court, according to Kitchener Today. This includes a \$35,000 fine for the church itself, \$10,000 fines for Pastors Jacob Reaume and Will Schuurman, and other leaders of the congregation each being fined \$7,500. ... Reaume posted a statement to church's website Tuesday, explaining that '... worship services are not ours to give up. They belong to Jesus. He purchased His worship with the price of His own blood.' ... Reaume added that his church intends 'no disrespect to our courts or civil magistrates,' but rather they 'only wish to assert in word and deed that Christ is King of kings, Lord of lords, and Judge of judges. Those who are in authority have a derived authority, and that derived authority comes from God. It has been and will continue to be the detriment of our nation to fail to recognize as much.' ... The congregation continues to hold outdoor worship services as the government locked them out of their church building in April due to their refusal to adhere to provincial lockdown orders. Trinity Bible Chapel was previously fined \$83,000 in February for violating Section 10.1 of the Reopening Ontario Act, which limited in-person services to 10 people, either indoors or outdoors." Christian Headlines reported, "Trinity Bible Chapel created a GoFundme page in helping the elders pay off the fines. At the time of this writing, the church has raised \$73,710 out of its \$150,000 goal."

THE JELLYFISH WITH THE **BROAD REACH** (Friday Church News Notes, August 20, 2021. www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) -The following from CreationMoments.com, July 27, 2021: "Unlike most jellyfish, velella does not merely drift with the wind. Velella has a triangular sail. However, unlike some jellyfish with sails, velella's sail doesn't simply catch the wind and move velella along with it. Velella's triangular sail has an S-shaped base so that it can stand up



to winds from any direction. The sail is set on top of velella's body at an angle to its length. This makes velella a biological oddity--because its body is not symmetrical. This asymmetry is not without purpose. The unusual body design of this jellyfish allows it to sail as much as 60° off the direction of the wind. This is what sailors call a broad reach. Some velellas have their sails tilted to the right, allowing them to sail up to 60° to the right of downwind. Others have their sails tilted to the left, allowing them to sail up to 60° left of downwind. What's more, velellas can change their angle of sailing by extending or retracting their tentacles in the water. When scientists noticed that velella's body was asymmetrical, they immediately looked for a purpose behind the design. Even though many scientists will not recognize the Creator, they understand enough to realize that nothing in the creation is without purpose or design. So while many deny the Creator, they still recognize the pattern of His handiwork! Author: Paul A. Bartz. Ref: 'The by-the-wind sailor: a masterpiece of natural design,' Discover, Aug. 1987, p. 46."

CHRISTIANS IN DIRE DANGER IN AFGHANISTAN (Friday Church News Notes, August 27, 2021, www.wayoflife.org.



fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) -The following is excerpted from "Taliban Kabul," in Release International, Aug. 16, 2021: "As the Taliban tighten their grip Afghanistan, Release International warns attacks on Christians are likely to rise across the region as the Taliban's swift emboldens advance extremists. Afghanistan's major cities have fallen like dominoes before the Taliban, in the drive by the militants to create an Islamic emirate. One church leader Afghanistan said Christians were living in great fear. Some who worked for the government now face reprisals, and any identified as Christians could be killed. Christians risk betrayal, even from their own family members. A Christian contact of one Release International partner describes the situation as 'dire.' Says 'Micah': 'Our brothers and sisters in Christ are telling us how afraid they are. In the areas that the Taliban now control girls are not allowed to go to school and women are not allowed to leave their homes without a male companion.' ... To be exposed as a Christian risks being charged with apostasy, which is punishable by death or imprisonment. There have also been honour killings of Christians by their families. ... In May 2021, the Taliban bombed the Sayed Ul-Shuhada High School in Kabul, killing at least 85. mainly schoolgirls. The previous year the Taliban staged a shooting at a maternity clinic, killing women, children and babies. ... Thousands of Afghans, including Christians, are seeking refuge in neighbouring Pakistan. But the Taliban are growing in influence there, too. Some observers say Pakistan has provided a safe haven for the Taliban and has supplied them with weapons and finance. Before the Afghan president fled, he accused Pakistan of permitting thousands of jihadi fighters to cross its border to support the Taliban."

AMY GRANT TELLS HOMOSEXUALS "IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW WE BEHAVE OR HOW WE'RE WIRED" (Friday Church News Notes, August 27, 2021,

www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) -Amy Grant, known as "the Queen of Christian Pop," recently said in an interview of Apple Music's LGBTthemed Proud Radio, "None of us are a surprise to God. ... I was invited to a table where someone said 'don't be afraid, you're loved.' ...Gay. Straight. It does not matter. It doesn't matter how we behave. It doesn't matter how we're wired" ("CCM Icon Amy Grant," Relevant Magazine, July 12, 2021). This is a dangerous error that ignores repentance and the new birth. God does love every sinner, but He doesn't accept sinners on their own terms. The Bible plainly says that homosexuality is a sin against the God who made man "male and female." Jesus Christ said, "I tell



you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish" (Luke 13:3). The members of the early churches came from every type of sinful background, including homosexuality, but they had repented of their sins and been converted by God's Spirit. Paul was very clear on this matter. "Know ye not that the

unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind. Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. And such WERE some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God" (1 Corinthians 6:9-11). Amy Grant well represents the field of Contemporary Christian Music in that she follows her own heart rather than the Word of God, and she has been doing that for a very long time as we document in The Directory of Contemporary Worship Musicians, available as a free eBook at www.wavoflife.org.

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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.
- Challenging churches to fulfill the Great Commission of world evangelism (Matt. 28:18-20; Acts 13-14)
- Standing for the Received Text of the Holy Scriptures, the Authorized Version in the English Language, and sound translations of the TR in the languages of the world. (Ps. 12:6-7)



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