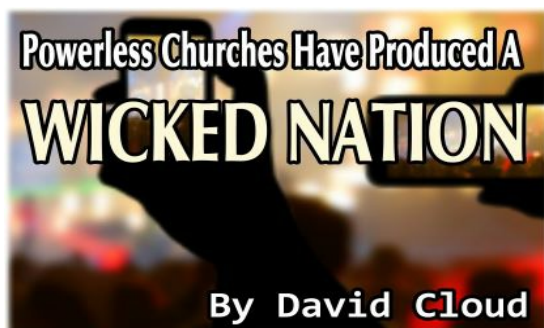


O Timothy

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

A Monthly Newsletter for Spiritual Protection and Edification

Volume 38 - Issue 10 - October 2021



"A few exceptions notwithstanding, most of the old non-denominational fundamentalist churches are New Evangelical today. The fight is gone; lines are moving. The outspoken have become silent. The holy have become worldly. The black of an unhesitating stand for the truth of God's Word is blending into evangelical gray." **Page 12.**

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



KESWICK HOLINESS ~ By David Cloud

The following is excerpted from [*The History and Heritage of Fundamentalism and Fundamental Baptists*](#), David Cloud, copyright 2020, www.wayoflife.org.

The Keswick holiness teaching had a large influence within Fundamentalism. Keswick Holiness gets its name from Bible conferences held at Keswick in northwestern England. The meetings were preceded by the rapidly spreading holiness movement in America and England.

Keswick doctrine was influenced by Methodist **"entire sanctification."** John Wesley taught that the believer can experience "a total death to sin, and an entire renewal in love, and image of God" so that "they are now in such a sense perfect, as not to commit sin, and to be freed from evil thoughts and tempers" (*A Plain Account of Christian Perfection*). The Wesleyan doctrine is called entire or complete sanctification, perfect love, full salvation, second rest. It is taught by the Methodist Church, as follows:



"Entire sanctification is a state of perfect love, righteousness and true holiness which every regenerate believer may obtain by being delivered from the power of sin ... this gracious gift may be received in this life both gradually and instantaneously, and should be sought earnestly by every child of God."

We would hasten to add that the heart of John Wesley's theology of holiness is total confidence in, total surrender to, and total trust in Christ, and this is scriptural. This is seen in Wesley's beautiful hymn "**Jesus, Lover of My Soul.**"

Jesus, lover of my soul,
let me to thy bosom fly,
while the nearer waters roll,
while the tempest still is high;

Hide me, O my Savior, hide,
till the storm of life is past;
safe into the haven guide,
O receive my soul at last!

Other refuge have I none;
hangs my helpless soul on thee;
leave, ah! leave me not alone,
still support and comfort me.

All my trust on thee is stayed,
all my help from thee I bring;
cover my defenseless head
with the shadow of thy wing.

Plenteous grace with thee is found,
grace to cover all my sin;
let the healing streams abound;
make and keep me pure within.

Thou of life the fountain art;
freely let me take of thee;
spring thou up within my heart,
rise to all eternity.

O TIMOTHY Magazine
Volume 38 Issue 10

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Subscription information on
back page of the magazine

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Charles Finney also had a wide influence on the holiness movement. In his *Systematic Theology* (1846), he said that those who were saved "habitually live without sin and fall into sin only at intervals so few and far between that, in strong language, it may be said in truth *they do not sin.*" He promoted this teaching through his revival ministry, his books, and the students who were trained at Oberlin College. It was called "the Oberlin theology." The president of Oberlin, Asa Mahan, taught this in his 1844 book *Scripture Doctrine of Christian Perfection*. Both Finney and Mahan claimed to have experienced "second conversions" in 1836. "Mahan believed that as a result of this experience, his desires and inclinations had been purified, so that *he not only was free from committing sin but no longer had a habitual tendency toward sin*" ("The Cleansing Wave," *Christian History* magazine, Issue 82).

Methodist evangelist **Phoebe Palmer** (1807-1874) had a large influence on holiness teaching in America and England. Phoebe claimed to have experienced "entire sanctification" in 1837. She preached in churches, conferences, and camp meetings. Her husband, Walter, also preached, but she was the most popular. They preached in the United Kingdom for several years beginning in 1859. In 1864, they began publishing the monthly magazine *The Guide to Holiness*. Phoebe Palmer's book *The Way of Holiness* was widely read. She defended women preachers in her book *The Promise of the Father*. Her daughter, Phoebe Knapp, wrote several hymn tunes, including the one to Fanny Crosby's "Blessed Assurance."

(Keswick typically does not hold to sinless perfectionism or "entire sanctification." though some early teachers did hold to this.)

Robert Pearsall Smith and his wife, Hannah Whitall Smith, taught holiness doctrine beginning in the late 1860s. They allegedly experienced a "second blessing" in 1867. Robert said he felt a "magnetic thrill of heavenly delight." He edited *The Christian's Pathway to Power*, and his teaching on "the victorious life" was carried in other publications. In 1869, China missionary J. Hudson Taylor claimed to have entered "the victorious life," and the missionary who taught Taylor about this had learned it from Robert Smith's articles in *Revival* magazine (A.J. Bromhall, *The Shaping of Modern China: Hudson Taylor's Life and Legacy*, vol. 2). Hannah Smith was as prominent in teaching and preaching as Robert. They

were brought to England in the 1870s by the Baptist evangelist William Boardman and taught in London, Manchester, Nottingham, Leicester, and Dublin. They promised “an experience of triumph over sin, purity of heart ... quite unknown before” (A.T. Pierson, *The Keswick Movement*).

Hannah Smith’s *The Christian’s Secret of a Happy Life* (1875) was hugely influential. She described the experience as “entire surrender” and “entire abandonment.” She said the higher life experience will “save you fully, now, in this life, from the power and dominion of sin.”

The Keswick meetings began in 1874 on the Broadlands estate of Lord and Lady Mount Temple. This is in Oxford. The Temples and others, including some Oxford students, wanted to know how to achieve the “higher life” that the Smiths were preaching. Anglican canon T.D. Hartford-Battersby, and his friend Robert Wilson, were in attendance, and claimed to have already experienced it. Hartford-Battersby said, “We were taken out of ourselves; we were led step by step, after deep and close searching of heart, to such a consecration of ourselves to God, as in the ordinary times of a religious life, hardly seemed possible ... to the enjoyment of a peace in trusting Christ for present and future sanctification which exceeded our utmost hopes.” Hartford-Battersby and Wilson were the co-founders of the Keswick meetings.

Theologically, the meeting at Broadlands was a strange affair. The Temples were spiritualists (they hosted the conference but didn’t teach).

Robert Wilson was a Quaker (the Religious Society of Friends) and a proponent of the heresy of the “inner light.” This refers to a divine presence and guidance *in every man*. There is an emphasis on being still and silent and passive in order to receive guidance from the inner light. In his journal, Quaker founder George Fox said, “I was glad that I was commanded to turn people to that inward light, spirit, and grace, by which all might know their salvation, and their way to God; even that divine Spirit which would lead them into all Truth, and which I infallibly knew would never deceive any” (*The Journal of George Fox*, revised by John Nickalls, 1952, p. 35). In Quaker theology, the “inner light” is greater than the light of Scripture. Prominent Quaker teacher William Barclay said, “Nevertheless, because they [the Scripture] are only a declaration of the fountain, and not the fountain

itself, therefore THEY ARE NOT TO BE ESTEEMED THE PRINCIPAL GROUND OF ALL TRUTH AND KNOWLEDGE, NOR YET THE ADEQUATE PRIMARY RULE OF FAITH AND MANNERS. Yet because they give a true and faithful testimony of the first foundation, they are and may be esteemed a SECONDARY RULE, subordinate to the Spirit, from which they have all their excellency and certainty” (Barclay, *An Apology for the True Christian Divinity*, “The Third Proposition: Concerning the Scriptures”).

Robert and Hannah Smith were the prominent teachers, but within a year Robert was exposed as a serial adulterer who taught “erotic baptism” (the idea that the baptism of the Holy Spirit is accompanied by sexual thrills). His forte was introducing young women to that experience, and he finally was caught in the act.

Hannah Smith rejected Christ’s substitutionary blood atonement and eternal judgment (believing that all men would be saved). She taught that “a good Creator can be got at through all sorts of religious beliefs and all sorts of religious ceremonies, and that it does not matter what they are” (*A Religious Rebel: The Letters of “H. W. S.”* edited by Hannah’s son Logan Pearsall Smith). She accepted theistic evolution and “mind healing” and cared nothing for Christ’s second coming or the literal fulfillment of prophecy. She said the Bible is only one of four “especial voices,” the other three being circumstances, reason, and inward impressions (the latter being similar to Quaker “inner light”).

When criticized for preaching to men, she said, “[God] gave me such A STRONG FEELING that it was His mind, that now, whatever is said against it, it makes no difference” (*Record of the Convention for the Promotion of Scriptural Holiness Held at Brighton*, 1875). It was also an “inward voice” that convinced her that there is no hell (Smith, *Every-day Religion*, pp. 160-161). Hannah Smith’s daughter, Alys Pearsall Smith, married the infamous atheist philosopher Bertrand Russell.

In 1875, the higher life convention was held at Brighton, a seaside resort in south England that had grown in popularity since the arrival of the rail line from London in 1841. Promoted by D.L. Moody at his London revival meetings, the 1875 Brighton higher life convention was attended by 8,000. Robert Smith was scheduled to be the main speaker, but his adultery was exposed beforehand and he was replaced.

In 1876, the higher life meeting was held in Keswick, hosted by Hartford-Battersby, head of the local Anglican parish. Keswick is a picturesque village in northwest England, situated on the Greta River and nestled in low mountains. Keswick is in the Lake District, which is famous for “the poets of the Lake School, Coleridge, Wordsworth, and Southey.” Annual conferences have been held in Keswick since 1876.

The Keswick theology is a hodgepodge. It has even been said that it cannot be defined. *But the heart of it is an emphasis on a second blessing or a crisis experience that transports the believer above the struggles of the “normal Christian life” into a state of higher holiness.* It is called “higher life,” “deeper life,” “exchanged life,” “the abiding life,” “the abundant life,” “full surrender,” “the rest of faith,” “the life of faith,” “walking in revival,” “constant peace,” “the overflowing cup.” It has been described as “let go and let God.”

The heart of the Keswick experience is to come to an experience of complete surrender to and rest in Christ so that the struggle with the flesh is over. It is to be dead to sin and alive to Christ *both* positionally and practically. It is an experience subsequent to and different from justification and is obtained only by those who pursue it.

Some Other Prominent Keswick Teachers

William Boardman, a major influence in the Keswick movement through his 1858 book *The Higher Christian Life*, claimed to have been saved at age 18 and to have been *sanctified* at age 32. He was executive secretary of the YMCA and “the most successful evangelist of the generation between Finney and D.L. Moody” (“The Cleansing Wave,” *Christian History*, Issue 82). He taught the heresies that the Holy Spirit, not Christ, is the Justifier (*The Higher Life*, 1859, pp. 97-98), not all believers are indwelt by the Holy Spirit (*In the Power of the Spirit*), and that God promises faith healing (called “faith cure” and “mind cure” (*Faith Work under Dr. Cullis in Boston*, 1873).

J. Hudson Taylor claimed to have entered the higher Christian life in 1869, as we have seen, and he promoted higher life theology in his writings. He said, “God has made me a new man!” The book *Hudson Taylor’s Spiritual Secret* by Mr. and Mrs. Howard Taylor, son of Hudson Taylor, has had a large influence. It was first published in 1932 and has been in print ever since.

Frederick B. Meyer (1847-1929), a Baptist preacher, was “Keswick’s best known international representative,” not only in America, but through international preaching trips to South Africa, China, Ceylon, Bulgaria, and other places. He spoke at 26 Keswick conferences. He claimed to have had three crisis experiences: (1) conversion, (2) sanctification, (3) the anointing of the Spirit. He pastored Baptist churches in Leicester and London from 1872 to 1921. Meyer had a major role in promoting Keswick theology among Baptists. He spoke at Moody’s Northfield conferences and A.B. Simpson’s conferences. He promoted deeper life theology through his 75 books, such as *The Devoted Life*, *The Blessed Life*, *Secrets of Christian Living*, *Living in God’s Presence*, *The Present Tenses of the Blessed Life*, and *Power for Living*. Missionary Bill Hardecker gives the following warnings about Meyer: “He was president of the Baptist Union (at a time when Spurgeon left it due to doctrinal errors). He was weak on ecclesiastical separation and rather strong on post-conversion Spirit baptism view. (*F.B. Meyer, A Biography* by William Fullerton, pp. 41-42). He accepted a pastorate of a new church without informing the old one; the new one was paedobaptist (Christ Church), the former, Baptist. He believed that heathen could be saved without knowing the name of Jesus Christ (a sermon called ‘The Wideness of God’s Mercy’). He held a non-cessationist view of the gifts of the Spirit (*Transforming Keswick: The Keswick Convention, Past, Present, and Future* by Price and Randall, pp. 168-169). He believed in literally breathing in the Spirit: going out into the woods and taking in an influx of the Spirit (*Memorials* by Georgina Cowper-Temple, p. 117) and telepathy and clairvoyance which is a form of spiritism (*Photography and Spirit* by John Harvey, pg. 70).”

Andrew Murray (1828-1917), a Dutch Reformed missionary to South Africa, had a large influence in spreading Keswick doctrine through his 50 books and 200 tracts and pamphlets. These include *Abide in Christ*, *Absolute Surrender*, *Be Perfect*, *The Deeper Christian Life*, and *The Spiritual Life*. Like Frederick Meyer, Murray was a non-cessationist, believing in the continuation of the apostolic gifts.

Reuben A. Torrey, evangelist, popular author, head of Moody Bible Institute and the Bible Institute of Los Angeles (BIOLA), promoted a second experience of sanctification that he called “the baptism of the Holy Spirit” and that he promoted in his book by that title. He spoke on this subject at Keswick in 1904. He taught the

following steps to receiving this experience: (1) repent of sin, (2) renounce sin, (3) be baptized, (4) obey God in total surrender, (5) desire the Holy Spirit with passion and intensity, (6) ask God for the Holy Spirit (“a definite asking for a definite blessing”), (7) believe that God has given you the Holy Spirit.

The Christian and Missionary Alliance was deeply influenced by the Methodist and Keswick doctrine of holiness. Founder A.B. Simpson claimed to have had the deeper life experience in 1874 by reading William Boardman’s *The Higher Christian Life*. Simpson, in turn, influenced many through his book *Wholly Sanctified*. His thesis is that the whole sanctification spoken of in 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24 is a promise for this present life. The believer can have an experience that is likened to a tidal wave, an elevator, and an elevated railway. Instead of slogging along through the mud of this life, beset by toils and troubles, the wholly sanctified individual is like a stranded ship being floated up and carried along effortlessly by “God’s great tidal wave.” Instead of struggling one’s way up long winding stairs, the wholly sanctified is carried up effortlessly by “God’s great Elevator.” Instead of “toiling along the lower pavement,” the wholly sanctified is borne along effortlessly “by God’s great Elevated Railway.” It’s a Christian life without struggle, without strain, perfect holiness, perfect victory, perfect peace, perfect joy. Simpson said, “How easy, how spontaneous, how delightful this heavenly way of holiness!” This is how Simpson begins his book, and he promises to explain to every saint how to come into this “divine way of holiness.” The only problem is that it is a fantasy that is nowhere promised in Scripture.

Keswick type holiness was taught in the influential book ***Calvary Road* by Roy Hession**. It contains messages that first appeared in a revival paper titled *Challenge* published by the Hessions in the 1940s. It describes an experience called “walking in revival,” “walking in the way of the cross,” and “the highway life” that is achieved by focusing one’s attention on Calvary. It contains many excellent teachings on dying to self, surrender to God, humility, and sensitivity to sin. But there is an overriding emphasis that one can walk in *a near perfect spiritual revival experience* that is described as a “life that will fill us and overflow through us,” “constant peace,” “walking along the Highway, with hearts overflowing,” “cups overflowing.” Hession said that when he first came to this understanding and experience it “was like beginning my Christian life all over again.”

“I recounted my struggles with self and acknowledged the new relationship with Jesus which I had entered by faith. ... In the light of our own recent experience of Christ, we preached a two-fold message: *full salvation for the Christian quite as much as an initial salvation for the non-Christian*. ... If consecration is thorough and complete, it need not be repeated. ‘Reconsecration’ is the language of piecemeal surrender to the Lord Jesus Christ” (Hession, *My Calvary Road*).

Thus Hession taught that it is necessary for the believer to enter into a “second experience” of Christ, a “full salvation,” and that if one achieves this experience he will be completely and permanently surrendered and have a daily “overflowing cup” Christian life.

Other major voices of the Keswick theology were Arthur Tappan Pierson, William H.G. Thomas, Charles Trumbull, and Robert McQuilkin.

Higher Life Theology in Popular Hymns

As a young Christian, I often wondered about the words of hymns, such as the following, that describe an experience I could not relate to: perfect happiness, perfect peace, not a shade of care, perfect submission, perfect delight, walking above the world and sin. These expressions puzzled me. What does this mean? Why don’t I have it? Could I have it? Does anyone have it? Should I seek it? How could I attain it?

Charles Wesley’s hymn “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” says, “Let us find that second rest; take away our bent to sinning...” This is the second blessing, sinless perfection experience.

Frances Ridley Havergal has been called “Keswick’s hymnist.” She claimed to have come to the deeper life experience in 1873. Her beautiful hymn “Like a River Glorious” reflects deeper life theology. It speaks of “perfect peace” and being hidden in the hollow of His blessed hand, where “not a surge of worry, not a shade of care, not a blast of hurry touch the spirit there.”

Phoebe Palmer’s “The Cleansing Wave” teaches entire holiness. “The cleansing stream I see! I see! I plunge, and oh, it cleanseth me! ... I see the new creation rise, I hear the speaking blood; it speaks, POLLUTED NATURE

DIED, sinks 'neath the cleansing flood. I rise to walk in Heavn's own light, ABOVE THE WORLD AND SIN..."

Charle P. Jones' "Come unto Me" (1908) teaches entire sanctification." It says, "Have you by temptation often conquered been, has a sense of weakness brought distress within? CHRIST WILL SANCTIFY YOU, IF YOU'LL CLAIM HIS BEST; in the Holy Spirit, He will give you rest."

Fanny Crosby was a Methodist who believed in perfectionist theology. She attended John Street Methodist Church in New York City, where Phoebe Knapp also attended. Phoebe was the daughter of the perfectionist preacher Phoebe Palmer. Fanny and Phoebe Knapp were best friends and they wrote "Blessed Assurance" together. One day in her room at the Savoy Hotel, Phoebe played a tune for Fanny on her personal pipe organ and asked, "What does this tune say?" Fanny replied, "Why, that says blessed assurance, Jesus is mine," and she wrote the words to the hymn right then and there ("Phoebe Palmer Knapp: Rich, Beautiful, Charitable," June 2007, Christianity.com).

The hymn "Blessed Assurance" teaches perfect holiness. "PERFECT SUBMISSION, PERFECT DELIGHT, visions of rapture now burst on my sight ... Perfect submission, ALL is at rest, I in my Savior am happy and blest, watching and waiting, looking above, filled with his goodness, lost in his love."

Biblical Aspects of Keswick Theology

There is a lot that is biblical and right and important in Keswick theology, particularly the necessity of full surrender to God, of self-denial, of a passion for holiness and holy living, of a focus of one's life upon Jesus Christ, and of dependence upon the indwelling Spirit.

This is a right emphasis that is often missing in the lives and homes and churches of those who speak disparagingly of "higher life" teaching. It is clear in Scripture that God *does* call His people to a higher life, a pilgrim life, a surrendered life, a holy life, a trusting life, a praying life, and this should always be front and center. This is true New Testament Christian living.

The motto of Keswick is "to me to live is Christ" and its aim is "to bring men and women into a life of communion with God, victory over sin, and fruit-bearing." This is a

biblical goal that should be the passion of every individual believer and of every Christian home and of every assembly. It is the path of true revival, which should be a way of life, not a once in a while experience.

Consider the following challenge by A.B. Simpson from *The Life of Obedience*:

"Let us say 'No' to the flesh, the world, and the love of self, and learn that holy self-denial in which consist so much the life of obedience. Make no provision for the flesh; give no recognition to your lower life. Say 'No' to everything earthly and selfish. How very much of the life of faith consists in simply denying ourselves."

This is a perfectly scriptural and very important exhortation that is fading away from the preaching and lifestyle of a multitude of "fundamentalist" and "fundamental Baptist" churches.

Consider Andrew Murray's beautiful poem "**In Times of Trouble**," that teaches surrender to God, and resting in God, in every circumstance.

In times of trouble, God's trusting child may say.

FIRST: He brought me here. It is by His will I am in this difficult place. In that will I rest.

NEXT: He will keep me here in His love and give me grace in this trial to behave as His child.

THEN: He will make the trial a blessing, teaching me the lessons He wants me to learn, and work in me the grace He means to bestow.

LAST: In His good time He can bring me out again—how and when He knows. Therefore say: I am here by appointment. In His keeping. Under His training. For His time.

Consider the excellent hymn "**Take My Life and Let It Be**" by Frances Havergal. It describes the surrender to God's will that should characterize every child of God. This is not just a "deeper life" thing. It is biblical Christianity. "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service" (Romans 12:1).

Take my life and let it be
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee.
Take my moments and my days,
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands and let them move
At the impulse of Thy love.
Take my feet and let them be
Swift and beautiful for Thee.

Take my voice and let me sing,
Always, only for my King.
Take my lips and let them be
Filled with messages from Thee.

Take my silver and my gold,
Not a mite would I withhold.
Take my intellect and use
Every pow'r as Thou shalt choose.

Take my will and make it Thine,
It shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is Thine own,
It shall be Thy royal throne.

Take my love, my Lord, I pour
At Thy feet its treasure store.
Take myself and I will be
Ever, only, all for Thee.

The “Keswick” emphasis on complete surrender challenged a lot of saints. We think of F.B. Meyer’s preaching at the Northfield conferences. He would say, “If you are not willing to give up everything for Christ, are you willing to be made willing?” What a great challenge! This should be sounded out continually in every church. When J. Wilbur Chapman was a 27-year-old evangelist, his wife died a month after the birth of their first child and he was thrown into mental turmoil and doubting. After hearing Meyer’s exhortation about surrender, Chapman said, “That remark changed my whole ministry; it seemed like a new star in the sky of my life” (Ed Reese, *The Life and Ministry of John Wilber Chapman*).

The call to full surrender is God’s missionary call, and it is through the preaching of full surrender that multitudes of God’s people have left their personal aspirations to follow Christ to minister to a needy lost world.

In the late 1800s, the Keswick Convention had a major influence in missionary work. J. Hudson Taylor attended Keswick in 1883 and 1887 and spoke there in 1889. He said that two-thirds of his missionaries in China were produced by Keswick. Amy Carmichael, missionary to India for 56 years, dedicated her life to missions at a Keswick convention. She was the adopted daughter of Keswick leader Robert Wilson. During the 1903 convention, Barclay Buxton and Paget Wilkes founded the Japan Evangelistic Board. Keswick was a major

influence on John Govan, founder of The Faith Mission in Scotland.

But any theology of a “second blessing” is unscriptural and therefore dangerous. Many have been shipwrecked through false doctrines of holiness, by seeking what God does not promise and being confused when they have not experienced what they were taught to expect.

Errors of Keswick Theology

Keswick Conventions are interdenominational in philosophy and practice. The theme is “All One In Christ.” There was “great jealousy about fundamentals, but equal flexibility as to non-essentials.” Early speakers included Anglicans (T.D. Harford-Battersby, Handley Moule, J. Stuart Holden), Baptists (F.B. Meyer), Reformed (Andrew Murray), Methodists (Phoebe Palmer), Quakers (Robert Wilson), and Plymouth Brethren (Robert Smith).

It is amazing that born again Christians who believe that the Bible is the infallible Word of God, the sole authority for faith and practice, can accept the idea that God is pleased with those who treat so many clear teachings of Scripture as “non-essentials”!

Is it not a matter of “holiness” to treat all of God’s Word as essential? Christ taught this. His Great Commission for this age specifically and emphatically requires that the believers be taught “to observe ALL things whatsoever I have commanded you” (Mt. 28:20). Words could not be clearer as to Christ’s will, and obeying Christ’s will is the very essence of true holiness. Scriptural baptism, which is Trinitarian believer’s baptism by immersion, is *not* a non-essential. Nothing clearly taught in Scripture about the church is a non-essential. Women not teaching men or not having authority over men is *not* a non-essential.

True holiness will correct and reprove the errors of Anglicanism and Methodism and Quakerism and every doctrine and practice that is contrary to the Word of God.

Is it not a matter of holiness to separate from false teaching and apostasy as God’s Word commands (e.g., Ro. 16:17; 2 Co. 6:14-18; 2 Ti. 2:15-21; 3:5)? Yet Keswick speakers have never called for this and have not practiced it. F.B. Meyer, for example, who spoke at Keswick 26 times, stayed in the liberal Baptist Union

throughout his pastorate from 1872 to 1921, ignoring its liberalism and standing firm *against* separation even after C.H. Spurgeon faithfully departed from the Union in 1887.

For more on this see the study on “Interdenominationalism” in this chapter on “Interdenominational Fundamentalism” in [*The History and Heritage of Fundamentalism and Fundamental Baptists*](#).

A fundamental error of Keswick deeper life theology is its emphasis on finding some one “key” to a holy life, such as abiding, reckoning, resting, surrendering, believing, accepting.

For example, Lewis Sperry Chafer said, “Romans 6:1-10 ... is the foundation as well as the key to the possibility of a walk in the Spirit (*He That Is Spiritual*, p. 154). While Romans 6:1-10 is a very important passage, what about all the other passages about sanctification? What about the rest of Romans 6 and what about Romans 7 and Romans 8 and Romans 12 and Ephesians 4-6 and Colossians 2-3, etc.? If there was *one key* to perfect holiness, “the” key, the New Testament Epistles would present that key very clearly and it would be described as the one necessary element in spiritual victory. Everything else would be superfluous. Instead, though, we see a multiplicity of things that are taught in the Epistles in regard to sanctification.

The apostolic churches had many sins and problems that are addressed in the Epistles for our instruction and edification, and there is no one “key.” In the Epistle to Ephesus, for example, Paul gives a lot of instruction about sanctification. The first three chapters describe the believer’s eternal, unchanging position in Christ. Understanding this position is absolutely necessary for true holiness and spiritual victory. Chapters 4-6 move on to many other things. There is walking worthy (Eph. 4:1). There is submission to the ministry of teaching, which of course refers to being part of a sound church (Eph. 4:14-16). There is putting off the old man and putting on the new (Eph. 4:22-24). There is walking in love (Eph. 5:2). There is proving what is acceptable to the Lord (Eph. 5:10). There is having no fellowship with and reproving the unfruitful works of darkness (Eph. 5:11). There is walking circumspectly (Eph. 5:15). There is redeeming the time (Eph. 5:16). There is being filled with the Spirit (Eph. 5:18). There is singing psalms and hymns (Eph. 5:19). There is giving thanks always for all things

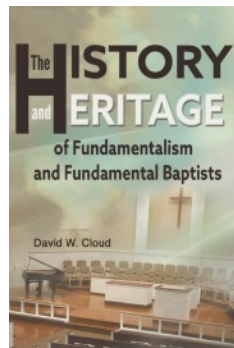
(Eph. 5:20). There is walking in obedience and holiness in the home (Eph. 5:22 - 6:4). There is doing the will of God from the heart (Eph. 6:6). There is putting on the whole armour of God (Eph. 6:10-18).

Critiques of Keswick doctrine were published by B.B. Warfield in *Studies in Perfectionism*, by J.C. Ryle in *Holiness: Its Nature, Hindrances, Difficulties and Roots*, and by Harry Ironside in *Holiness: The False and the True*. We present what we believe to be the biblical teaching on sanctification in [*Holiness: Pitfalls, Struggles, and Victory*](#) (www.wayoflife.org).

Ironside’s book helped me as a young Christian. He begins by relating his own experience as a young preacher in the Salvation Army. Believing the doctrine of entire sanctification, he sought this “experience” as a “second work of grace.” The pursuit of this unscriptural experience almost drove him to abandon his preaching ministry, but God opened his eyes to the truth of biblical sanctification. The first part of the book is his personal experience in seeking entire sanctification, and the second part is the teaching on biblical sanctification. He describes the fruit of false doctrine: “Perhaps the saddest thing about the movement to which I have referred is the long list of shipwrecks concerning the faith to be attributed to its unsound instruction. Large numbers of persons seek ‘holiness’ for years only to find they have had the unattainable before them. Others profess to have received it, but are forced at last to own it was all a mistake. The result is sometimes that the mind gives way beneath the strain; but more frequently unbelief in the inspiration of the Scriptures is the logical result” (Ironside, *Holiness: The False and the True*).

The HISTORY and HERITAGE of FUNDAMENTALISM & FUNDAMENTAL BAPTISTS

By David W. Cloud



This book contains an extensive history of Fundamentalism in general and of fundamental Baptists in particular.

Available from:
[Way of Life Literature](http://www.wayoflife.org)

Tight Clothing and MODESTY

By David Cloud

Recently I commented on an advertisement for the Getty's Sing 2019 worship conference that showed a woman dancing in super tight pants that look like they were painted on. I described this woman's clothing as "incredibly immodest" ("The Getty's Big Tent Christianity," [Friday Church News Notes, June 28, 2019](#)). A reader commented, "I would definitely agree that her outfit was immodest, but I would not say that it was 'incredibly immodest.'" He also said that his 18-year-old daughter, who is a Getty fan, "will probably say that the outfit is not immodest."

These two comments are intimately related. It has been said that what the parents allow in moderation, the children will take to the extreme. I replied to this man as follows:

"Anyone who thinks that is not incredibly immodest is more influenced by the world than the Word of God. Independent Baptist churches are filled with such people, but that is because they are unscriptural mixed multitudes instead of true New Testament churches that maintain regenerate church membership by caution and wisdom in baptism and in receiving members (Acts 2:41-42) and by serious discipleship (Mt. 28:20; 2 Co. 7:1; Eph. 4:11-32; 5:1-15; Heb. 5:12-14; 1 Pe. 2:1-2) and through the purging of discipline (1 Co. 5:6-8)."

Tight, clinging attire is as immodest as skimpy attire because the woman's figure is emphasized and accented, and the man's attention is directed to that which is forbidden outside of marriage. Men are strongly influenced sexually by the eye-gate and are attracted to the woman's curves. The immodest clothing industry understands these things and strives to dress women seductively rather than modestly.

It is important to understand that tight, form-fitting clothes can be just as sexually disturbing to a man as skimpy clothes.

In the book *For Women Only: What You Need to Know about the Inner Lives of Men*, Shaunti Feldhahn describes the following situation:

"Another husband with a happy twenty-year marriage described another typical scenario: 'My wife and I recently went out to dinner at a nice restaurant with some friends. The hostess was extremely attractive and was WEARING FORM-FITTING CLOTHES THAT SHOWED OFF A GREAT FIGURE. For the rest of the night, it was impossible not to be aware that she was across the restaurant, walking around. Our group had a great time with our lovely wives, but I guarantee you that our wives didn't know that every man at that table was acutely aware of that woman's presence and was doing his utmost not to look in that direction' (p. 114).

In our survey of Christian men on the issue of women's dress we found that tight clothing is at least as much of a potential problem for men as skimpy clothing.

Most of the men indicated that tight skirts and tight blouses and form-fitting jeans hold a "VERY great potential" for lust.

Consider the following statements from men who responded to a questionnaire about clothing:

"I would say the number one problem is any garment that is form fitting, be it jeans, pants, skirt, dress, shirt, whatever. Anything that is tight, no matter how long it is, leaves nothing to the imagination, and that defeats the whole purpose of covering the skin in the first place!"

"You don't even need to see skin; they provide all the curves."

“One thing I see in my church is tight clothing. Oh, it may very well be covering but it is revealing the shape in a woman. This can be even more tantalizing to a man.”

“The point is that it is not merely the type of clothing that can trip a man up; rather it is the amount and the level of cling to the body.”

Tight pants were created by Calvin Klein, a bisexual fashion designer. When his super tight pants appeared in 1978, they sold 200,000 pairs in the first week.

Tights worn as pants (leggings) were designed by Gianni Versace, a homosexual fashion designer who was murdered by a homosexual in 1997.

Godly pilgrim women who have set their affection on things above refuse to be conformed to this world and do not follow its filthy, rebellious fashions.

The fundamental of biblical modesty is the heart attitude and the moral character. This is what is emphasized in 1 Timothy 2:9-10. “In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array; But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works.”

The Christian woman’s modesty must come from the inside out. It comes from a sober and shamefaced spirit. The heart condition, the spiritual character is the fundamental thing. The dress issue begins, therefore, with salvation, because without salvation it is impossible to be shamefaced, sober, godly. Without salvation there can be no good works that please God.

The dress issue, secondly, requires surrender seeking God’s perfect will, which requires non-conformity to the world and transformation by the renewing of the mind (Romans 12:1-2). Without salvation and surrender and the pursuit of holiness, the dress issue is only a matter of externals, which is true Phariseism. The churches must focus on the heart.

Observe that these guidelines are for women professing godliness. No other kind of woman will care about these things. To profess godliness is a description of a true Christian. She is saved by God’s free grace by the blood of Christ, and she is saved *unto godliness*. The true grace of God teaches us to “live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world” (Tit. 2:11-12). So to profess Christ and

salvation in truth is to profess godliness. It is to profess that I have repented and turned from ungodliness to godliness. It is to make godliness my standard of life because I have been born from darkness to life.

To profess godliness is the opposite of the apostate Christianity described in 2 Timothy 4:3-4, which aims to live according to its own lusts. Women who are moving according to the spirit of apostasy do not profess godliness and will not submit to the rules of godliness.

If a church is full of women who refuse to heed the instruction of 1 Timothy 2:9-11, women who have the attitude of “no preacher is going to tell me how to dress; I refuse to be a weirdo,” it is a church moving with the spirit of apostasy, no matter what it might call itself or boast itself to be. It might have a name that it lives, but in reality, it is dead. Proper attire is no small issue.

This teaches us that it is not enough to set forth dress standards. Every effort must be made to educate the women, beginning with the children in the homes, so that they understand the biblical principles of modesty and know the reason for the church’s standards. Every effort must be made to reach their hearts, to make sure that that they are born again, to challenge them to surrender themselves wholly to Christ and to live for His glory.

This is where the battle has been lost in so many churches. They have focused only on external rules.

They haven’t been careful about salvation, accepting flimsy professions of faith instead of looking for regeneration. They haven’t sought to maintain a regenerate church membership. They haven’t seriously educated and disciplined the people. They haven’t produced mature saints who are skilled in the Word of God and who walk in a testing mindset to discern good from evil according to Hebrews 5:12-14.

They have taught the children only how to play games and sing silly songs and be entertained with shallow Bible stories taught, all too frequently, by unqualified teachers. The youth have been pampered and extensively more than disciplined. No wonder so many of the churches are one-generation churches that become the habitats for old people in the second generation, and the power of God, if there ever was any power of God, is a distant memory.

Two terms are used in 1 Timothy 2:9 to describe the character of the modesty-attired woman.

She has “shamefacedness.”

“Shamefacedness” is from the Greek *aidos*, which meaning godly humility. It “has the idea of downcast eyes” and means “bashfulness, i.e. (towards men), modesty or (towards God) awe” (Strong). It implies “a shrinking from trespassing the boundaries of propriety” (William Hendrickson, *New Testament Commentary*).

Shamefacedness is shyness in the sense of humility, submission to God, submission to God’s will, submission to God’s order of creation. Shamefacedness is that “meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price” (1 Pe. 3:3-4).

The shamefaced woman loves God and is committed to obeying His Word, and this is reflected on her face and in every aspect of her life, including her clothing. It is a renunciation of “the pride of life” which is a major characteristic of this fallen world (1 Jo. 2:16).

A shamefaced Christian woman will not have the attitude that says, “Don’t tell me how to dress; I will dress as I please!” She will not be stubborn and sassy. She will not say, “I don’t care what some old-fashioned men say about how I dress; that is their problem; I’m not going to be a weirdo!”

That is exactly the spirit of this lost world, and the fact that so many women in “Bible-believing” churches reflect that spirit is clear evidence of apostasy. Paul described apostasy as a Christianity that lives according to its own lusts (2 Ti. 4:3-4).

Shamefacedness is exactly the opposite of the cheeky, saucy, proud, impertinent, brash, flippant, sensual, show yourself off, insubordinate attitude that the world seeks to develop in women today and that is modeled by Hollywood starlets and rock & roll queens.

She has “sobriety.”

“Sobriety” is from the Greek *sophrosune*, which is translated “sobriety” in Acts 26:25. It means “soundness of mind, self-control” (Strong), “habitual inner self-government” (Trench), “the well-balanced state of mind arising from habitual self-restraint” (Ellicott), “moderation of the desires and passions, opposed to all that is frivolous and to all undue excitement of the passions” (Barnes). A sober mind is a mind controlled by God’s Spirit and God’s Word. Sobriety means not to be drunk, neither with alcoholic beverages, nor drugs, nor any other thing.

Many professing Christian teenage girls and young women are drunk with the fashions and fads and ways of the world. They are drunk with television, and Hollywood movies and sensual magazines and pop music and YouTube and social media. The Bible and the things of Christ do not excite them, but they are giddy over what some worldly movie star or pop singer is wearing and doing, and over the latest vain fashion or hair style or cosmetic, and over what their friends are doing and saying.

Sobriety is the opposite of foolish, silly, flippant, careless, intoxicated, shallow, worldly, and vain. It is the opposite of the spirit of the modern pop culture.

A modest, shamefaced, sober woman will not dress indecently. She will not dress in a sensual way to attract men’s lust. Jesus warned, “whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart” (Mt. 5:26). That warning is addressed to men, but the modest woman will not want to dress in such a way that men are enticed.

A modest, shamefaced, sober woman will not wear clothing that exposes those parts of the body that have particular sex appeal. God replaced Adam and Eve’s aprons with coats (Ge. 3:21). This Hebrew word (*kethôneth*) is translated “robe” in Isaiah 22:21. In 2 Samuel 13:18 it describes Tamar’s robe of many colors. Because man’s heart was now fallen and corrupt and because the man, in particular, is enticed sexually by the eye (Pr. 6:25; Mt. 5:28), proper clothing consisted of covering.

Since men find women’s breasts very desirable (Pr. 5:19), the woman needs to take special care to cover that part of herself properly. And the robes God made for Eve doubtless also covered her legs and thighs. In Isaiah 47:2-3 we find that uncovering the leg and thigh is nakedness by God’s standard.

Types of clothing that improperly expose the body include short skirts and short dresses, shorts, slit skirts (this is a teasing fashion), low blouses, short blouses that bare the midriff, deep V-necked dresses, backless dresses, halter tops, sleeveless blouses, and *any* modern swimsuit.

A modest, shamefaced, sober woman will avoid clothing whereby her body is sensually accentuated. Tight, clinging attire is as immodest as skimpy attire because the woman’s figure is emphasized and accented, and man’s attention is directed to that which is forbidden outside of marriage. The immodest clothing industry understands these things and strives to dress women seductively rather than modestly.

Powerless Churches Have Produced A WICKED NATION

By David Cloud

America's fundamental problem is not systemic racism; it is systemic wickedness. And we are convinced that the root problem is the nation's corrupt, worldly, lukewarm churches. That is the root problem in the black communities and in every community. "Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away" (2 Timothy 3:5). "Nevertheless I have *somewhat* against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent" (Revelation 2:4-5).

Since the church is the pillar and ground of the truth (1 Timothy 3:15), the New Testament church is the most important institution on earth. The greatest need of every community and every nation is New Testament churches. Nothing can take its place. But in fulfillment of Bible prophecy, the vast majority of churches today are entirely apostate. I think of Roman Catholic, Greek Orthodox, Unitarian, Seventh-day Adventist, Jehovah's Witness, Mormon, World Council of Churches and all of their affiliates, and many others.

What about "evangelicals"? Most are leavened with rock & roll worldliness and cultural liberalism (they are friends with, and conformed to, the world, which is spiritual adultery), charismatic and contemplative mysticism, nothing versions (e.g., The Message, the New Living, the Good News), textually corrupt versions (e.g., the NIV, the ESV), kingdom now theology, the social justice gospel, positivism and judge not-ism. They have renounced "separatism" even though it is a clear Bible doctrine.

But what about "fundamentalists"? A few exceptions notwithstanding, most of the old non-denominational fundamentalist churches are New Evangelical today. The fight is gone; lines are moving. The outspoken have become silent. The holy have become worldly. The black of an unhesitating stand for the truth of God's Word is blending into evangelical gray.

That leaves fundamental Baptists. But they, too, *overall*, are morphing into a wishy-washy, "Baptist-flavored" evangelicalism. And most, in our experience, are NEARLY POWERLESS. They might still have the right Bible and be sound in doctrine and even have "separation" in their church covenant and still hold to sacred music. *But they are so pathetically powerless.* An older preacher, who founded and pastored a large church with a Bible college and has preached in hundreds of churches, said, "I'm sure I couldn't join 50 churches in America, and I'm being generous. Even many pastors who have [good] music and dress standards are weak

and won't 'rock the boat' for anything. It's a sad day. Most of the churches that I could recommend are new works pastored by young men."

Consider a simple test. How many churches in America could pass this very basic biblical test, and in truth the test should be much expanded.

(1) The test of conversions. How many churches have regenerating power? A massive number of "Bible-believing" churches are seeing frighteningly few life-changing, "turn around and go the other way," biblical conversions. If the baptismal waters are stirred, it is for children who, when they reach maturity, launch right out into the world, thus demonstrating their unregeneracy.

(2) The test of the family. How many churches have the power to build godly homes? A New Testament church is tasked with building godly homes that can raise a godly seed for Christ. Yet a great number of Bible-believing churches don't have the power to make fathers who are the spiritual leaders of their homes and mothers who are the spiritual keepers of the home. Look at the worldly character of the homes. Look at the entertainment, the social media, the conversation, the priorities. Those homes are the products of churches.

(3) The test of discipleship. How many churches have the power to produce real disciples of Jesus Christ? God's Word plainly states that every church member is to be equipped to observe all things that Christ has commanded and to be presented perfect in Christ (Matthew 28:20; Col. 1:28). That is the work of a New Testament church, and if a church can't do what Christ has commanded there is something deeply, fundamentally wrong. Where are the churches that are taking this seriously and where this is really, effectually happening?

(4) The test of Bible skill. How many churches have the power to produce passionate, skillful Bible students? The Bible plainly says that every saint is to be skillful in Scripture, both in ability to use it and to apply it to daily living so that he or she has a biblical testing mindset (Hebrews 5:12-14).

(5) The test of the youth. How many churches have the power to win the hearts of youth to Christ and holiness? Youth are the product of the church and the home; neither institution can escape responsibility. I often ask pastors, "How many of the young people are on fire for the Lord? Are they passionate to become skillful Bible students? Are they surrendered to seeking God's perfect will by the standard of Romans 12?"

Powerless churches have produced a wicked nation.

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?



AMERICA'S CONTINUAL CURSE OF BILLION DOLLAR STORMS

(Friday Church News Notes, September 3, 2021,, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Since 1980, America has experienced 298 "natural" disasters, each of which caused overall damages exceeding \$1 billion (National Centers for Environmental Information). The total cost exceeds \$1.975 trillion, but that was before the Category 4 Hurricane Ida hit Louisiana on Sunday and caused an estimated \$70B in damages. In the 1980s, the annual average was less than 3 billion-dollar disasters. That more than doubled in 2000s. It doubled again in the 2010s, with an annual average of more than 10 billion-dollar disasters ("Billion Dollar Disasters," newamerica.org). In 2017, there were 10 "disaster events" costing more than \$1 billion each, capped off in August with Hurricane Harvey, the costliest storm in American history (National Centers for Environmental Information). Most of Harvey's damage to southern Texas and Houston was caused by flooding from record rainfall, more than 50 inches in a mere five days. The storm didn't pass through; it camped. The damage was estimated to be \$160 billion, similar to the combined effect of Hurricanes Katrina and Sandy ("At \$160B, Harvey expected to be the costliest natural disaster in U.S. history," UPI, Aug. 30, 2017). In

2020, there were a record 22 billion-dollar disasters, shattering the previous record of 16 in 2017. In 2020 a record 10.2 million acres of forest burned. The total average annual cost since 2016 has been \$121 billion. God has always used extreme weather to judge sinful mankind. "The LORD shall make the rain of thy land powder and dust: from heaven shall it come down upon thee, until thou be destroyed" (Deuteronomy 28:24-25). "And also I have withholden the rain from you, when *there were* yet three months to the harvest: and I caused it to rain upon one city, and caused it not to rain upon another city: one piece was rained upon, and the piece whereupon it rained not withered (Amos 4:7).

DERECHOS AND HABOOBS

(Friday Church News Notes, September 3, 2021, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Not only is this old world subject to hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, drought, extreme heat, extreme cold, hail, lightening, blizzards, and ice storms, there are derechos and haboobs! A **haboob** is a violent dust or sand storm created by thunder storm downdrafts and outflow winds. They are prevalent in North Africa, some parts of the Middle East, and the American Southwest plains. A **derecho** (Spanish for "straight ahead") "is a widespread, long-lived wind storm that is associated with a



band of rapidly moving showers or thunderstorms. A typical derecho consists of numerous microbursts, downbursts, and downburst clusters. By definition, if the wind damage swath extends more than 240 miles and includes wind gusts of at least 58 mph or greater along most of its length, then the event may be classified as a derecho” (National Severe Storms Laboratory). God didn’t create man to be subject to haboobs and derechos. God made man to live in a paradise, but man wasn’t satisfied with God and sinned against his lovely Creator’s law, and when man fell, his world was placed under a curse. On that memorable day, God said to Adam, “Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed *is* the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat *of* it all the days of thy life; Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou *art*, and unto dust shalt thou return” (Genesis 3:17-19). Happily, the story doesn’t end there. The compassionate Creator had planned salvation, and He Himself paid the price that His own holy and just law required when His Son suffered and bled and died on Calvary. By receiving the gospel of Jesus Christ, fallen sinners can be reconciled with the lovely God and can look forward to living again in paradise. “The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them; and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose” (Isaiah 35:1).

BEN CARSON WARNS ABOUT VACCINE MANDATES (Friday Church News Notes, September 3,



2021, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Ben Carson is a retired neurosurgeon and former U.S. Secretary of Housing and Urban Development. The following is excerpted from “Vaccine Mandates Shape Terrible Future,” *Newsmax*, Aug. 23, 2021: “‘The really important thing here is for us to recognize that this is America that we’re living in,’ Carson told Monday’s ‘Eric Bolling: The Balance.’ ‘This is a place where people came so that they could be free. And the whole concept of mandates, no matter how wonderful you think they are, are opening the door to something that could be pretty terrible in the future.’ Carson shared his concern that politicians could impose ‘some types of penalties’ on Americans for having unorthodox views, and that is something ‘we have to think about.’ As far as vaccines, Carson believes ‘they’re very good.’ Vaccination mandates, however, are not, he said. And if activists try to steer people ‘in one direction or another by parceling out certain types of information, it makes them even more suspicious,’ Carson said. The retired neurosurgeon concluded that ‘the damage that we do with mandates that are unnecessary is tremendous.’”

CHINA HAS BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF VIDEO GAMES THAN A LOT OF

CHRISTIAN PARENTS (Friday Church News Notes, September 3, 2021, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - China is a totalitarian state and an avowed enemy of God, but the Communists seem to have better understanding of the danger of video games than a lot of Christian parents. The following is excerpted from “China limiting kids’ online gaming,” *The Washington Times*, Aug. 30, 2021: “China is banning children from playing online games Monday through Thursday and will allow them to play only 3 hours each week over concerns about addiction, according to China’s National Press and Publication Administration. The new restrictions on children’s video game playing will take effect Wednesday and will force companies to limit children’s access to an hour each day on Friday, Saturday, Sunday and certain holidays. The companies will be required to implement a real-name-based registration system that links an account to an individual user that China’s regulators will be able to check. The notice from China’s National Press and Publication Administration on Monday said the ‘problem of excessive use or even addiction to online games by minors’ has become prominent, according to an English-language translation made by Apple.”





MUSLIMS BURN PASTOR TO DEATH IN UGANDA (Friday Church News Notes, September 3, 2021, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The following is excerpted from "Islamic Extremists Burn Pastor," *Morning Star News*, July 6, 2021: "Islamic extremists in eastern Uganda set a pastor's home on fire on Wednesday (June 30), burning him to death, sources said. Pastor Isima Kimbugwe's body was burned beyond recognition after the assailants set his home on fire in Buseta village, Kibuku District at about 10:30 p.m., local Christians said. ... Leaving Islam to become a Christian in 2017, Pastor Kimbugwe had fled the village after Muslims upset with him leading five Muslims to faith in Christ threatened to kill him, the sources said. He worked for a Christian organization in Kampala until the Covid-19 pandemic resulted in a loss of donor support that caused it to shut down, leading him to his return to his home village. 'Immediately after arriving at his house, Muslims sent a young boy aged 14 who was a student at an Islamic school at Kibuku,' said a source who requested anonymity. 'He greeted the pastor in the Islamic way, *Asalamu Asalamu alaikum* [*I greet you*, in Arabic]. The pastor refused to answer but instead replied that Jesus loves you. The boy spat saliva on the ground and uttered the Islamic [jihadist] slogan, *Allahu Akbar* [*Allah is Greater*] and ran away.' ... His brother said, 'By 10:30 we saw flames of fire

and smoke from his house. Arriving at the scene, the house was completely burnt up, and nearby was a small steel jerrycan, a cap and Koranic notes. The notes read, Your enmity to Islam is what you have ripe, an idiom meaning he had provided a valid reason for them setting him and his house on fire according to Islam.'"

PYGMY HIPPOS AND MEN LIVING AT THE SAME TIME AND PLACE (Friday Church News Notes, September 3, 2021, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The following is from CreationMoments.com, Aug. 4, 2021: "Creationists are often objects of scorn because they take the Bible's account of history literally. If the Bible's history is accurate, humans were on the Earth at the same time as many animals that are extinct today. Creationist arguments are often dismissed without answer by skeptics. Often they do this only because creationists believe that the entire creation is only about 6,000 years old. At the same time, we are gaining a more complete picture of the early Earth's history. As a result, evolutionists are being forced to accept important parts of what creationists have always been saying. Excavations in Cyprus have shown that humans have a long history of settlement there. Excavations have also revealed that Cyprus was once home to the extinct dwarf elephant and the pygmy hippopotamus. However, evolutionary scientists said dwarf elephants and the pygmy hippopotamus were there 1.5 million years before humans ever arrived on the scene. Creationists, of course, rejected this claim. But in recent excavations bones of pygmy hippos have been found in the same layers as chipped bone artifacts, chisels,

scrapers, beads and hearths. Based on this evidence, project director Alan Simmons says, 'I believe the earliest occupants of Cyprus enjoyed pygmy hippo steaks.' We may not ever know for sure whether the settlers on Cyprus ever really ate pygmy hippo steaks. However, evolutionists now have to stop laughing at creationists long enough to admit that at least this part of our Young Earth position is scientific fact. Author: Paul A. Bartz. Ref: Bower, B. 1990, 'Cyprus dig pushes back colonization date,' *Science News*, v. 123, Dec. 8. p. 359."

AVOID A SUGARED GOSPEL (Friday Church News Notes, September 3, 2021, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)



- The following is by Charles Spurgeon: "Avoid a sugared Gospel as you would shun sugar of lead. Seek that Gospel which rips up and tears and cuts and wounds and hacks and even kills, for that is the Gospel that makes alive again. And when you have found it, give good heed to it. Let it enter into your inmost being. As the rain soaks into the ground, so pray the Lord to let his Gospel soak into your soul" (Sermons, 48.538).

ANCIENT "CHEAT-WEIGHT" FOUND IN JERUSALEM (Friday Church News Notes, September 10, 2021, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The following is excerpted from "Weight used to cheat in trade,"



Jerusalem Post, Sept. 2, 2021: “Archaeologists have uncovered a weight used for trading in ancient Jerusalem that scholars believe was used to defraud traders. Found in the northern part of the City of David in Jerusalem’s Old City and dating back to 2,700 years ago during the First Temple period, the weight in question is just 14 mm. in diameter and 12 mm. in height, and is only the second one of its kind to have been found in Israel. Made of hard limestone, it contained engravings indicating it has a weight of two gerah, which equals 0.944 grams. Despite this, however, the weight does not weigh two gerah. Rather, the researchers found that it weighed at least 3.61 grams, over three times as much. While this may seem odd, Hebrew University of Jerusalem’s Eli Shukron and Hagai Cohen Kolonimus say that the likely explanation is that whoever used this weight in commerce was using it to cheat people. This type of scamming is actually extensively described in the Bible, where it is harshly criticized.” [The following is Deuteronomy 25:13-16 in the KJV: “Thou shalt not have in thy bag divers weights, a great and a small. Thou shalt not have in thine house divers measures, a great and a small. *But* thou shalt have a perfect and just weight, a perfect and just measure shalt thou have: that thy days may be lengthened in the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee. For all that do such things, *and* all that do unrighteously, *are* an

abomination unto the LORD thy God.”]

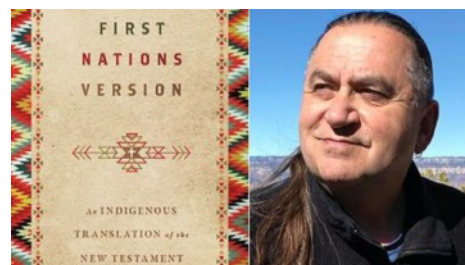
INTER-VARSITY PRESS’S NATIVE AMERICAN VERSION

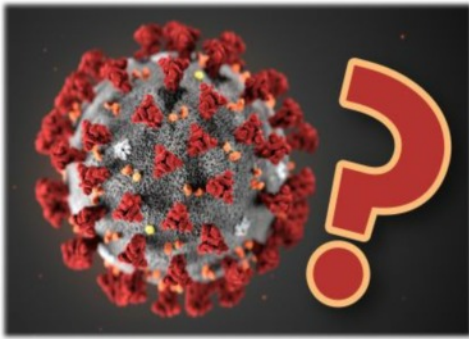
(Friday Church News Notes, September 10, 2021, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - InterVarsity Press has yet again demonstrated its apostasy by publishing the *First Nations Version: An Indigenous Translation of the New Testament*. It aims “toward conveying Christian beliefs through Native American cultural concepts and storytelling” (“New Bible translation,” *The Christian Post*, Sept. 1, 2021). John 3:16 reads, “The Great Spirit loves this world of human beings so deeply he gave us his Son--the only Son who fully represents him. All who trust in him and his way will not come to a bad end, but will have the life of the world to come that never fades --full of beauty and harmony.” This is not the Word of God. It’s not even a loose paraphrase. To call it a Bible version is nonsense. It has no clear connection to the divinely-inspired words of Scripture, yet it was positively reviewed by hundreds of “Native churches, leaders and Bible scholars” and was done in close collaboration with Wycliffe Associates of Orlando (formerly part of Wycliffe Bible Translators) and OneBook. This type of thing is based on the unscriptural “dynamic equivalency” principles of Eugene Nida and pioneered by Wycliffe

Bible Translators and the United Bible Societies. The modern Bible versions, with their textual corruptions and frightful paraphrasing liberties and the endless multiplicity of contradicting readings, are playing a major role in end-time apostasy and wishy-washy ecumenism. The infallible Word of God is not something to be played with; it is not a nose of wax to be twisted as man pleases. The translation of God’s eternal Word is the most serious business on earth. The *First Nations Version* isn’t much more corrupted than *The Message*, which is one of Southern Baptist megachurch pastor Rick Warren’s favorite “versions.” Here is John 3:16 in *The Message*: “This is how much God loved the world: He gave his Son, his one and only Son. And this is why: so that no one need be destroyed; by believing in him, anyone can have a whole and lasting life.” What does that mean? Let’s let the King James Bible, an accurate translation of the infallible Word of God, shine light on this confusion: “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

MORE FEEDBACK FROM “A WORD ABOUT THE COVID VACCINES” (Friday Church News Notes, September 10, 2021, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- “Thank you so much for your well researched article on the Covid Vaccines. I am a Pastor of a small church ... I have the privilege of being able to support myself in the ministry as a Doctor, being a family physician and an emergency physician. I must say this Covid situation has saddened me no end; it has distracted God Fearing and Preaching pastors, and





Christians alike, from doing the work of The Lord to focusing on conspiracy, anti-government rhetoric, and protesting. I absolutely agree with you, we were told not to fight the government but to 'fight the good fight' -- which was never the fight against the establishment. The so called conspiracy baffles me, the so called persecution confuses me. We have not even come close to the level of persecution God's churches suffered during the time of Paul, yet it was during these times that we were told to 'obey magistrates' and to 'honour the king,' not to mention praying for 'kings and for all that are in authority' -- not protesting and causing civil disobedience. I do believe that this is all a distraction from Satan to divert our attention away from what really matters -- The Gospel of Christ. As a word of encouragement, I agree with all that you said as it made perfect scientific sense, but more importantly it made perfect biblical sense. The drug companies? They are just companies wanting to make as much of a profit for their share holders as they can -- pretty dumb to kill off your customers, don't you think? Conspiracy about COVID-19? Unlikely! This would require collaboration at the highest level between multiple countries who can't even agree on where to hold a meeting let alone something as big as this. Will this level of government collaboration ever happen? Yes, one day, God has

ordained it, so yes it will happen. Is it the Christian's job to stop it? No, if God has ordained it we have no power to stop it; our job is to pray for all men everywhere that they would come to the saving knowledge of Christ and the spread the gospel as we were instructed -- simple really. Is Covid-19 real? I hope so because if it's not then I'm not sure what we have been treating this past 18 months. **Is there a conspiracy? Absolutely!!! A conspiracy by Satan to distract Gods people from the real task at hand.** Thank you again for your article, well written and well presented."

GETTING AROUND GOD'S LAW (Friday Church News Notes, September 10, 2021, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The Lord Jesus rebuked the Pharisees for their clever tactics of getting around God's law. "But he answered and said unto them, Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition? For God commanded, saying, Honour thy father and mother: and, He that curseth father or mother, let him die the death. But ye say, Whosoever shall say to *his* father or *his* mother, *It is* a gift, by whatsoever thou mightest be profited by me; And honour not his father or his mother, *he shall be free*. Thus have ye made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition" (Mt. 15:3-6). Israel is still engaged in this terrible game. The law of God says, "But in the seventh year shall be a sabbath of rest unto the land, a sabbath for the LORD: thou shalt neither sow thy field, nor prune thy vineyard. ... And if ye shall say, What shall we eat the seventh year? behold, we shall not sow, nor gather in our increase: Then I will command my



blessing upon you in the sixth year, and it shall bring forth fruit for three years" (Leviticus 25:1-7, 20-22). (The sabbath year began on September 6, 2021, which is the year 5,782 on the Jewish calendar.) Instead of simply ceasing from farming in the sabbath year and trusting God to provide their needs, Israeli farmers have gone to the rabbis for help in artful disobedience. One tactic is to "symbolically relinquish ownership" to non-Jews for the sabbath year. Another tactic is to move the farming indoors to hothouses. The sabbath hothouses "are built under rabbinical supervision to ensure the plants have no contact with the soil" ("The farmers giving their land a year off," *Israel21c*, Aug. 29, 2021). Nechemia Rappel, who was chairman of the Religious Kibbutz movement in 2007, said "Everyone understands that you cannot work for six years and then have no income on the seventh. A farmer cannot tell his customers in Israel and abroad that he is not working and that he'll be back in a year" ("Bid to let land lie," *Forward*, Aug. 29, 2007). Right, that is true if one is not trusting in Jehovah God.

COMPROMISE IS A CREEPING PARALYSIS (Friday Church News Notes, September 17, 2021, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - "The spirit of compromise grows like creeping paralysis. and before one realizes it, the churches speak out so weakly against any sin that it can

barely be heard, and certainly they would never take action of any kind. they just sit trying to be pleasing to everybody, uttering a few pious, meaningless platitude” (James Crumpton, *New Testament Church Discipline*).

WRESTLING AGAINST FLESH AND BLOOD

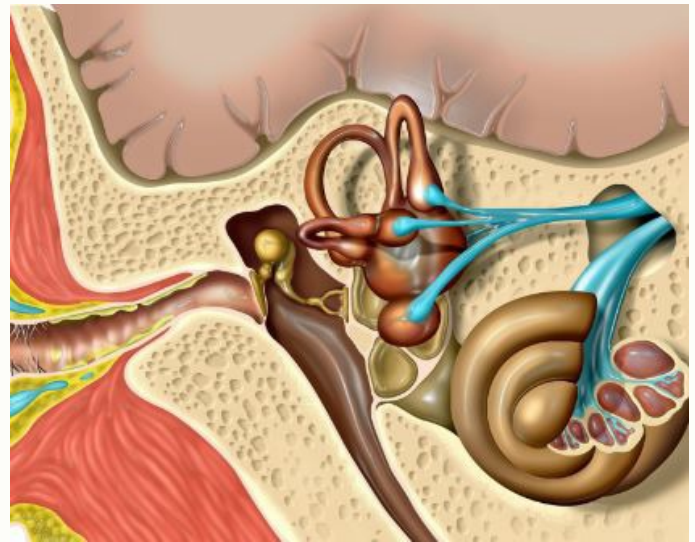
(Friday Church News Notes, September 17, 2021, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The Bible says that God’s people do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but a great number of professing Christians are doing just that. “For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the

darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand” (Ephesians 6:12-13). The apostle Paul, who wrote this under divine inspiration, modeled obedience to it. He lived in an empire filled with flesh and blood wickedness, corrupt emperors, scandalous governors, crooked businessmen, disreputable politicians, nefarious military leaders. Paul could have stayed very busy indeed wrestling against flesh and blood corruption and conspiracies, but he didn’t. This was not because he was ignorant of what was happening or that he didn’t care



about such things. He understood that the real enemies are not flesh and blood. He had more important things to do in God’s business: preaching the gospel, the only message of salvation, discipling the saints, building New Testament churches as the pillar and ground of the truth in a dark world, building godly families as a bulwark against evil. Unlike Paul, political

INSULATED EARS (Friday Church News Notes, September 10, 2021, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is from CreationMoments.com, June 25, 2021: “Our senses link us to the world around us and enable us to interact with the world. While most people believe that our sense of sight is the highest of the senses and the most marvelous in design, our sense of hearing is no less marvelous. When a sound strikes your ear, your eardrum vibrates with the sound waves, fast or slow, soft or hard. These variations in vibration provide us with important information about the nature of the sound we are hearing. Some sounds produce a vibration in the eardrum as small as a billionth of a centimeter – only one-tenth the diameter of a hydrogen atom! There are three tiny bones in the middle ear called the hammer, anvil and stirrup. They pick up the vibrations from the eardrum, amplify them and send them on to the cochlea. The cochlea is filled with about 25,000 tiny hair cells that finally turn the vibrations into electrical signals that are sent on to the brain. Our hearing is designed to be more sensitive to high-pitched sounds than to lower sounds. If we had just a little more sensitivity to lower-pitched sounds, we would continuously be distracted by the internal sounds of our body, including the blood rushing



through our arteries. In fact, to help prevent this, there are no blood vessels at all in that part of the ear where vibrations are turned into electrical impulses. The body supports life in these tissues by constantly bathing them in dissolved nutrients. While we can hear many things, and decide not to hear other things, the Creator who so marvelously designed our ears invites us to hear His Word to us from the Bible. Author: Paul A. Bartz. Ref: McCutcheon, Marc. 1989, *The Compass in Your Nose*, Los Angeles: Jeremy P. Tarcher, Inc. p. 90.”

conservatives in America most definitely wrestle against flesh and blood. Their enemies currently are Biden, Harris, Fauci, Pelosi, Soros, Gates, Newsom, liberal Supreme Court justices, Wokists, the CIA, the FBI, the CDC, Xi, Putin, and a bunch of others. Political conservatives wrestle against flesh and blood because they don't have Paul's knowledge of spiritual realities or his divine calling or his weapons. But born again Bible-believing Christians do know what Paul knew and do have the weapons Paul wielded and do have the calling to Christ's Great Commission that Paul had. Why, then, are so many of them aping political conservatism?

WHY AMERICA HAS NO PEACE

(Friday Church News Notes, September 17, 2021, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - America is in shocking turmoil. There are many reasons, but one is stated clearly in Holy Scripture, and that is churches that are not obeying God's clear command to pray for their nation. Here it is: "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" (1 Timothy 2:1-2). This is a divine command given in the context of Paul's instruction about how to behave



ourselves in the church of the living God (1 Ti. 3:15). It is a command to churches, and America has a great many Bible-believing churches of various sorts that at least preach a sound gospel, believe in the new birth, hold sound doctrine in the "fundamentals," etc. There are thousands of Baptist churches. If those churches would obey God and seriously pray for that which God has told them to pray, would America not have *a lot more* quiet and peace and godliness and honesty? There can be no doubt. Since God has specifically commanded that churches pray this very prayer, it can be certain that He is ready to answer it. But as James said, "Ye have not because ye ask not." Why aren't pastors leading in this matter?

EPISCOPALIAN BISHOP GOES TO HIS REWARD

(Friday Church News Notes, September 17, 2021, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - "But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of" (2 Peter 2:1-2). Episcopalian bishop John Shelby Spong died on Sept. 12 at age 90. He represents the apostasy that is described in Bible prophecy. John Spong is evidence that the Bible is the infallible Word of God. He was ordained as a bishop of the Episcopal diocese of Newark, New Jersey, in 1976 even though he denied practically every doctrine of the Christian faith. In 1988, Spong published *Living in Sin: A Bishop Rethinks Human Sexuality*, stating,



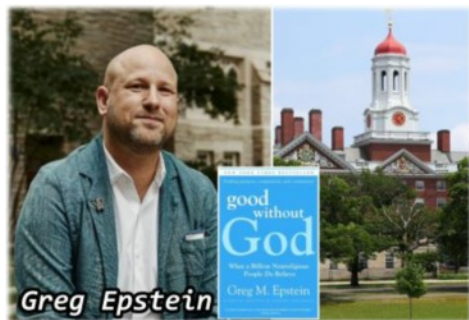
"The time has surely come not just to tolerate, or even to accept, but to celebrate and welcome the presence among us of our gay and lesbian fellow human beings." That year Spong visited a Buddhist temple and said, "As the smell of incense filled the air, I knelt before three images of the Buddha, feeling that the smoke could carry my prayers heavenward" ("A Dialogue in a Buddhist Temple," John Spong, *The Voice*, Jan. 1989). In his 1991 book *Rescuing the Bible from Fundamentalism*, Spong wrote, "Am I suggesting that these stories of the virgin birth are not literally true? The answer is a simple and direct 'Yes.' Of course these narratives are not literally true. Stars do not wander, angels do not sing, virgins do not give birth, magi do not travel to a distant land to present gifts to a baby, and shepherds do not go in search of a newborn savior. ... To talk of a Father God who has a divine-human son by a virgin woman is a mythology." Spong also said the apostle Paul was "a self hating, repressed homosexual." In 1998, Spong said, "I would choose to loathe rather than to worship a deity who required the sacrifice of his son" (*Christianity Today*, June 15, 1998). In 2000, Spong wrote in his diocesan newspaper, "I do not believe that God is a Being sitting above the clouds pulling strings. ... I do not believe that human beings are born evil and that only those who come to God through the

‘blood of Jesus’ will be saved” (“John Shelby Spong,” *The Washington Times*, Sept. 12, 2021).

HARVARD UNIVERSITY APPOINTS ATHEIST AS PRESIDENT OF CHAPLAINCY

(Friday Church News Notes, September 17, 2021, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The following is excerpted from “Harvard Appoints,” *Premier Christian News*, Aug. 30, 2021: “Harvard University in America has appointed its Atheist chaplain to be the President of its chaplaincy. Greg Epstein, 44, who already worked as a Humanist chaplain at the college, will organise the other 40 or so chaplains from the Christian, Jewish, Islamic, Hindu and Sikh faith. He was voted for unanimously by his other chaplain colleagues. Mr Epstein, who was raised Jewish, is the author of *Good Without God: What a Billion Nonreligious People Do Believe*, and wants to be there for those on campus who do not believe in God but still want to make good choices. He told the *New York Times*: ‘There is a rising group of people who no longer identify with any religious tradition but still experience a real need for conversation and support around what it means to be a good human and live an ethical life.’ ‘We don’t look to a god for answers,’ he added. ‘We are each other’s answers.’” CONCLUSION: God’s Word says, “The wise men are



ashamed, they are dismayed and taken: lo, they have rejected the word of the LORD; and what wisdom is in them?” (Jeremiah 8:9).

PROMINENT SOUTHERN BAPTIST CHURCH HOLDS CHARISMATIC-STYLE “HEALING” SERVICE

(Friday Church News Notes, September 17, 2021, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- On September 5, 2021, Steve Gaines, a former Southern Baptist Convention president, conducted charismatic-style “healing” services at Bellevue Baptist Church, Memphis, Tennessee. The people came forward in mass “to be anointed with oil and prayed over for healing ... that God will heal and restore.” Some of the men on the platform held their hands out charismatic fashion over the people as if healing rays were emitting from their hands. Contemporary rock music was playing during the “anointing.” Gaines preached from James, but he did not obey James, which says, “Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him. Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed” (Jas. 5:14-16). James describes a private, individual anointing for physical healing, not a public mass anointing for vaguely defined “healings” and “restorations.” James describes prayer for saints that are known to the elders, known members of a church, but at Bellevue the people had to tell the anointers their first names, because many were complete strangers and casual visitors. James



calls for confession of faults, but at Bellevue the pastor made it clear that they didn’t have enough time for such things. Charismatic doctrine and practice has been leavening the Southern Baptist Convention since the 1980s. (See “[Why I Am Not Southern Baptist](http://www.wayoflife.org),” www.wayoflife.org.)

SERVING THE WORD OF GOD

(Friday Church News Notes, September 17, 2021, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- “Are we willing to serve the Word of God? If we are, we will not be a people of influence in Washington, D.C., but we will be a people of power with God” (Richard Clearwaters, *The Great Conservative Baptist Compromise*).

YOUR BUSY BRAIN (Friday Church News Notes, September 17, 2021, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

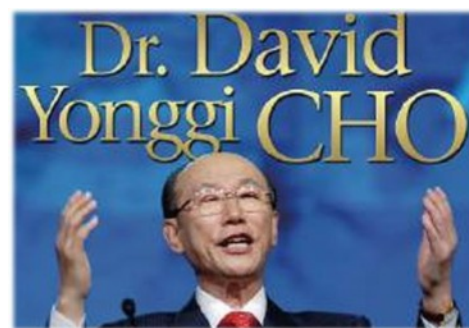
- The following is from CreationMoments.com, June 22, 2021: “Not only is the human brain the most complex structure in the universe, it is also one of the busiest. In fact, during intense concentration, your brain can burn as many calories as your muscles do during exercise! Intense thinking can literally be as exhausting as a physical workout! More than 100,000 chemical reactions go on in your brain every second. Among the brain’s many jobs is chemist. The brain produces more than 50 psychoactive drugs. Some of



these are associated with memory, others with intelligence, still others are sedatives. Endorphin is the brain's painkiller and it's three times more potent than morphine. Serotonin is produced by the brain to help keep our moods under control. The brain also makes dopamine. Dopamine makes people more talkative and excitable. Another hormone regulates hunger. The brain is also a radio transmitter that sends out measurable electrical wave signals. In fact, the brain continues to send these signals for as long as 37 hours after death! Our tiny knowledge of the brain is enough to show us that this incredible organ is no accident. The brain is much more than a powerful testimony to our Creator. Its incredible powers convince us that there is much more to existence than this material life. However, we can learn only from the Word of God about eternal life through the forgiveness of sins in Jesus Christ. Author: Paul A. Bartz. Ref: McCutcheon, Mar. 1989, *The Compass in Your Nose*, Los Angeles: Jeremy P. Tarcher, Inc."

DEATH OF DAVID YONGGI CHO (Friday Church News Notes, September 24, 2021, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - David Yonggi Cho, pastor emeritus of the Yoido Full Gospel Church of Seoul, died on September 14 at age 85. Cho, who was affiliated with the Assemblies of God, had a vast

influence as the pastor of the church formerly billed as the world's largest. He claimed that he received the call to preach directly from Jesus, who supposedly appeared to him dressed like a fireman ("Paul Yonggi Cho," *Dictionary of Pentecostal and Charismatic Movements*). He preached prosperity as part of a "five-fold gospel"--the gospel of regeneration, the gospel of the fullness of the Holy Spirit, the gospel of divine healing, the gospel of blessing, and the gospel of the advent. Cho invented the heretical "Law of Incubation." In his book *The Fourth Dimension* he described the steps of this "law"--first, make a clear-cut goal; second, create a precise mental picture of that goal; third, incubate it into reality by meditating on it; finally, speak it into existence. Cho admitted that he borrowed some of his teaching from Buddhist sects. In 2011, Cho was accused by 29 of the church's elders of embezzling US \$20 million. In February 2014, Cho was sentenced to three years in prison (suspended due to his age) for breach of trust and corruption and was ordered to pay a penalty of US \$4.7 million (*The Gospel Herald*, Feb. 21, 2014). Dr. Peter Masters, senior pastor of the Metropolitan Tabernacle in London, England, warns: "What has built the largest church in the world? The answer is, an idolatrous mixture of biblical teaching and pagan mind-techniques. God is deprived of His sovereignty in the believer's affairs, and the authority of Scripture is replaced by the authority of supposedly direct messages from God and the product of the imagination. This is the kind of church which has moved hordes of impressionable Christian teachers the world over to jump on to the healing-prophesying bandwagon. We need to



take very great care in these days" (*The Healing Epidemic*, "Occult Healing Builds World's Largest Church," first edition, 1988).

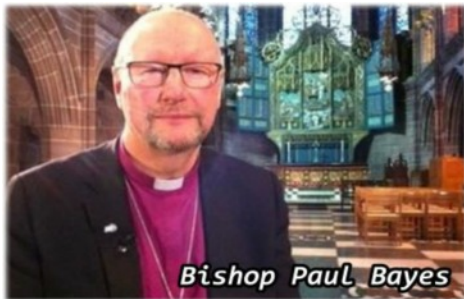
LUTHERAN DENOMINATION ORDAINS FIRST "TRANSGENDER" BISHOP

(Friday Church News Notes, September 24, 2021, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from "ELCA becomes first," *The Christian Post*, Sept. 14, 2021: "The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America has installed Rev. Megan Rohrer as the first openly transgender bishop to serve in the liberal mainline Protestant denomination's history. For the next six years, Rev. Rohrer, 41, who identifies as both a male and female and uses the pronouns 'they' and 'them,' will head the California-based ELCA Sierra Pacific Synod. In the role, Rohrer will oversee nearly 200 congregations in Northern California and northern Nevada. ... 'My installation will celebrate all that is possible when we trust God to shepherd us forward,' Rohrer said, according to The Associated Press.



In the role, Rohrer promised to ‘love others and love what others love.’”

BISHOP OF LIVERPOOL CALLS FOR SAME-SEX “MARRIAGE” (Friday Church News Notes, September 24, 2021, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)



- The following is excerpted from “Bishop of Liverpool,” *Christian News*, UK, June 29, 2021: “Paul Bayes, the Bishop of Liverpool, has called for a gender-neutral marriage canon to be brought into law. Bishop Paul, 67, said the Church of England should recognise marriage between people of the same sex and allow such ceremonies to take place in church. He made the comments during the keynote speech on Saturday for the network Mosaic Anglicans, a church coalition focused on a range of issues, including race and sexuality. ... ‘I want to see an end to LGBTQ+ people hiding who they are for fear of being exposed to conversion therapy or to being forbidden to minister in churches. I want to see an end to the inquisition of ordinands about their private lives. I want to see all this before I die,’ he said. He added that same-sex love and the blessing of its expression had become his agenda as bishop.” (See also “Fifty Years of Anglican Liberalism,” www.wayoflife.org.)

THE COVID VACCINE AND THE ABORTION ISSUE (Friday Church News Notes, September 24,

2021, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - I hate abortion and speak against it frequently and forcefully, and I do not believe that taking a Covid vaccine is participating in abortion or supporting abortion. “While immortalized cell lines began with fetal cells, they no longer contain fetal body parts, and no fetal tissue remains. No cells remain from the original fetal tissue” (“Covid-19 raises concern,” Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, Dec. 15, 2020). “Those individual cells from the 1970s and 1980s have since multiplied into many new cells over the past four or five decades, creating the fetal cell lines I mentioned above. Current fetal cell lines are thousands of generations removed from the original fetal tissue. They do not contain any tissue from a fetus”



(*Nebraska Medicine*, Aug. 18, 2021). “Any vaccine that relies on these historic cell lines will not require nor solicit new abortions” (North Dakota Health, Apr. 20, 2021). “It is true that decades ago, scientists decided to use fetal tissue to start the cell lines we use to test drugs today. However, the description of ongoing modern fetal tissue harvesting to create vaccines is dishonest sensationalism” (*Nebraska Medicine*, Ibid.).

THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH THE HMS COMFORT (Friday Church News Notes, September 24, 2021,

www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is from the new *Way of Life Commentary Series*, *The Thessalonian Epistles*, scheduled for publication soon: “Paul prays that God will ‘*comfort your hearts*’ (2 Th. 2:16-17). As we saw in the introduction, comfort is a major theme of the Thessalonian epistles (1 Th. 2:11; 3:2; 4:18; 5:11, 14; 2 Th. 2:16, 17). In this present life, there is a great need for comfort, because of the effects of sin, the groaning and travailing of the fallen world (Ge. 3:17; Job 5:7; Ro. 8:22-23), tribulation and persecution (1 Th. 3:4; 2 Ti. 3:12), the weakness of the soul (Ps. 42:5, 6, 11; 43:5; 119:83), chastening (2 Co. 2:7), the care of the churches (2 Co. 7:6-7, 13; Php. 2:19), and sickness and death (Joh. 11:19). This is a painful, troublesome, comfortless world, but there is great comfort in the gospel. The Father is the God of all comfort (2 Co. 1:3) who comforts us in all our tribulation (2 Co. 1:4) and comforts those that are cast down (2 Co. 7:6). Christ is the comforting Saviour (Mt. 9:22; Mr. 10:49; Lu. 8:48; Joh. 14:18). The Holy Spirit is the Comforter sent by the Father and the Son (Joh. 15:26; Ac. 9:31). The believer can always find comfort in his Saviour God, and that is where we must seek our comfort above all. Our hope must not be in man. God is the Rock in which we can hide. God has provided comfort by the Scriptures (Ro. 15:4), by preaching and testifying (1 Co.



14:3, 31), by pastoral ministry (1 Th. 2:11), by prayer (Col. 2:2; 2 Th. 2:17), by fellowship (1 Th. 5:11). The New Testament church is God's appointed institution of comfort. It is the place of comfort for the saints, and it proclaims comfort to the world by the gospel. The United States operates two hospital aid ships, one named the *USNS Mercy* and the other the *USNS Comfort*. These massive ships (each a 1000-bed floating hospital with 10 operating rooms, four intensive care wards, an emergency room, full medical labs, the latest technology) travel the world providing aid for the needy, particularly in times of natural disasters. In 2015, the *USNS Comfort* provided care for more than 120,000 patients (including 1,200 surgeries) in 11 countries in the Caribbean and South and Central America. The United States learned the concept of comfort from God's Word. Ancient Egypt, Babylon, Persia, Greece, and Rome had no comfort ships! What a beautiful picture of the church of Jesus Christ! The church is the *HMS Comfort*. (Historically, *HMS* is a British nomenclature for *Her Majesty's Ship*, but the church is *His Majesty's Ship*.) The world seeks comfort apart from God and the things of God, through friendships, romance, religion, alcohol and drugs, movies and music, psychology and

yoga and fantasy, but the comfort of this world is vain and temporal. For those without the Saviour, there is zero comfort in the next life, not even a drop of water. Abraham said to the rich man in hell, 'now he [Lazarus the poor man] is comforted, and thou art tormented' (Lu. 16:25). Comfort must be sought from the God of comfort before it is too late."

CONTINENT-WIDE ROCK LAYERS (Friday Church News Notes, September 24, 2021, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is from CreationMoments.com, Aug. 31, 2021: "One of the common objections that we face as creationists is when deep-time advocates ask us to prove that there really was a worldwide Flood. The problem is not that there is no evidence, but that deep-time geologists approach the overwhelming evidence with a deep-seated bias that prevents them from



seeing the big picture. For example, they will focus on sedimentary rock, maintaining that it took millions of years to be laid down. Low in the Grand Canyon is a sedimentary layer known as the Tapeats Sandstone. This is part of a bigger sequence called the Sauk Megasequence. Equivalent layers cover most of the continental USA. At the base of this sequence, we find boulders and sand beds. These would usually be assumed to be deposited by storms and floods. Yet, we have the same features over the entire continent. Clearly, a continent-wide catastrophe placed these features there. And a catastrophe covering a continent would really have had to be a global catastrophe – the Flood of Genesis 6 through 8. A higher layer in the Grand Canyon is called the Redwall Limestone. Similar limestone deposits are found all over North America with the same fossils in them. Though they may have different names, they appear to be the same sequence. Indeed, the same limestone strata, with the same fossils, can be found over the ocean in England! Deep-time geology does not explain these evidences. But they are consistent with what God told us in the Bible. Author: Paul F. Taylor. Ref: Snelling, A.A. (2008), *Transcontinental Rock Layers*, answersingenesis.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)



O TIMOTHY MAGAZINE

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