

O Timothy

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

A Monthly Newsletter for Spiritual Protection and Edification

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"...Bible-believing churches need to focus like a laser on 'first love for Christ' revival, serious education in God's Word, serious obedience to God's Word, serious prayer, serious building of godly homes, serious discipleship, serious separation from the world, and serious zeal in fulfilling Christ's Great Commission. This will do more to help America than flag-waving conservative political zeal..." Page 11.

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



WHAT CAN WE DO IN THE FACE OF GROWING ANARCHY? ~ By David Cloud

What can God's people do in this present world, in the midst of lawlessness and apostasy, in the face of growing totalitarianism, speech control, the cancel culture, the licentious pop culture, Big Tech, Marxism, Critical Race Theory, etc.?

God's people do not yet rule on this earth, but they aren't powerless, by any means.

The following are the things that God has instructed His people to be occupied with in this present world.

These things require a great deal of time and focus to accomplish, and if we will do that God has told us to do, and seek to do those things with increasing perfection before Him, instead of following the ways and thinking of the world around us we won't be characterized by such things as fretting, hand-wringing, worrying, hopelessness, fear, politicking, covetousness, and pleasure seeking.



Every child of God would do well to sit down and write out two lists: (1) How am I fulfilling these Scriptures in my daily life? (2) What practical steps can I take to do these things in a more perfect manner?

Make sure you are saved

The Bible warns that Christianity in the last days will be a powerless one. “Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away” (2 Timothy 3:5). It warns that false gospels and false christs and false spirits will abound. It is imperative to make sure that you are truly born again through the true gospel and the true Christ and the true Spirit. “Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God” (John 3:3).

Don't be surprised at growing wickedness and apostasy

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

“This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away” (2 Timothy 3:1-5).

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David W. Cloud, Editor
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Way of Life Literature
PO Box 610368, Port Huron, MI
48061

866-295-4143 (toll free)
fbns@wayoflife.org
<http://www.wayoflife.org>

Bethel Baptist Church
4212 Campbell St. N.
London, Ontario, N6P 1A6 Canada
519-652-2619

“For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away *their* ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables” (2 Timothy 4:3-4).

“Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as *they were* from the beginning of the creation” (2 Peter 3:3-4).

“But, beloved, remember ye the words which were spoken before of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ; How that they told you there should be mockers in the last time, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts. These be they who separate themselves, sensual, having not the Spirit” (Jude 1:17-19).

Don't fret

“Fret not thyself because of evildoers, neither be thou envious against the workers of iniquity. For they shall soon be cut down like the grass, and wither as the green herb. Trust in the LORD, and do good; *so* shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed. Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart” (Psalm 37:1-4).

“Fret not thyself because of evil *men*, neither be thou envious at the wicked” (Proverbs 24:19).

“For the LORD spake thus to me with a strong hand, and instructed me that I should not walk in the way of this people, saying, Say ye not, A confederacy, to all *them to* whom this people shall say, A confederacy; neither fear ye their fear, nor be afraid. Sanctify the LORD of hosts himself; and *let him be* your fear, and *let him be* your dread” (Isaiah 8:11-13).

Have a biblically-educated, settled conviction that God is on the throne and the times are in His hand

“But the LORD *is* the true God, he *is* the living God, and an everlasting king: at his wrath the earth shall tremble, and the nations shall not be able to abide his indignation” (Jeremiah 10:10).

“I have made the earth, the man and the beast that *are* upon the ground, by my great power and by my

outstretched arm, and have given it unto whom it seemed meet unto me” (Jeremiah 27:5).

“Daniel answered and said, Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are his: And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding” (Daniel 2:20-21).

“And at the end of the days I Nebuchadnezzar lifted up mine eyes unto heaven, and mine understanding returned unto me, and I blessed the most High, and I praised and honoured him that liveth for ever, whose dominion *is* an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom *is* from generation to generation: And all the inhabitants of the earth *are* reputed as nothing: and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and *among* the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?” (Daniel 4:34-35).

“The LORD sitteth upon the flood; yea, the LORD sitteth King for ever” (Psalm 29:10).

“But I trusted in thee, O LORD: I said, Thou *art* my God. My times *are* in thy hand: deliver me from the hand of mine enemies, and from them that persecute me” (Psalm 31:14-15).

“Thy kingdom *is* an everlasting kingdom, and thy dominion *endureth* throughout all generations” (Psalm 145:13).

“There is no power but of God” (Romans 13:1).

“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to *his* purpose” (Romans 8:28).

“Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself: That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; *even* in him: In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will” (Ephesians 1:9-11).

Be a mature, skillful Bible student

“But his delight *is* in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night” (Psalm 1:2).

“This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success” (Joshua 1:8).

“ And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified” (Acts 20:32).

“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth” (2 Timothy 2:15).

“And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works” (2 Timothy 3:15-17).

“For every one that useth milk *is* unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, *even* those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil” (Heb. 5:13-14).

Be spiritually discerning, testing everything by God’s Word

“These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so” (Acts 17:11).

“ For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and

bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ” (2 Corinthians 10:3-5).

“Prove all things; hold fast that which is good” (1 Thessalonians 5:21).

Focus on your heavenly citizenship and live as a pilgrim

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

“Dearly beloved, I beseech *you* as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul” (1 Peter 2:11).

Live holy Christian lives to the glory of Jesus Christ

“And that, knowing the time, that now *it is* high time to awake out of sleep: for now *is* our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light. Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to *fulfil* the lusts *thereof*” (Ro. 13:10-14).

“that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God; Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness; Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light” (Colossians 1:9-12).

Build real New Testament churches

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

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

Build godly Christian homes

“Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord. Husbands, love *your* wives, and be not bitter against them. Children, obey *your* parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord.” (Col. 3:18-20).

“And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord” (Eph. 6:4).

“That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, *To be* discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed” (Tit. 2:4-5).

Separate from the world

“Blessed *is* the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful” (Psalm 1:1).

“And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove *them*” (Eph. 5:11).

“Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God” (Jas. 4:4).

“Love not the world, neither the things *that are* in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that *is* in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever” (1 Jo. 2:15-17).

Fulfill Christ's Great Commission

“And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore,

and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen” (Matthew 28:18-20).

Be law-keepers and supporters of law-enforcers

God’s Word teaches us to obey man’s laws so long as man’s laws do not cause us to disobey God’s laws. Paul *emphasized this*, though he lived in the pagan, godless, humanist Roman Empire.

“Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation. For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same: For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to *execute* wrath upon him that doeth evil. Wherefore *ye* must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake. For for this cause pay ye tribute also: for they are God’s ministers, attending continually upon this very thing. Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute *is due*; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour” (Romans 13:1-7).

Endure suffering and persecution in a godly manner for Christ’s sake

“For this *is* thankworthy, if a man for conscience toward God endure grief, suffering wrongfully. For what glory *is it*, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? but if, when ye do well, and suffer *for it*, ye take it patiently, this *is* acceptable with God. For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps” (1 Peter 2:19-21).

“But and if ye suffer for righteousness’ sake, happy *are ye*: and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled; But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and *be* ready always to *give* an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with

meekness and fear: Having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ. For *it is* better, if the will of God be so, that ye suffer for well doing, than for evil doing” (1 Peter 3:14-17).

Be spiritually revived and ready for the shout

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

“But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as *do* others; but let us watch and be sober. For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night. But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation. For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Th. 5:4-9).

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

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

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

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

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

Be a student of Bible prophecy so you will have a proper worldview and good understanding of the times

“We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake *as they were* moved by the Holy Ghost” (2 Peter. 1:19-21).

“This second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you; in *both* which I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance: That ye may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us the apostles of the Lord and Saviour” (2 Peter 3:1-2).

Pray, pray, pray

“I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, *and* giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and *for* all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and

honesty. For this *is* good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth” (1 Timothy 2:1-4).

“continuing instant in prayer” (Ro. 12:12).

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

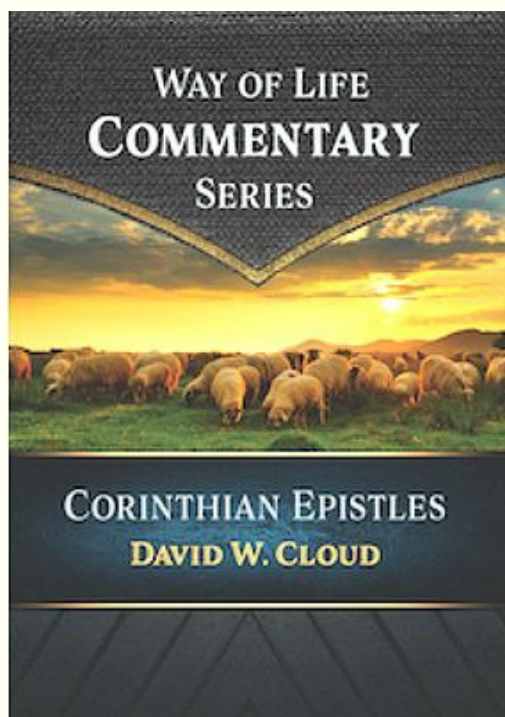
“Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God” (Php. 4:6).

“Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving” (Col. 4:2).

“Pray without ceasing” (1 Th. 5:17).

“For the eyes of the Lord *are* over the righteous, and his ears *are open* unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord *is* against them that do evil” (1 Pe. 3:12).

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



The Corinthian Epistles ~ Commentary

By David Cloud

The Corinthian believers brought a lot of baggage into their Christian lives from their past and from their culture. This is true for every believer and every church. The exhortations and reproofs of Paul's epistles to Corinth are applicable to every church. The things they were tempted by and guilty of are the very things that permeate every culture in this fallen world. The church at Corinth was tempted by human philosophy and oratory (1 Co. 2:1-5), which was an integral part of their culture.

In this very practical commentary we see how Paul addresses these issues with the Church at Corinth.

Available From Way of Life On-line Store At:

https://www.wayoflife.org/publications/books/corinthian_epistles.php

Treasure In EARTHEN VESSELS

By David Cloud

The following is excerpted from the [Way of Life Commentary Series, The Corinthian Epistles](http://www.wayoflife.org), www.wayoflife.org -

“But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us. *We are* troubled on every side, yet not distressed; *we are* perplexed, but not in despair; Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed; Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body. For we which live are always delivered unto death for Jesus' sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh. So then death worketh in us, but life in you. We having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written, I believed, and therefore have I spoken; we also believe, and therefore speak; Knowing that he which raised up the Lord Jesus shall raise up us also by Jesus, and shall present *us* with you. For all things *are* for your sakes, that the abundant grace might through the thanksgiving of many redound to the glory of God. For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward *man* is renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding *and* eternal weight of glory; While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen *are* temporal; but the things which are not seen *are* eternal (2 Corinthians 4:7-18).

The theme of the Corinthian epistles is correction of a carnal church. See 1 Co. 3:1-4. Here we see the major characteristics of carnality: ***First, the carnal believer is not spiritual*** (1 Co. 3:1). ***Second, the carnal believer is a babe who has not grown to maturity*** (“babes in Christ,”

1 Co. 3:1). ***Third, the carnal believer is weak in understanding Bible truth*** (“I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able” (1 Co. 3:2). ***Fourth, the carnal “walk as men”*** (1 Co. 3:3). This means he is still thinking and acting like the natural man. ***Fifth, the carnal believer engages in envying, strife, and divisions*** (1 Co. 3:3-4).

2 Corinthians 4:7-18 is a major passage of Scripture on the nature of the Christian life. The Corinthian epistles contain many other great passages of Scripture that summarize major doctrines:

- The divine inspiration of Scripture (1 Co. 2:6-16)
- The judgment seat of Christ (1 Co. 3:11-15; 4:4-5; 2 Co. 5:9-10)
- Church discipline (1 Co. 5)
- Marriage (1 Co. 7)
- The Lord’s Supper (1 Co. 11:17-34)
- Spiritual gifts (1 Co. 12)
- Charity (1 Co. 13)
- Tongues speaking (1 Co. 14)
- The bodily resurrection (1 Co. 15; 2 Co. 5)
- Suffering in the Christian life and ministry (2 Co. 1:4-10; 4:16-18, 7-11, 16-18; 12:7-10)
- The superiority of the gospel over the law (2 Co. 3:6-18)
- Ambassadorship (2 Co. 5:17-21)
- Separation (2 Co. 6:14-18)
- Repentance (2 Co. 7:6-11)
- New Testament giving (2 Co. 8-9)

In 2 Corinthians, Paul answers those who were opposed to him in the church and the false teachers they were listening to (2 Co. 10:10; 11:3-4).

In the marvelous passage of 2 Corinthians 4:7-18, Paul describes the true Christian life as one of weakness and suffering and he explains the reason why this is so. He is reproving the false teachers as well as instructing the saints. The false teachers apparently criticized Paul for his suffering lifestyle; they sought the easy path. They were more oriented to a “prosperity gospel.” In contrast to Paul, they were full, rich, reigning, strong, honorable, or at least thought of themselves so (1 Co. 4:8-13).

This is the teaching of “kingdom now” theology. They believe they are already reigning; they promise kingdom miracles, healing, riches. Paul corrected this thinking.

We have “**treasure**.” This is the salvation that is described in verse 6. It is the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. It is regeneration, forgiveness of sins, justification, eternal life, adoption, all spiritual blessings in Christ, a royal priesthood, and a joint-heir with Christ. We have treasure indeed!

“**We have this treasure in earthen vessels.**” The earthen vessel is the natural body. Though we are now the sons of God (1 Jo. 3:2), in this present world we are not yet manifest as the sons of God. “For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God. For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected *the same* in hope, Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. And not only *they*, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, *to wit*, the redemption of our body” (Ro. 8:19-21). In the natural body we are subject to vanity, corruption, pain, groaning. We live in “a body of this death” (Ro. 7:24). We have the “old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts” (Eph. 4:22). We have the “flesh” that wars against the Spirit (Ga. 5:16-17). We have the willing spirit, but we also have the weak flesh (Mt. 26:41). We live in a body that is subject to weakness, tiredness, pain, sickness, sorrow, and death. It is like having a precious jewel in a clay pot. An earthen vessel is not valuable, not durable, unimpressive, little esteemed. It has many flaws. It is easily broken. It is heavy, earthbound. In contrast, the resurrection body will not be an earthen vessel. It will be characterized by incorruption, glory, and power (1 Co. 15:42-43).

Paul describes the believer’s condition in the earthen vessel (2 Co. 4:8-12).

The participles (“troubled,” “perplexed,” “persecuted,” “cast down”) are present tense, signifying continuous, repeated action.

“**We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed.**” “**Trouble**” is *thlibo*, “to press together, compress, afflict.” It is translated “narrow” (Mt. 7:14), “afflicted” (2 Co. 1:6; Heb. 11:37), “suffer” (1 Th. 3:4). We have trouble, compression, pressure, affliction, suffering. Note that we are troubled “on every side.” There is a lot of trouble; there are all sorts of troubles; there are troubles from many directions. Yet we are not “**distressed**.” This is *stenochōréo*, “from *stenos* (narrow) and *chora* (space), to crowd into a narrow space” (*Complete Word Study Bible*). So we are compressed but we are not crushed! This means that though we experience pressures from trouble and suffering, we are not crushed by it. God allows us to be pressed in with troubles on every side, but He does not allow us to be crushed. “With Paul there was always the upward look. Paul may have been hard pressed but he wasn’t boxed in” (Phillips).

“**We are perplexed, but not in despair.**” “**Perplexed**” is *aporeo*, “not knowing how to proceed” (*Complete Word Study Bible*), “lit. means ‘to be without a way’ ... ‘to be without resources, embarrassed, in doubt, perplexity, at a loss’” (Vine). The believer is often perplexed by situations. He doesn’t have the wisdom and resources in himself to deal with things. But he is not in “**despair**.” This is *exaporéomai*, “to be quite at a loss, without resource. ... the word ‘perplexed’ translates the verb *aporeo*, and the phrase ‘unto despair’ translates the intensive form *exaporeo*, a play on the words” (Vine).

Paul is saying that the believer is perplexed but not totally perplexed, not perplexed to despair, because he has God’s presence and promises. The believer is perplexed because of his weakness and trials, but he is not in despair because he has God’s promises and resources. He always has access to God’s wisdom (Pr. 3:5-6; Jas. 1:5-7). “There is a play on words here. Paul was at a loss, indeed, but not at a hopeless loss. Often doubtful which way to take, yet always finding some way open” (John Phillips). We see this in the lives of the saints throughout Scripture (e.g., Moses’ in Midian, Joseph in bondage, Hannah’s barren condition, David fleeing from Saul, Jeremiah’s persecutions, Paul forbidden to preach in Asia).

“Persecuted, but not forsaken.” *“Persecuted”* is *dioko*, “to put in rapid motion; to pursue; to follow” (Mounce). It is used of following in general (Ro. 9:30, 31), but when it is used of persecution it means to “follow with malignity.” It is translated “persecute” 31 times in the New Testament. Believers who determine to live godly are promised persecution (Ac. 14:22; 2 Ti. 3:12). But though we are persecuted, we are “not forsaken.” God has given a double promise, “I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee” (Heb. 13:5). Paul had great experience with persecution (Ac. 13:50; 14:2-5, 19; 16:22-24; 17:5, 13), but he was never forsaken by the Lord. “Notwithstanding the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me” (2 Ti. 4:17).

“Cast down, but not destroyed.” The believer is cast down by suffering, persecution, devilish attacks, besetting sins, but he is not destroyed. He cannot be destroyed, for he is in God’s hand. Paul was stoned, beaten, imprisoned, slandered, rejected by his own churches, and otherwise cast down, but never destroyed. John Phillips observed, “The word for ‘cast down’ is *kataballō*. It means to be smitten down or flung to the ground. ‘Thrown over and again to the ground’ is one way of putting it. In prison at Jerusalem (Ac. 22:24-26). In prison at Philippi (Ac. 16:23-24). In prison in Caesarea (Ac. 23:31-35). In prison at Rome (Ac. 28:16). In prison at Rome again (2 Ti. 1:17). Paul, indeed, knew what it was to be flung to the ground. ‘But not destroyed!’ he cries triumphantly. ‘I may be knocked down and knocked down and knocked down, but I’m never knocked out!’ The word for ‘destroyed’ here is *apollumi*, the same word that is translated ‘lost’ in verse 3. Even though many and many a time it must have seemed that the enemy had a stranglehold on Paul, Paul laughed in his face. Perish? He? Paul? Impossible! His soul was in safekeeping (Joh. 10:27-28). ... Nobody could knock Paul out. His enemies could mob him and malign him and mock him and maul him. They could even murder him, but even then they could not win. In the end, all they could do was martyr him!”

“Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus ... always delivered unto death for Jesus’ sake” (2 Co. 4:10, 11). Christ promised His people that they would suffer in this present world as He suffered because they bear His name. “If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before *it hated* you. If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world,

therefore the world hateth you. Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also. But all these things will they do unto you for my name’s sake, because they know not him that sent me. (Joh. 15:18-21). “For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps” (1 Pe. 2:20). See also Mt. 10:22-25; Joh. 16:1-3; 17:14; 2 Ti. 2:11-13; Heb. 12:2-3. Paul called these troubles “the fellowship of his sufferings” (Php. 3:10) and “the afflictions of the gospel” (2 Ti. 1:8). We suffer for the sake of the kingdom of God (2 Th. 1:4-5). Paul exemplified being “always delivered unto death for Jesus’ sake” in the most literal way, being stoned, beaten with rods and whips, imprisoned, shipwrecked, in constant perils, yea, “in deaths oft” (2 Co. 11:23-27).

Paul gives the reason why we have the treasure in earthen vessels.

- Why does God subject His redeemed children to such difficult situations? Why does He allow sin to remain and the devil to roam about and persecutions to abound, so that the Christian life is one of constant warfare, both external and internal? Why did He commit the gospel to such frail creatures? This passage is the Bible’s answer, and what great light it is!

First, we have the treasure in earthen vessels “that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us” (2 Co. 4:7) and that God might be glorified (“that the abundant grace might through the thanksgiving of many redound to the glory of God,” 2 Co. 4:15). An earthen vessel gets no glory, no matter what it contains. God does not save us for our glory, but for His own. By leaving us in earthen vessels and subjecting us to every type of suffering and yet upholding us in the suffering and showing His power in the suffering and using us to preach the life-changing gospel, it is evident that the power is His and not ours. Whether or not unbelievers recognize it, the brethren recognize it and give God the glory. Religious men are themselves glorified for their self-righteousnesses and reformations and self-denials, but the born again believer gives all glory to God. “We may wonder why the Lord allowed His servant to go through such testings and trials. We would think that he could have served the Lord more efficiently if He had allowed his pathway to be free from troubles. But this

Scripture teaches the very opposite. God, in His marvelous wisdom, sees fit to allow His servants to be touched by sickness, sorrow, affliction, persecution, difficulties, and distresses. All are designed to break the earthen pitchers so that the light of the gospel might shine out more clearly” (*Believer’s Bible Commentary*).

Second, we have the treasure in earthen vessels “that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body ... that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh” (2 Co. 4:10-11). The believer’s sufferings and weaknesses and inabilities manifest the resurrection life of Christ. We are 100% dependent upon Him. The true Christian life is His life, not my life; every progress and victory is His. I am kept aware of this at all times by the fact that I live in an earthen vessel and have no spiritual power of my own and yet am beset with difficulties and troubles.

Third, we have the treasure in earthen vessels that we might benefit others (“so then death worketh in us, but life in you,” 2 Co. 4:12). Paul repeats here what he said in chapter 1. “For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also aboundeth by Christ. And whether we be afflicted, *it is* for your consolation and salvation, which is effectual in the enduring of the same sufferings which we also suffer: or whether we be comforted, *it is* for your consolation and salvation” (2 Co. 1:5-6). “Here the apostle sums up all that he has said by reminding the Corinthians that it was through his constant suffering that life came to them. In order for Paul ever to go to Corinth with the gospel, he had to suffer untold hardships. But it was worth it all, because they had trusted in the Lord Jesus and now had eternal life. Paul’s physical suffering and loss meant spiritual gain to others. Robertson says, ‘His dying was working out for the good of those who were benefited by his ministry’” (*Believer’s Bible Commentary*).

Fourth, we have the treasure in earthen vessels that we might live by faith (“we having the same spirit of faith,” 2 Co. 4:13). This is a major lesson. We are kept in a body of death; we are left with the “old man” even though we have the “new man.” We are subject to trouble on every side, perplexity, persecution, casting down, and being delivered unto death that we might live by faith and not by sight. Paul emphasized this in the companion passage in Romans 8. “For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for? But if we hope for that we see not, *then*

do we with patience wait for *it*” (Ro. 8:24-25). Paul quotes from Psalm 116:10, “I believed, therefore have I spoken.” The Psalmist was in great trouble. “The sorrows of death compassed me, and the pains of hell gat hold upon me: I found trouble and sorrow” (Ps. 116:3). But he believed God’s Word and called upon the Lord, and God delivered him (Ps. 116:4-8). Paul also believed God in his troubles, and because he believed he spoke, he continued to preach, he continued to testify of Christ.

Fifth, we have the treasure in earthen vessels that we might be in constant watchfulness for the Rapture (“Knowing that he which raised up the Lord Jesus shall raise up us also by Jesus, and shall present us with you,” 2 Co. 4:14). The resurrection of church age saints will occur at the Rapture (1 Th. 4:13-18), and they are to live in expectation of it (1 Th. 1:9-10). Life in an earthen vessel keeps one in remembrance of his mortality and keeps one’s focus on the Lord’s coming.

Sixth, we have the treasure in earthen vessels that we might depend on the renewal of the inward man (“though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day,” 2 Co. 4:16). We are subject to trouble and lack and spiritual warfare so that we will focus on the inner man. In this mortal body, the outward man is dying, but the inner man is renewed by the Spirit of God. “He restoreth my soul” (Ps. 23:3). Note that the renewal is “day by day.” We don’t grow by leaps and bounds, but by steps. We don’t achieve spiritual perfection by a “second baptism” or some such thing. It is a process. We “are changed into the same image from glory to glory” (2 Co. 3:18). We “grow in grace” (2 Pe. 3:18). We add to faith, virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness, and charity, not all at once, but as a process of spiritual growth (2 Pe. 1:5-7).

Seventh, we have the treasure in earthen vessels that the affliction might “work for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory” (2 Co. 4:17-18). The unsaved have no promises of God; if they have “hope” in their afflictions, it is a vain hope. But the saved are in God’s hands and “we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to *his* purpose” (Ro. 8:28). Our afflictions in God’s will have manifold purposes and benefits. They “work for us.” They produce an “exceeding and eternal weight of glory.” This looks

ahead to eternity and to the manifestation of the sons of God when we will be glorified with Christ in His magnificent kingdom. “And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with *him*, that we may be also glorified together. For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time *are not* worthy *to be compared* with the glory which shall be revealed in us. For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God” (Ro. 8:17-19). An “eternal weight of glory” describes the unspeakable splendor and benefit of being a joint-heir with the Son of God. Note that in comparison with the glory to come, our present afflictions are called “light” and “but for a moment.” We must see things through God’s eyes, and that comes by filling our minds with God’s Word and meditating therein day and night.

Eighth, we have the treasure in earthen vessels that “we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen” (2 Co. 4:18). To keep one’s eyes on the eternal things is the path of victory in the midst of suffering. The meditation of the heart is the chief battleground in the Christian life. What do we think about, dwell upon, ponder, meditate on? This will determine the quality of our spiritual lives. If our minds are filled with the things of this world, we will be

worldly; if our minds are filled with the things of God, we will be spiritual. Transformation of life requires renewal of the mind (Ro. 12:2). We must meditate on God’s Word day and night and thus fill our minds with truth and righteousness and wisdom (Ps. 1:2). We must “set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth” (Col. 3:2). We must cast down every imagination that is contrary to the knowledge of God (2 Co. 10:5). We can look “at the things which are not seen” by the Word of God. We can see the invisible God, His character, His actions, His plans. We can see Christ. We can see the future. The unbelieving world has no such ability. All of this world’s philosophers and prognosticators are groping in darkness.

That God’s people have the light of Bible prophecy shows the importance of its study. A large portion of Scripture is prophecy, and the New Testament epistles are filled with it. The apostles and prophets showed the example of grounding the churches in prophecy. Yet a great many churches today neglect prophecy. The members of these churches are largely ignorant of Bible prophecy and are incapable of interpreting prophecy for themselves. They do not have a prophetic mindset. This is a sad and sinful situation that produces great spiritual weakness, and it is the fault of the pastors and teachers.



The following was first published in [Friday Church News Notes, Feb. 3, 2017](#), not long after President Trump’s inauguration:

Donald Trump’s actions in his first days as U.S. President are breathtaking. He has filled his cabinet

with capable and largely conservative people. He is blessing Jacob’s seed. He has signed multiple orders to strengthen border security and immigration, including denying federal money to sanctuary cities, hiring 5,000 more Border Patrol agents, ending “catch-and-release” policies for illegal immigrants, and building a wall on America’s southern border to

protect the nation from scofflaws. He has issued an order to rebuild the U.S. military, which has been devastated by eight years of the Obama administration. He has issued an order to deny federal funds to international organizations that perform or even lobby for the legalization of abortion. He has halted the nation's refugee program for 120 days so that it can be re-evaluated and potentially dangerous refugees can be properly vetted. His short list of nominees to the vacant U.S. Supreme Court seat are constitutionalists. He has issued an order to defeat ISIS. There is much to applaud. Of course, the courts and opposition politics have only begun to fight the Trump agenda, and the fight will be exceedingly fierce.

All of this aside, our biblical worldview does not allow us to see things as secular or even religious conservatives do. We can't join Judge Jeanine or Hannity or Rush, *et al*, in proclaiming this a new day for America. It's not a new day or a good day, and a Trump presidency is probably not going to turn out well.

Spiritually and morally, which are the most important principles *by far*, absolutely nothing changed with the November election.

Nothing has changed in the public schools and the universities, which continue to indoctrinate the minds and hearts of American citizens with godless humanism, moral relativism, socialism, and globalism. Nothing has changed with the Muslim agenda to establish sharia law, and it doesn't appear that Trump even understands the plan.

Nothing has changed with the LGBT agenda which is already firmly embedded throughout society, industry, and government. In fact, Trump refuses to overturn Obama's 2014 executive order protecting federal workers from "anti-LGBTQ discrimination," saying that he "is determined to protect the rights of all Americans, including the LGBTQ community" and "continues to be respectful and supportive of LGBTQ rights" ("Trump leaves intact," *Fox News*, Jan. 31, 2017).

Nothing has changed in the pop culture, which continues to morally pollute the nation's very heart and soul. It is pop culture moral relativism that has given us a Donald Trump, with his adulteries, narcissism, boastings, pomposity, lyings, and petty vindictiveness. The fearful destruction of the black family, for example, is not only the result of the welfare state; it is the product of a vile pop hip-hop culture.

Nothing has changed with the global culture, as indicated by the incredible outrage expressed by world leaders and the world media at the Trump presidency. The nonsensical outrage at such perfectly reasonable acts as trying to keep scofflaws and terrorists out of America is clear evidence of demonic blindness.

And above all, nothing has changed in the churches. America was only great when it was good (and it was never truly good, nor truly great by God's standards), and it can never be "great" again unless it is good by biblical standards which can issue only from God-fearing churches.

What we have said all along is that Bible-believing churches need to focus like a laser on "first love for Christ" revival, serious education in God's Word, serious obedience to God's Word, serious prayer, serious building of godly homes, serious discipleship, serious separation from the world, and serious zeal in fulfilling Christ's Great Commission. This will do more to help America than flag-waving conservative political zeal. Most of the *best* churches are *shockingly* weak, shallow, biblically ignorant, worldly, and unfruitful.

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?



THE LITTLE WOMAN WHO WAS SMARTER THAN GOD'S PEOPLE (Friday Church News Notes, February 4, 2022, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The homosexual rights movement, which is encroaching on everyone else's rights and producing persecution of professing Christians, was preceded by the feminist movement which was driven by unisex fashion. Before men were wearing dresses, women were wearing pants, and the female pioneers of this phenomenon knew that they were creating a revolution that would eventually destroy biblical morality in western culture. Consider Mary Quant, the revolutionary British fashion designer of the Beatles era. In 2019, the Victoria & Albert Museum in London had a major exhibit on Quant, inventor of the mini-skirt and hot pants. Mary understood that fashion is a language. The exhibit was a clothing exhibit, but the focus was revolution, liberation from biblical sexual mores, and breaking down the barriers between the sexes (unisex, androgyny). There was no attempt to hide this. Quant put women in men's attire: pants, ties, suit jackets, and short hair. One display, entitled "Boys Will Be Girls," stated that Quant "subverted menswear."

"Trousers are considered inappropriate for women [but] Quant wears them anywhere she wants." Mary Quant knew that trousers on women is not an issue merely of comfort and freedom of movement. Following are some other quotes from the exhibition signage: "using fashion to question hierarchies and gender rules," "a rebellious approach to established gender norms," "mocking religion," "an independent style," "self-expression," "freedom." "The miniskirt became an international symbol of women's liberation." "[Quant's] provocative styles reflected increasingly relaxed attitudes in society towards sexuality in all its forms, reinforced legally by the decriminalisation of homosexuality in 1967." Observe that this clothing exhibit directly connects unisex fashion with homosexual rights. The 1960s was a major changing of the times. It was the dawn of the era of color television, color printing, international mass marketing, global merchandising empires, and the music-driven international youth culture. Why does a Quant exhibit at a major art museum draw thousands of eager visitors? She helped create the modern ME culture, the "lovers of their own selves" generation prophesied in 2 Timothy 3:2. The music, the fashion, the entertainment, the commerce, it all broadcasts the ancient Satanic lie, "It's your life; live as you please!" Mary Quant was smarter than those professing Christians who think that pants on women is a non-issue. It was a major issue in the 1960s, and it is a major issue today. "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them" (Genesis 1:27). The masculinization of women is just as evil as the feminization of men. Woe

be unto pastors who are silent in the face of this revolution!

MAYO CLINIC REFUSES IVERMECTIN TREATMENT TO DYING PATIENT (Friday Church News Notes, February 4, 2022, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)



- The Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville, Florida, refused the family's request to allow a Covid patient, Daniel Pisano, 71, to be treated with Ivermectin, though he was already near death and given less than 5% chance of survival, and though Ivermectin has a proven safety record when used properly. The family went to court in an attempt to have Dr. Eduardo Balbona treat Daniel with the Front Line Covid-19 Critical Care Alliance (FLCCC) protocol. (Balbona, former U.S. Capitol physician who treated members of Congress and the Supreme Court, has seen a lot of success with the FLCCC protocol.) The circuit court ruled against the family. Before a decision could be issued by the court of appeals, Pisano died on Jan. 21 ("Covid Patient ... dies," *Jacksonville Insider*, Jan. 24, 2022).

COUNTRIES WHERE HYDROXYCHLOROQUINE AND IVERMECTIN ARE OFFICIALLY APPROVED FOR COVID-19 EARLY TREATMENT (Friday Church News Notes,

February 4, 2022, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)
- The following information is from "Global Adoption of Covid-19 Early Treatments," c19adoption.com. **HYDROXYCHLOROQUINE** has official country-wide adoption in Algeria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, China, Costa Rica, Cuba, Czech Republic, Congo, Ecuador, Egypt, Eritrea, Gabon, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Honduras, Indonesia, Iran, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Mali, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, Qatar, Senegal, South Korea, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, Venezuela. **IVERMECTIN** has official country-wide adoption in Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Czech Republic, Dominican Republic, Egypt, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Jamaica, Lebanon, Mexico, Nicaragua, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Panama, Paraguay, Slovakia, South Africa, Ukraine, Venezuela.

ISRAEL AND OMICRON COVID (Friday Church News Notes, February 4, 2022, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)
- The following is excerpted from "Omicron serious patients have fewer symptoms," *Jerusalem Post*, Jan. 13, 2022: "[U]ntil now, symptoms and the general situation of these patients appear to be much better than in previous waves, according to two experts. 'Omicron causes a milder disease, definitely among those who are triple vaccinated, and possibly also among the unvaccinated,' said Prof. Jonathan Halevy, president of Shaare Zedek Medical Center in Jerusalem. 'This is true both for people who are sick in general and for



those who are in a serious condition. There is more dry cough and much less loss of smell and taste. Crucially, we are seeing that the infection is affecting more the upper respiratory system and much less the lungs.' Halevy said that is why fewer patients are ending up on ventilators. ... Patients also tend to recover faster, and the mortality rate is much lower. ... 'I think that the nature of the variant is such that it is going to cause much less severe disease, and this is not going to change,' he said. 'Of course, those who are in danger from both Omicron and Delta are the unvaccinated, those who have not received the third shot, and the elderly with serious underlying conditions who are not necessarily prone to complications from Omicron but from these conditions.'"

VACCINE PROVES EFFECTIVE IN LOS ANGELES (Friday Church News Notes, February 4, 2022, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)
- The following is from "More People Ending Up in the ICU," County of Los Angeles Public Health, Jan. 18, 2022: "Between December 30, 2021,



and January 12, 2022, the ICU rate ratio was 6.4 when comparing those unvaccinated vs those fully vaccinated without boosters, meaning unvaccinated people were 6 times more likely to be admitted to the ICU compared to those fully vaccinated without boosters. Residents who are vaccinated and boosted have even more protection, as they are 25 times less likely to be admitted to the ICU than those unvaccinated.”

CHRISTIAN NURSE WINS LAWSUIT AFTER YEARS OF HARASSMENT OVER WEARING A CROSS

(Friday Church News Notes, February 4, 2022, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The following is excerpted from “Christian Nurse,” *Fox News*, Jan. 10, 2022: “The Employment Tribunal in the United Kingdom ruled in favor last week of a Christian nurse who said she was forced into resigning from her job at a London hospital after being harassed over her cross necklace for years. Mary Onuoha took legal action against Croydon Health Services NHS Trust after resigning in June 2020 following years of being targeted for wearing a small cross necklace that she was told posed ‘a health and safety risk.’ After she refused to stop wearing her necklace, NHS management offered her a compromise by which she could wear it on a longer chain to keep the cross out of sight, which she also refused.



Mary Onuoha

... ‘My cross has been with me for 40 years. It is part of me, and my faith, and it has never caused anyone any harm. Patients often say to me: *I really like your cross*, they always respond to it in a positive way and that gives me joy and makes me feel happy. I am proud to wear it as I know God loves me so much and went through this pain for me,’ she continued. ‘All I have ever wanted is to be a nurse and to be true to my faith. I am a strong woman, but I have been treated like a criminal. I love my job, but I am not prepared to compromise my faith for it, and neither should other Christian NHS staff in this country,’ she also said. ... In its ruling last Wednesday, the tribunal dismissed the hospital’s claim about the health risk and mentioned how other employees are allowed to wear hijabs and jewelry. ... Onuoha was represented by the Christian Legal Centre ... Onuoha’s financial compensation will be decided at a later hearing.”

WHY BIRDS DON’T NEED SOCKS

(Friday Church News Notes, February 4, 2022, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The following is from CreationMoments.com, January 13, 2022: “Have you ever watched ducks out on an icy lake paddling around in the near-freezing water. They will spend much of the day in that one spot with the temperature well below freezing, and yet the cold doesn’t seem to bother them. Perhaps on shore there are some sparrows hopping around in the snow. One wonders: why don’t birds need shoes and socks? If you or I ran around with bare feet and legs when the temperature was below freezing, it would not be very long before we had a good case of frostbite. We could even lose so much body heat that our very lives would be threatened. Birds have a



network of arteries that all blood going into their legs must enter. These arteries are interwoven with the veins returning from the foot. When the blood going to the foot enters this structure, called a “wonder net,” its temperature is 106° F. The blood returning from the foot at the same time is only 37°F. The warm blood passing through the net reheats the cold blood coming from the foot before it enters the body. The result is that the bird loses very little body heat. So the blood going into the foot never becomes dangerously cold in normal winter weather. The wisdom of this design is obvious. Could birds have survived having their feet frozen off before they learned to evolve this special arrangement? Our only conclusion can be that there is a Creator who cares for all of His creation, including you and me! Author: Paul A. Bartz. REF.: ‘Why don’t duck’s feet freeze?’ *Science Digest*, Feb. 1984. p. 76.”

MAINSTREAM MEDIA’S LEFTIST AGENDA

(Friday Church News Notes, February 11, 2022, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The global mainstream news media is in a conspiracy to control the news according to a Leftist, Humanist, Globalist, anti-Christ, anti-Bible narrative, which makes perfect sense in light of Bible prophecy and the operation of the mystery of iniquity. A recent example is the near blackout



of a Johns Hopkins University study that finds that the Covid lockdowns were ineffective to save lives but instead have caused massive social, mental health, and economic damage. “The researchers--Johns Hopkins University economics professor Steve Hanke, Lund University economics professor Lars Jonung, and special advisor at Copenhagen’s Center for Political Studies Jonas Herby--analyzed the effects of lockdown measures such as school shutdowns, business closures, and mask mandates on COVID-19 deaths. ... ‘We find little to no evidence that mandated lockdowns in Europe and the United States had a noticeable effect on COVID-19 mortality rates,’ the researchers wrote. ‘However, lockdowns during the initial phase of the COVID-19 pandemic have had devastating effects. They have contributed to reducing economic activity, raising unemployment, reducing schooling, causing political unrest, contributing to domestic violence and undermining liberal democracy,’ the study reported. ... ‘These costs to society must be compared to the benefits of lockdowns, which our meta-analysis has shown are marginal at best. Such a standard benefit-cost calculation leads to a strong conclusion: Lockdowns should be rejected out of hand as a pandemic policy instrument’” (*Fox News, Accuracy in Media; The Western Journal*). Since it so obviously opposes

totalitarianism, it is no surprise that this scientific report has been ignored by CNN, MSNBC, ABC, CBS, NBC, *The New York Times*, *USA Today*, *The Washington Post*, The Associated Press, Reuters, and many other major news sources. This is a dark world, but there is also much truth lighting the darkness by God’s grace. I’m thankful for the continued liberty in America and its lively free press compared to most nations. There are massive numbers of Christian, Biblical, and politically conservative publications both in print and online. Lies and censorship will not stop the gospel. Multitudes will be saved even during the very reign of the Antichrist (Revelation 7:9-17). Lies and censorship will not stop God’s eternal plan to put Jesus Christ on the throne of this world. “Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord, and against his anointed, saying, Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us. He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision. Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath, and vex them in his sore displeasure. Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion” (Psalm 2:1-6). God’s redeemed people are instructed to set their affections on things above and to keep their hands busy with God’s big work in this world, and those who obey don’t have time to become experts in all things covid and to fret about conspiracies.

FINNISH BISHOP AND POLITICIAN FACE TRIAL FOR TEACHING BIBLICAL TRUTH ABOUT MALE AND FEMALE (Friday Church News Notes, February 11, 2022,



www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from “Finnish Bishop,” *Christianity Today*, Jan. 3, 2022: “Johana Pohjola, 49, and politician Päivi Räsänen, 62, are facing criminal charges ... accused of violating the equality and dignity of LGBT people. Though Finland has legal protections for free speech and the free exercise of religion, Prosecutor General Raija Toiviainen says Räsänen and Pohjola’s actions are criminal incitement against a minority group--hate speech. According to the prosecutor, Räsänen has fueled intolerance and contempt of LGBT people three times: in comments she made on a nationally syndicated talk show on Finnish state-supported radio; in a 2019 tweet where she quoted Romans 1:24–27 to criticize the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland (ELCF)--one of Finland’s two national churches--for its affiliation with Helsinki Pride; and in a 23-page booklet that Räsänen wrote titled *Male and Female He Created Them*. Pohjola is being charged for publishing Räsänen’s booklet, which argues against same-sex marriage, contrasts LGBT identities with the Christian notion of what it means to be human, and describes same-sex attraction possibly as being inherently sinful and possibly the result of a ‘negative developmental disorder.’ It was released in 2004 by Luther Foundation Finland, the legal

entity behind the ELMDF. ... [Pohjola] says, 'I do not so much fear the outcome of the court case, but the strong signal it gives to many: to be silent. I fear self-censorship and intimidation.'"

LOUISVILLE PAYS \$75K SETTLEMENT TO POLICEMAN SUSPENDED FOR PRAYING OUTSIDE ABORTION CLINIC

(Friday Church News Notes, February 11, 2022, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from "Louisville Pays," *Christian Headlines*, Feb. 1, 2022: "A cop was awarded a \$75,000 settlement by the city of Louisville, Kentucky, after he was suspended for attending a prayer vigil outside an abortion clinic. Last October, officer Matthew Schrenger filed a complaint against Louisville Metro Police Department Chief Erika Shields and Louisville Mayor Greg Fischer after he was suspended for praying outside of a closed abortion clinic last February while off duty. Schrenger and his father were attending a prayer vigil under the '40 Days for Life' campaign, where a prayer vigil was held outside EMW Women's Surgical Center. Last Thursday, Thomas More Society, the conservative legal nonprofit who represented Schrenger, confirmed that a settlement had been reached. Thomas More Society Senior Counsel Matt Heffron called Schrenger's punishment hypocritical because other

Louisville police officers attending political marches or demonstrations were never disciplined. ... 'He was treated very differently than other officers who had undeniably engaged in true political protest and activism while participating in LGBT and Black Lives Matter demonstrations,' Heffron noted."

PROMISE KEEPERS WARNS ABOUT PORN AND CALLS ON MEN TO BE SPIRITUAL LEADERS OF THE HOME, THE CHURCH, AND THE NATION

(Friday Church News Notes, February 11, 2022, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Promise Keepers peaked in the 1990s and no longer has massive stadium events, but it still exists as an organization. The new chairman, Ken Harrison, is calling on men to avoid pornography and to be the spiritual leaders that the homes, churches, and nations need. At the live-streamed Promise Keepers Marriage Summit, Harrison said, "[Some men tell me that when it comes to pornography] they can't help themselves and God created them to be that way. I say, 'no no no.' God didn't create you to be that way. God created you to have an intense longing for your wife. For the two to become one flesh. Sin created that same longing for every other woman. The Bible says we must flee from sin. It's an action. It's a running in terror from it, because it will separate us from God, from our kids, from our wives. ... men think that they have to live their lives laden down with lustful thoughts and lust. I'm telling you that you don't. The Bible didn't tell you to flee from lustful desires when it couldn't actually happen. You can't get there in your flesh, you can't get there by trying harder, you can't get there by



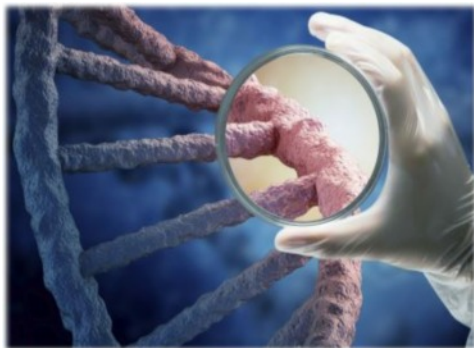
feeling guilty, but you can get there by giving your life over to Christ. ... Those people who are making that movie are not doing it because they're your friends. They're doing it because every time you click on a mouse, they make more money to exploit more women. ... Even with all the problems that people are having in marriage today, marriage is the safest relationship on Earth. You have a 100% chance of success in marriage when you do it God's way." At the same event, Pastor Samuel Rodriguez said, "Healthy marriages produce healthy families, healthy families assimilate and make up healthy churches, healthy churches produce healthy communities, a healthy community will produce a healthy state, a healthy state will be part of a healthy nation" ("Promise Keepers," *The Christian Post*, Jan. 12, 2022). **CONCLUDING NOTE:** All of this is true as far as it goes, and it needs to be preached in every church. At the same time, Promise Keepers can't solve the most fundamental issues, because they don't know what a true New Testament church is. They don't preach repentance and a clear gospel of regeneration. They don't believe in the Bible's doctrine of apostasy. If they did, they couldn't possibly call for ecumenical unity among all churches, including Rome, as they have done from their inception. Evangelicalism preaches some truth and therefore is enticing, but evangelicalism doesn't preach the



whole truth and therefore is dangerous. There are more multiple reports about Promise Keepers at the Way of Life web site, www.wayoflife.org.

GOD'S LIVING ERROR-CORRECTION SYSTEM (Friday Church News Notes, February 11, 2022, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The following is from CreationMoments.com, January 18, 2022: "It seems like science fiction to suggest that if someone typed your name into a computer, misspelling your name, the computer would find it and correct it. Yet the genetic code within each of your cells is an even more sophisticated information storage and transmission system. Not only does your genetic code store far more information in a microscopic space than our largest computers can, it has a built-in error correction system. Scientists have found a number of key enzymes in the cell that have just one job—find and correct errors in the genetic code. Those errors can creep in because of radiation, chemicals, or other reasons. These enzymes faithfully correct any errors, preventing mutations. But these are the very ones scientists thought could cause evolution—before they discovered this process. One scientist who studied these enzymes said science has no explanation for how this process could have evolved naturally.



Scientists also say they don't know how life could have continued without this genetic proofreading and correction. Only our Creator could have been wise enough to design an information system that can correct errors within itself. Even we human beings have not figured out how to do this with our [smartest] computers. Asking us to believe that blind chance and natural law could have done it certainly strains the credibility of science! Author: Paul A. Bartz. REF: Fersht, A.R. 1980. *Trends in Biochemical Science*, v. 5. p. 282. Lambert, G.R. 1984. *Journal of Theoretical Biology*, v. 107. p. 387."

BLASPHEMOUS SONG POPULAR ON TIKTOK (Friday Church News Notes, February 18, 2022, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The following is excerpted from "Peace PCR's 'God Is a Freak' Becomes Exvangelical TikTok Anthem," *Christian Headlines*, Feb. 7, 2022: "God Is a Freak, a new song by Australian artist Peach PRC, was rushed into release early Thursday (Feb. 3) after ex-evangelicals embraced a leaked TikTok clip of the track as a rallying cry against purity culture and LGBTQ exclusion. 'God is a bit of a freak--like what's the fixation on hating the way he creates?' asks Peach PRC in the song lyrics. 'So why would I spend my eternity with God when he's a freak?' Sporting her signature pink hair and matching outfit, Peach PRC, whose real name is Shaylee Curnow, leaked a short section of the song to TikTok on Jan. 10 with the caption: 'an anti worship song for my religious trauma girlies.' ... The video immediately took off and as of Friday morning had been viewed over 2.5 million times. The song has

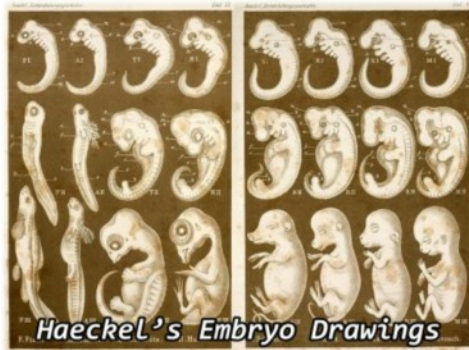


been used more than 7,700 times as a backing track for other videos by TikTok users." **CONCLUSION:** The God against whom these people rage and blaspheme is the Author of all good things. Every individual owes his very being and every breathe to his Creator, "seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things" and "in Him we live, and move, and have our being" (Acts 17:25, 28). God is so kind and compassionate and gracious that He Himself paid the awful price that His fallen creatures owe for their sin against His holy and just laws. Those who rage against this gracious God and reject the salvation He offers in Jesus Christ deserve what they will get as their just reward. "Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying, Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us. He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision. Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath, and vex them in his sore displeasure. Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion" (Psalm 2:1-6).

DEBUNKED ICONS FOR EVOLUTION STILL BEING USED (Friday Church News Notes, February 18, 2022, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The following is excerpted from

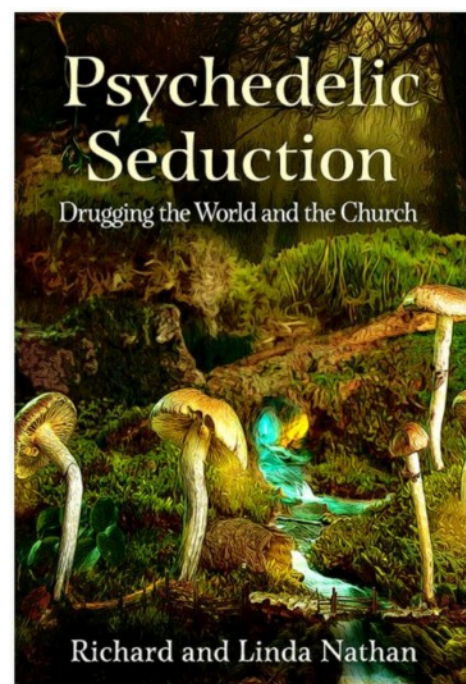
“Khan Academy Pushes Haeckel’s Phony Embryo Drawings,” *Evolution News*, Feb. 6, 2022: “[W]hen it comes to the ‘evidence for evolution,’ Khan Academy shows that what biologist Jonathan Wells has called the ‘icons of evolution’--lines of evidence refuted long ago--are alive and well on the internet. The ‘Evidence for Evolution’ video seems intent on recapitulating many such icons ... Those include Ernst Haeckel’s notorious embryo drawings, in addition to the homology in vertebrate limbs, fossil horse, and human-chimp genetic similarity icons. In fact, these are centerpieces of their argument for evolution. ... The late Stephen Jay Gould called Haeckel’s work ‘fraudulent’ because Haeckel ‘simply copied the same figure over and over again.’ The journal *Science* ... quoted embryologist Michael Richardson slamming them as ‘one of the most famous fakes in biology.’ *Science* went on to explain that the drawings: show vertebrate embryos of different animals passing through identical stages of development. But the impression they give, that the embryos are exactly alike, is wrong, says Michael Richardson, an embryologist. ... He hopes once and for all to discredit Haeckel’s work, first found to be flawed more than a century ago. ... Not only did Haeckel add or omit features, Richardson and his colleagues report, but he also fudged the scale to exaggerate similarities



among species, even when there were 10-fold differences in size. Khan says that the ‘early stages’ of embryos ‘look eerily similar.’ But the figure below, from *Icons of Evolution* by Jonathan Wells, compares Haeckel’s embryos to accurate drawings of vertebrate embryos. ... Sometimes evolution apologists like to claim that no one uses Haeckel’s embryos anymore and when we mention these drawings, supposedly we are attacking a straw man. Well, as long as Khan Academy leaves its video on YouTube we can definitely say this is no straw man.” -- include vertebrate-embryos graphic

CHRISTIAN DRUG CULTURE

(Friday Church News Notes, February 18, 2022, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from *Psychedelic Seduction: Drugging the World and the Church* by Richard and Linda Nathan, available from lighthouse-trails-research.com: “I am a youth pastor at a large church, and I smoke weed everyday [sic] that I am not at service (Sunday, Wednesday, and Friday). My lord still loves me.’ That quote reveals a bizarre phenomenon that couldn’t have existed even thirty or forty years ago—a ‘Christian’ drug culture. Today, this drug culture not only exists, but it extends far beyond marijuana. That’s partly because, unlike any other drug, a broad social movement already promotes and glorifies marijuana. Unfortunately, many Christians seem to join in it. ‘Weed is so normalized in America that it’s hardly cool anymore.’ If you think marijuana is rare or couldn’t be in your Christian community, think again. Pot communities and pot churches are on the rise nationwide, spreading bizarre forms of spirituality



and taking advantage of religious freedom laws to act as medical dispensaries and avoid tax laws. Big Weed’s deceptive campaign promotes pot as harmless and medicinal, and the big profits entice Christian businesspeople. Furthermore, pastors generally don’t understand marijuana’s negative spiritual effects. Sad to say, the drug culture is everywhere, and it’s here to stay. As one youth said, ‘All you have to do is listen to a lot of popular music to hear about marijuana. All you have to do is watch TV or movies to see marijuana. And just attend a concert if you want to stand around inhaling it secondhand. It’s everywhere.’ ... Minimizing the biblical teachings about holiness and sanctification can invite lawlessness and drug use by Christians. Furthermore, some popular pastors and leaders encourage the culture of rebellion (e.g., John Piper’s philosophy of ‘Christian hedonism’). The words ‘Christian’ and ‘hedonism’ are opposites because hedonism is the ethical theory that pleasure is the highest good. ... By 2021, 18 states and Washington, DC, had legalized

recreational marijuana, and 36 states had legalized medical marijuana. Now, more than a third of Americans live where marijuana is legal, and it's becoming part of mainstream American culture. Marijuana's dangerous THC content (tetrahydrocannabinol) has skyrocketed from around 3% in the 1970s to as high as 99% available in a huge variety of products today. And more teenagers are smoking pot and all its derivatives than cigarettes."

--- include graphic "Psychedelic Seduction"

CHURCH HOSTS "SCREAM NIGHT" TO EXPRESS FRUSTRATION WITH COVID-19 PANDEMIC

(Friday Church News Notes, February 18, 2022, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Duke Memorial United Methodist Church of Durham, North Carolina, recently hosted a "scream night" to express their frustrations with life in general and Covid-19 in particular. "Rev." Laura Crosskey, event organizer and a licensed psychologist, said, "We wanted to provide people with a space to let it out with the intention of knowing that they were not alone in their struggles or in their efforts to heal" ("North Carolina church hosts 'scream night,'" *Christian Post*, Feb. 8, 2022). Pastor Crosskey led the congregation in five scream sessions: a regular scream; a

scream combined with cursing; a vehement, pointed scream (e.g., "My partner is driving me crazy" or "I hate Covid"); and a scream competition. Finally, Pastor Crosskey "invited people to get quiet, to notice ... how the scream resonated in our bodies." This is what professing Christians do when they are not born again and lack the wonderful supernatural spiritual resources of God's Word and God's Spirit. Having turned away their ears from the truth of God's Word, they heap to themselves teachers who scratch their itching ears with fables such as scream therapy. "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away *their* ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables" (2 Timothy 4:3-4).

THE BUCK STOPS HERE (Friday Church News Notes, February 18, 2022, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - There is a saying "the buck stops here," which means that an individual takes responsibility for things that happen under his area of supervision. It is the opposite of "pass the buck," which means passing the responsibility on to someone else. President Harry Truman had that saying inscribed on a plaque that sat on his desk in the White House. He was a man of courage and honor. He is the U.S. president who recognized the new state of Israel in 1948 when many powerful people in government were strongly advising him not to do so for pragmatic reasons (e.g., the Muslim oil cartel). He was the president who made the extremely difficult and widely criticized decision to use the atomic bomb on Japan in an attempt



to shorten the war. He said, "I made that decision in the conviction it would save hundreds of thousands of lives--Japanese as well as American." He was the president that raised Europe up from the devastation of war by the Marshall plan, saved west Berlin from starving by the Berlin airlift, kept the communists from capturing South Korea, and other historic accomplishments. In his farewell address to the American people in January 15, 1953, he said, "The greatest part of the President's job is to make decisions--big ones and small ones, dozens of them almost every day. The papers may circulate around the Government for a while but they finally reach this desk. And then, there's no place else for them to go. The President--whoever he is--has to decide. He can't pass the buck to anybody. No one else can do the deciding for him. That's his job.." Only an honest man will accept responsibility. Others will always try to shift blame. It is part of the fallen nature. As soon as they sinned, Adam blamed Eve, and Eve blamed the serpent. Genuine biblical confession of sin is to judge oneself and to refuse to blame someone or something else.

ONTARIO PREMIER CALLS FOR MOVING ON FROM COVID & RESPECT TO "DEMOCRACY & FREEDOMS & LIBERTIES"



(Friday Church News Notes, February 25, 2022, www.wayoflife.org/fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Premier Doug Ford's public statement *against* further mandates and *for* liberty will probably make it more difficult going forward for Prime Minister Trudeau to continue his tirade against law-abiding citizens who simply want their constitutional liberties to be restored and his pretense that the truckers and their supporters are non-patriotic rabble-rousers. The following is excerpted from "Doug Ford says Ontario is moving on from Covid-19," CTVNews, Feb. 15, 2022: "Ontario Premier Doug Ford says he strongly discouraged the idea of any new COVID-19 restrictions or retooling of the vaccine passport system after next month, saying the public is 'done with this,' alluding to his doubts about the efficacy of third doses and the rift vaccination has caused within his own family. Yesterday, Ford and Chief Medical Officer Dr. Kieran Moore announced an end to capacity limits in most indoor settings this week and the dismantling of the vaccine passport system on March 1. ... 'We are done with it,' Ford said of limits to public activity. 'Let's just start moving on, cautiously. The world's done with it, let's just move forward.' ... 'We also know that it doesn't matter if you have one shot or 10 shots, you can still catch COVID-19,' he said. ... He said the public needed to respect the beliefs of



those who refuse to get vaccinated against COVID-19. **'There's rebel rousers, and there are just hard-working people that just don't believe in it, and that's their choice. This is about democracy and freedoms and liberties. I hate as a government telling anyone what to do, we just have to get out of this and move forward and protect the jobs.'** He said the vaccination question has ruined personal relationships and divided the province. 'I've never seen this province and this country so divided. It's affected friendships, it's affected coworkers, it's affected families.'"

THOUSANDS SIGN PRAYER PLEDGE FOR FINNISH MP ON TRIAL FOR BIBLICAL VIEWS ON MARRIAGE (Friday Church News Notes, February 25, 2022, www.wayoflife.org/fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from "14K sign prayer pledge," *The Christian Post*, Feb. 16, 2022: "Pastor Andrew Brunson [who has faced prison for his faith in Turkey] delivered a letter of support to Päivi Räsänen, a Finnish Member of Parliament facing prosecution for her role in creating a pamphlet promoting the biblical teachings on marriage and sexuality. Brunson delivered the letter, crafted by the Family Research Council and signed by 14,341 people, to Räsänen Monday, as closing arguments took place in her trial for allegedly violating hate speech laws. ... The prosecutor general is making the case that Räsänen engaged in hate speech by creating a pamphlet [quoting the Bible], sending out a tweet criticizing the leadership of the Finnish Lutheran Church for supporting LGBT Pride Month, and sharing her beliefs about homosexuality in a 2019 appearance



on a radio show. ... Specifically, the indictment accused them of 'incitement of hatred against a group which falls under the section of war crimes and crimes against humanity.' ... Alliance Defending Freedom International sent out a series of tweets summarizing the closing arguments in the trial, which took place Monday. The prosecution insisted that 'the Bible cannot overrule Finnish law,' slammed her comments about homosexuality as 'degrading,' and maintained that describing homosexuality as a 'sin' can have a 'harmful' effect. Arguing for the defense, Lorcan Price of ADF International told the court that 'this prosecution for hate speech has turned into a theological trial of what Christian beliefs can and cannot be expressed in Finland.' Price added, 'It is incredible this trial is happening in a modern European Country and not in a religious theocracy.' If convicted, Räsänen could face up to two years in prison and a fine. ... ADF International Executive Director Paul Coleman warned, 'Freedom of speech is one of the cornerstones of democracy. The Finnish Prosecutor General's decision to bring these charges against Dr. Räsänen creates a culture of fear and censorship. If committed civil servants like Paivi Räsänen are criminally charged for voicing their deeply held beliefs, it creates a chilling effect for everyone's right to speak freely.'"



PRESIDENT BIDEN APPOINTS DRAG QUEEN AS A DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY (Friday Church News Notes, February 25, 2022, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The following is excerpted from "Biden's New Energy Department Pick," *PJMedia*, Feb. 10, 2022: "Sam Brinton ('they/them'), had some 'pretty BIG news' for his friends and followers on LinkedIn recently: 'I have accepted the offer to serve as the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Spent Fuel and Waste Disposition in the Office of Nuclear Energy for the Department of Energy. In this role I'll be doing what I always dreamed of doing, leading the effort to solve the nation's nuclear waste challenges.' Brinton also noted proudly that he would 'even be (to my knowledge) the first gender fluid person in federal government leadership.' He is much more than that. He is, to the best of my knowledge, the first drag queen and the first person to discuss his affinity for sex with animals to hold an office of the public trust. ... [Brinton's] drag queen persona, [is] 'Sister Ray Dee O'Active,' in which guise he says: 'I am the slutty one. And the nerdy one. #sexynerd.' He has also combined his life's preoccupations in previous government work, according to the bio he provided to the 'LGBTQ Religious Archives Network': 'Sam has worn his stilettos to Congress to

advise legislators about nuclear policy and to the White House where he advised President Obama and Michelle Obama on LGBT issues.'"

RAPPER DEATH STYLE (Friday Church News Notes, February 25, 2022, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- On December 19, 2021, Darrell Caldwell (aka Drakeo the Ruler) was stabbed to death at age 28 during a rap concert headlined by Snoop Dogg. Drakeo's most popular album was *Cold Devil*. He was incarcerated multiple times on a variety of charges and recorded a song in jail. This is merely the latest in a long, long line of hip-hop related violent deaths. On July 11, 31-year-old Chicago rapper KTS (Londre Sylvester) was shot 64 times outside the Cook County Jail after being released on bail for a felony charge of illegal gun possession and resisting police. KTS stands for "Kill To Survive," and the rapper had a target symbol tattooed on his neck. Rap/hip-hop is aggressive music, in its lyrics, in its sound, and in the attitude of the rappers, and it is not surprising that it has produced great violence. It is so morally filthy that a large percentage of the lyrics cannot be quoted, practically none of the videos can be shown in decent company, and it screams rebellion and insubordination. Probably no other one influence has so defiled black culture. It is doubtless a major contributor to inner city violence, juvenile delinquency, and the destructive phenomenon of absentee fathers. In the report "[Rapper Hip-Hop Deathstyle](#)" at the Way of Life web site we list a sampling of the violence that has enveloped the rappers themselves, and that is a mere drop in the bucket compared to the deaths that have occurred in the



culture created by the music. "The fear of the Lord longeth days: but the years of the wicked shall be shortened" (Proverbs 10:27).

PENTECOSTAL NURSE WINS SETTLEMENT AFTER REFUSING TO WEAR SCRUB PANTS (Friday Church News Notes, February 25, 2022, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The following is excerpted from "Pentecostal Nurse," *Religion News Service*, Feb. 3, 2022: "Tennessee-based health care provider will pay \$75,000 to settle a religious discrimination lawsuit involving an Apostolic Pentecostal nurse who wanted to wear a 'scrub skirt' to work. The US Equal Employment Opportunity Commission said the company denied the nurse's right to religious accommodation. Wellpath LLC hired Christian nurse Malinda Babineaux in 2019 to provide health services at Central Texas Correctional Facility in San Antonio. After



accepting the Texas job offer, Babineaux informed the company's human resources team that her religious beliefs required her to wear a scrub skirt, rather than traditional scrub pants, to work in accordance with modesty codes. The company declined to accommodate her request and rescinded her job offer. According to the lawsuit,

Babineaux had previously worn scrub skirts in other nursing positions. Scrub skirts, while rarely seen in American hospitals, are preferred by some religious women, typically for modesty reasons. ... The EEOC filed a lawsuit in September 2020 on behalf of Babineaux, citing a violation of Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, which

prohibits religious discrimination. The settlement requires Wellpath LLC to provide the nurse with \$75,000 for back pay and compensatory damages. Wellpath also agreed to inform employees of their rights and to provide anti-discrimination training that includes matters related to religious dress and grooming."

DANCING BEES (Friday Church News Notes, February 25, 2022, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is from CreationMoments.com, December 8, 2021: "Bees depend on a good memory of their surroundings to make the thousands of trips necessary to keep their hive in operation. Each day a single bee must make trips to hundreds of flowers, some as far as a mile from the hive. Scientists have long wondered how the tiny bee can remember what may be dozens of square miles of territory. When a bee finds a good source of nectar, she returns to the hive and does a dance for the other bees. This dance tells them where a new find is located. Researchers have studied this in detail and can now interpret these dances. Researchers from Princeton University tricked a bee into dancing out a location that turned out to be in the middle of a nearby lake. After receiving the message, the other members of the hive simply ignored their fellow worker. She kept dancing, but no one would believe her. Only later, when the dance clearly said that the flowers were on the opposite side of the lake, did the other bees pay attention and check out the flowers. Researchers are



now wondering whether bees keep a mental map of their surroundings. How else could they tell when someone gives them a false location? Evolutionary researchers are trying to figure out how such an 'evolutionarily simple' creature as the bee could be so intelligent. However, the Bible makes clear that intelligence is not related to evolution. It is the gift of an all-wise Creator. Author: Paul A. Bartz. Ref: Horton, Elizabeth, 'Bees as mapmakers,' *Science Digest*, Sept. 1983, p. 90."

Aim of O Timothy Magazine

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



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