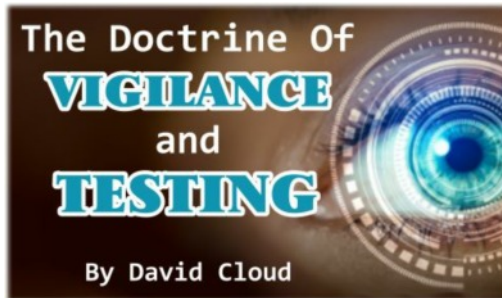


O Timothy

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

A Monthly Newsletter for Spiritual Protection and Edification

Volume 39 - Issue 8 - August 2022



"The doctrine of vigilance and testing is a clear doctrine of God's Word and must be taught and emphasized and obeyed by every individual believer, in every Christian home, and in every church. It is a matter of spiritual protection. Where the doctrine of vigilance and testing is not understood and obeyed, the devil devours and destroys." Page 12.

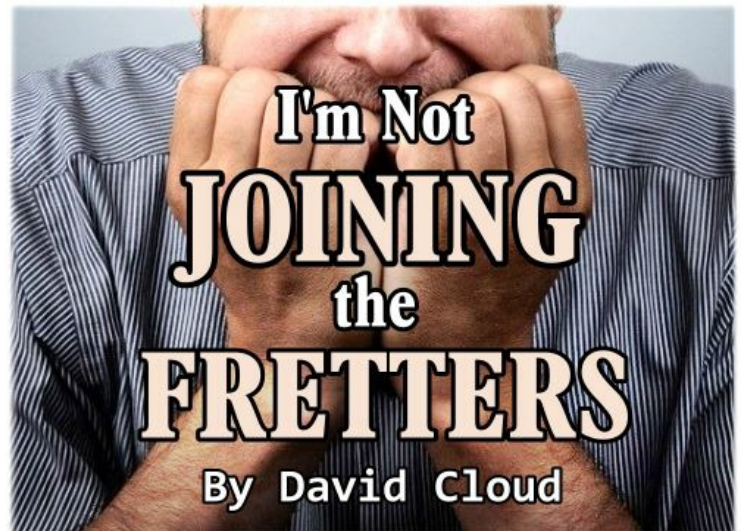
Digging in the Walls: A month's worth of news items, republished from Friday Church News Notes. **Page 15.**



I'M NOT JOINING THE FRETTERS ~ By David Cloud

The Bible instructs God's people not to fret about the wicked. "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" (Ps. 37:1-4).

This shows the error of America's political conservative movement. Fretting permeates politically conservative talk radio, web sites, and social media. These days they are fretting about the border, Biden's cognitive decline, Kamala Harris, gun control, oil pipelines, wokeness, Russian hackers, violence in the cities, inflation, and the



infrastructure bill, among many other things. These are genuine concerns, of course, but fretting is not what the believer is to be doing. The questions for God's people are, first, what *can* we do, and

second, what *should* we do. Unserved political conservatives fret because they have no true wisdom and don't, therefore, understand the fundamental spiritual realities. They have no power (e.g., no political majority; there was no Moral Majority in the 1980s and there is no Wilkow Majority today). And they have no real hope since they aren't born again and don't believe Bible prophecy.

Instead of fretting, **God's people, first, are to be trusting God** ("Trust in the LORD"). The promises of God are myriad. He changes the times and seasons (Da. 2:21); my times are in His hands (Ps. 31:15); all things work together for good to those who love Him (Ro. 8:28), etc.

Second, God's people are to be obeying Christ's Great Commission. After His resurrection, Christ gave the marching orders for this entire age and it is repeated in Scripture five times by way of emphasis (Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15; Luke 24:44-48; John 20:21; Acts 1:8). It is a very, very big job. It entails preaching the gospel to every soul in every nation, building

sound churches, discipling God's people in "all things," building the families, training up the children for Christ, discipling youth, educating preachers. When God's people give their full attention to God's business they have God's power. We have been given a spiritual work, and for that business we have mighty spiritual power (2 Co. 10:4-5). If we turn aside to worldly programs, we have no power and we end up fretting.

Third, God's people are to be praying. Prayer is one of our mighty weapons. It is mentioned at least 550 times in the Bible, 174 times in the New Testament. Christ taught much about prayer (Mt. 5:44; 6:5-15; 9:38; 17:21; 21:22; 26:41; Mr. 13:33; Lu. 11:5-13; 18:1-6). Paul taught something about prayer in practically every epistle. How much are we to pray? "Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints" (Eph. 6:18). We are specifically instructed to pray for those who are in authority (1 Ti. 2:1-6). We need to pray more, probably 10 times more in most cases. We need more prayer in private, more prayer in the home, more prayer in the church, more prayer meetings and longer prayer meetings, unhurried prayer meetings.

Fourth, God's people are to be meditating in God's Word day and night, and that gives them an entirely different worldview than the unsaved, even than the most conservative and religious unsaved. "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. But his delight *is* in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper" (Psalm 1:1-3).

O TIMOTHY Magazine

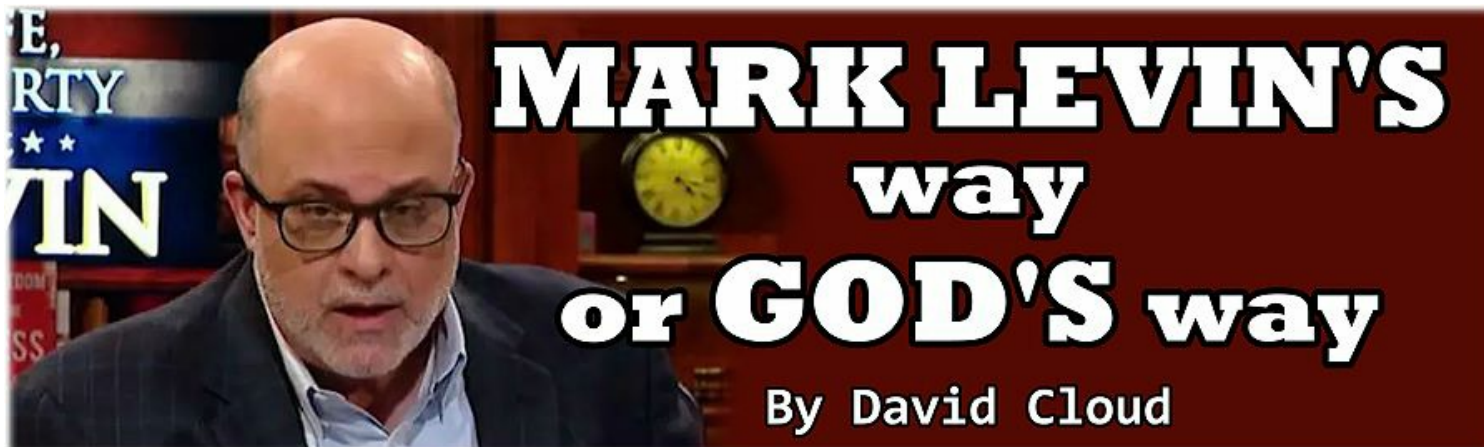
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David W. Cloud, Editor
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Way of Life Literature
PO Box 610368, Port Huron, MI
48061

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



I listened to Mark Levin's radio broadcast last week and was reminded of two things. First, Levin is one of the most knowledgeable, clever, sincere, and passionate personalities in America's conservative political movement. Second, other than sharing a love for America, we have radically different world views.

I'm not criticizing Mr. Levin; I am thankful for the good he has done for America--he and every other "conservative." I'm only singling him out insofar as he represents the most zealous, thoughtful, practical side of political conservatives.

My point is that regardless of what we have in common about America, we have very little in common in reality.

If God's redeemed people are followers of secular voices, no matter how knowledgeable and zealous, it is evidence of carnality and worldliness because God's thoughts are not their thoughts.

Following are some of the differences:

We have a different God. My God is the Sovereign of the universe. He has an eternal plan which encompasses all of human history, and that plan is "that in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ" (Ephesians 1:10). Toward this end, God "worketh all things after the counsel of his own will" (Ephesians 1:11). "He changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings" (Daniel 2:21). This God created all things, and in Him we live and move and have our being, and by Him all things consist. "For of him, and through him, and to him, *are* all things: to whom *be* glory for ever" (Romans 11:36). Knowing this God, I don't have to wring my hands at human affairs. They are safely in His hands.

We have a different gospel. My gospel is the gospel of eternal salvation by God's grace through the vicarious atonement of Jesus Christ. It is God's free gift, without works and sacrament. It is a gospel for individuals. It saves souls, not nations. It is spiritual, not political.

We have a different authority. My authority is the Holy Bible, which I hold to be the verbal, plenary inspired Word of God and sole authority for faith and practice. That is what it claims to be and that is what it is shown to be by many infallible proofs.

We have a different citizenship. My citizenship is in heaven, and I am a pilgrim in this present world. "For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ" (Philippians 3:20).

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

We see different fundamentals at work. I see spiritual fundamentals as the root of America's ills. A primary fundamental is the condition of the churches, which in turn dramatically affects the character of the people. The church is the pillar and ground of the truth (1 Timothy 3:15), and America has always been a nation of churches.

We have a different goal. My goal in life is to please the God who has saved me by His amazing grace and to fulfill His calling, which is to be an ambassador of Christ (2

Corinthians 5:20). “For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s” (1 Corinthians 6:20).

We fight different battles with different weapons. My battles are spiritual and are fought with spiritual weapons. “For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds; Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ” (2 Corinthians 10:4-5).

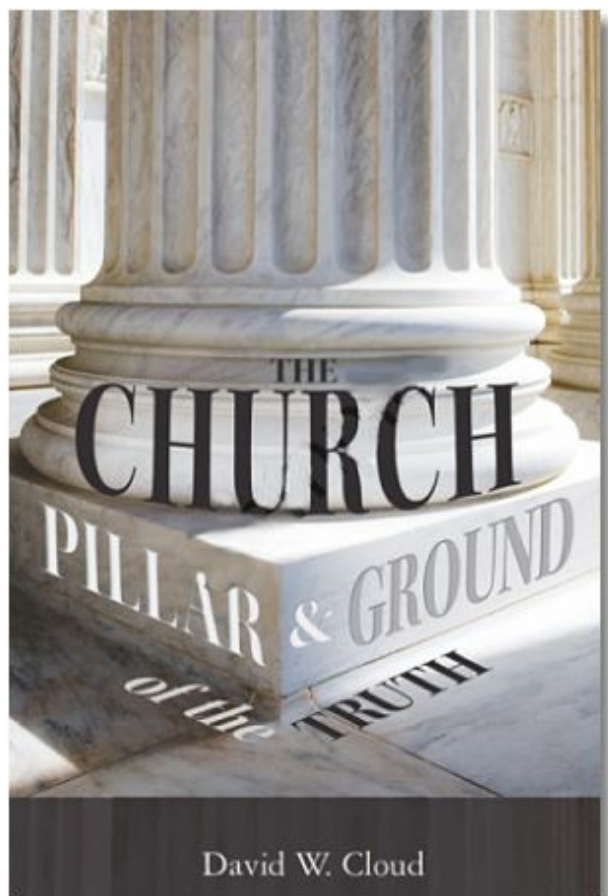
We have a different spirit. Because of my faith in Jesus Christ and in His infallible Word, I have the spirit of faith and trust and patience and hope and encouragement, not frustration and anger and fighting and bitterness and disappointment.

The fundamental problem in America is spiritual, not political, and it cannot be resolved by political warriors and politicians and judges of any stripe.

The New Testament church is the pillar and ground of the truth in this present world.

America has always been a nation of churches, and the corruption of the churches is America’s fundamental problem. If God’s redeemed people would wake up from the slumber of carnality and worldliness and be zealous for the work of God in the church and home, there is no telling what God might do. And even a relatively few on-fire churches can make a major difference.

“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 armor 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 *fulfill* the lusts *thereof*” (Romans 13:11-14).



The Church:

Pillar and Ground of the Truth

By David W. Cloud

This book deals with nearly every aspect of church polity and life, including:

The meaning of the church, the proper constitution of the church, the importance of the church, biblical descriptions of a New Testament church (expository studies of Acts 2:36-42; 13:1-4; Romans 15:14; 1 Corinthians 5:6-8; Colossians 1:25-28; 1 Thessalonians 1:8-10; 1 Timothy 3:15; Revelation 1:10-20), the Church as a body (expository study of Ephesians 4:7-16), church membership, the pastor, church members’ relationship to pastors, other ministry-gifted men, the deacon, ordination, church ordinances, church discipline, the church as headquarters for Christ’s Great Commission, and church covenants.

Available at:

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



I lived according to the way of the world until I was 23 and partook of pretty much everything this world has to offer. At age 23, I repented of living my own way and put my faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour. That was 49 years ago and I've never looked back. Since then I have aimed to live according to God's pleasure as revealed in Scripture, though I have certainly failed often and in many ways.

If it turns out that the Bible is not the infallible Word of God (ridiculous thought) and Darwinian evolution is true, and life, therefore, has no ultimate purpose and ends in nothing, I have lost nothing of value.

There is no loss in avoiding the pain and sorrow and trouble and emptiness that come from fornication, adultery, smoking, drinking, drugging, cursing, lying, cheating, covenant breaking, the pursuit of personal vengeance, and other aspects of the typical worldly lifestyle. I know first hand that the pleasure in such things is incredibly fleeting and the aftertaste is bitter.

I have lost nothing by studying the Bible, as I have done for 49 years. I love books, and I have found the Bible to be the Book of books, by far.

I have been endlessly delighted and awed by the character of the God it describes, by the Person of Jesus Christ, by the Bible's elegant language, its sacredness, its astonishing wisdom, its infinite depth, its practicality, its universal applicability, its prophetic voice.

If the Bible is not God's Word, it certainly sounds like God's Word! The book of Proverbs alone contains incomparable wisdom for such things as the management of money, debt, labor, temptations, friendship, relating to authority, dealing with anger, child-parent relationships, right conversation, and much, much more. All of America's institutions of higher learning began as colleges of the Bible, and I am convinced that their

founders were far wiser than their descendants who have left off the study of Scripture.

I have lost nothing by believing that God is in control of my life, loving me, helping me, answering my prayers, leading me, caring for me, yea, correcting and chastening me. Even if it turns out that there is no God (ridiculous thought), this is a superior way to live. It brings greater peace of mind, good cheer, confidence, courage. If there is not a prayer-answering God, there sure seems to be.

I have lost nothing by living without fear of death. Though many put on a brave face, men are afraid of death. I certainly was. In Christ, though, because of His atonement for my sin and His promises, I have had no fear of death for 49 years. If it turns out that my hope is in vain, it still has kept me from a life of fear.

I have lost nothing by seeing God's handiwork everywhere in creation. Johannes Kepler, one of the fathers of modern astronomy and the discoverer of the laws of planetary motion said, "I was merely thinking God's thoughts after him. Since we astronomers are priests of the highest God in regard to the book of nature, it benefits us to be thoughtful, not of the glory of our minds, but rather, above all else, of the glory of God" ("Kepler," *New World Encyclopedia*).

The fathers of modern science believed the Bible to be the Word of God, and it was no hindrance to their science. There is no loss in such a belief.

BUT IF THE BIBLE IS TRUE.....

On the other hand, if the Bible is true, I have eternal life in Jesus Christ as the Bible promises.

If the Bible is true, those who don't believe it and who reject Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour will be the biggest losers ever conceived.

The Doctrine Of VIGILANCE & TESTING

By David Cloud



The doctrine of vigilance and testing is a clear doctrine of God's Word and must be taught and emphasized and obeyed by every individual believer, in every Christian home, and in every church. It is a matter of spiritual protection. Where the doctrine of vigilance and testing is not understood and obeyed, the devil devours and destroys.

The doctrine of vigilance and testing is contrary to the "judge not, live and let live" doctrine that prevails among professing Christians today.

While attending the New Orleans '87 ecumenical conference with press credentials, I had a discussion one afternoon with a young man who was working with one of the "evangelical" ministries represented at the congress. I asked how he could be comfortable in the midst of such apostasy, and I mentioned the Roman Catholic speakers, the Catholic mass that was held every morning, the sacramental faith-works gospel, the statues of Mary and rosaries for sale in the bookstore, Pentecostal heresies, infant baptism, the rock music, and other things. He replied, "You need to relax and enjoy what God is doing."

The verses we quote in this report came to my mind, and I knew for certain that he was wrong. God's Word does not tell me to relax and go with the flow in this age. It warns repeatedly and forcefully of great spiritual and doctrinal danger and the necessity of being exceedingly vigilant and testing everything with Scripture.

The dangers described in the follow Scriptures have increased greatly since the first century. The internet has facilitated the spread of heresy as well as truth. Multitudes of professing Christians have been devoured by heresies that they encountered on web sites and social media and that they weren't properly prepared to deal with.

It is not enough simply to quote these verses and mention them in preaching and teaching in a general sense. They

must be applied to daily life. The churches must identify the spiritual and doctrinal dangers that exist in their place and time and aggressively protect the saints. Key persons and organizations that represent danger should be identified. The entire flock must be properly educated on this matter, and each generation must be re-educated. Good literature should be made available to educate, inform, and warn. Sound web sites should be recommended and dangerous ones exposed.

"The simple believeth every word: but the prudent *man* looketh well to his going" (Pr. 14:15)

"Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves" (Mt. 7:15).

"And Jesus answering them began to say, Take heed lest any *man* deceive you: For many shall come in my name, saying, I am *Christ*; and shall deceive many" (Mt. 24:4-5; Mr. 13:5-6).

"Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation" (Mt. 26:41).

"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" (Ac. 17:11).

"For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them. Therefore watch" (Ac. 20:29-31).

"Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them" (Ro. 16:17).

“Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners” (1 Co. 15:33).

“Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong” (1 Co. 16:13).

“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 Co. 10:5).

“But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or *if* ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with *him*” (2 Co. 11:3-4).

“For such *are* false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ” (2 Co. 11:13).

“That we *henceforth* be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, *and* cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive” (Eph. 4:14).

“Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience” (Eph. 5:6).

“Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord” (Eph. 5:10).

“That ye may approve things that are excellent” (Php. 1:10).

“Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, beware of the concision” (Php. 3:2).

“And this I say, lest any man should beguile you with enticing words” (Col. 2:4).

“Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ” (Col. 2:8).

“Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and worshipping of angels, intruding into those

things which he hath not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind” (Col. 2:18).

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

“Therefore let us not sleep, as *do* others; but let us watch and be sober” (1 Th. 5:6).

“A bishop then must be ... vigilant” (1 Ti. 3:2).

“Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils” (1 Ti. 4:1).

“But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived” (2 Ti. 3:13).

“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. But watch thou in all things ...” (2 Ti. 4:3-5).

“ 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. 5:14).

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

“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour” (1 Pe. 5:8).

“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” (2 Pe. 2:1).

“Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know *these things* before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own stedfastness” (2 Pe. 3:17).

“Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time” (1 Jo. 2:18).

For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist. Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward” (2 Jo. 1:7-8).

“These *things* have I written unto you concerning them that seduce you” (1 Jo. 2:26).

“Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world” (1 Jo. 4:1).

“For many deceivers are entered into the world, who

confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist” (2 Jo. 1:7).

“I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars” (Re. 2:2).

“Be watchful” (Re. 3:2).

“Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame” (Re. 16:15).

Joint-Heir with CHRIST



By David Cloud

The following is excerpted from [The Way of Life Commentary Series, Romans](http://www.wayoflife.org), www.wayoflife.org –

The sons of God are joint-heirs with Christ (Ro. 8:17).

This is a truth that is almost beyond comprehension at present, but God wants us to begin understanding it now, and He has revealed much to us.

“Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. BUT GOD HATH REVEALED THEM UNTO US BY HIS SPIRIT: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God” (1 Co. 2:9).

We are joint-heirs by adoption, which is the subject of the previous verses (Ro. 8:15-17).

- To understand the glory of being a joint-heir, we must consider who has been made joint-heirs. It is lowly sinners, unclean, condemned and cursed,

rebels, outcasts, having no hope and without God in this world, living in a fallen world, headed toward an eternity of judgment. Yet these are the ones who have made joint-heirs. To be a joint-heir with Christ is something like a dirty, poverty-stricken child being adopted by the world’s richest man, but in truth, that is as nothing compared to to a sinner becoming a joint-heir with Christ.

- To understand the glory of being a joint-heir, we can think of with whom we are joint-heirs. It is to be joint-heir with the One who is the image of the invisible God, whose name is Immanuel, the mighty God, by whom all things were created, who is before all things, and by whom all things consist, who sits at the right hand of God, who has a name above every name, who in all things has the preeminence, who has all authority in heaven and in earth, under whose feet are all things. We are joint-heirs with Him who is heir of all things (Heb. 1:2). There is nothing that Christ has not inherited, nothing He does not own, nothing He is not Head

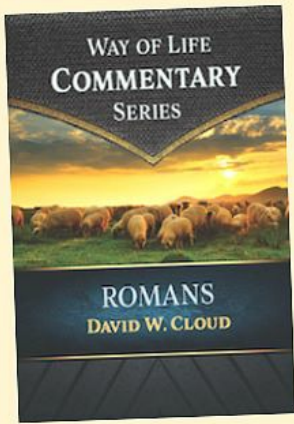
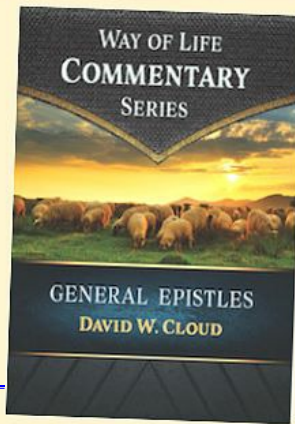
of, nothing He is not Lord of, nothing He is not judge of, nothing He cannot dispense of as He pleases. Nothing exists now or ever will exist that is not part of Christ's inheritance from the eternal Father. We are joint-heirs with Him who made the worlds (Heb. 1:2). We are joint-heirs with Him for whom nothing is impossible (Lu. 1:37). When I was little I dreamed sometimes of being the son of a rich man, but the richest man in this world is a pauper compared to Christ. If Bill Gates adopted you, that would be as nothing compared with being adopted by God in Christ.

- To understand the glory of being a joint-heir, we can think of what being a joint-heir consists. It is to know Him as Bridegroom, to live in His glorious kingdom, to rule and reign with Him, to be the eternal trophy of His grace. It is to be like Christ (1 Jo. 3:2), to have an immortal, incorruptible body like Christ's (1 Co. 15:53-54; Php. 3:21). It is paradise (Re. 2:7), mansions and ivory palaces (Ps. 45:8; Joh. 14:2), garments that smell of myrrh and aloes and cassia (Ps. 45:8), clothing of wrought gold and raiment of needlework (Ps. 45:13-14), flying white horses (Re. 19:14), thrones of glory (Mt. 19:28), and crowns of glory (1 Pe. 5:4). It is eternal life in the New Jerusalem, a holy city 1,600 miles cube, a city of pure gold, like unto clear glass, with light like unto a stone most precious, even a jasper stone, clear as crystal, with walls of jasper, whose foundations are garnished with all manner of precious stones, and gates of pearl (Re. 21:9-27). It is streets of pure gold, as it were transparent glass (Re. 21:21), the tree of life growing alongside of the river of life (Re. 22:1-2). It is everlasting joy (Isa.

35:10), and eternal singing (Ps. 33:3; 96:1; 100:1-5; 149:1; Isa. 42:10; Re. 5:9; 14:2-3), and no more death, or sorrow, or crying or pain (Re. 21:4), and eternal holiness untainted by sin (Re. 21:27). It is seeing the face of the Lamb and serving Him (Re. 22:3-4).

- To be a joint-heir with Christ is described in many passages, such as the following: "Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father" (Mt. 13:43); "And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them" (Joh. 17:22); "Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me" (Joh. 17:24); "For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality" (1 Co. 15:53); "a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory" (2 Co. 4:17); "the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints" (Eph. 1:18); "Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body" (Php. 3:21); "then shall ye also appear with him in glory" (Col. 3:4); "When he shall come to be glorified in his saints" (2 Th. 1:10); "ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away" (1 Pe. 5:4); "when he shall appear, we shall be like him" (1 Jo. 3:2); "to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy" (Jude 1:24), "he that overcometh shall inherit all things" (Re. 21:17).

(For more on the believer's inheritance, see the commentary on 1 Peter 1:4, [Way of Life Commentary Series, General Epistles.](#))

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The following is excerpted from [What Is the Emerging Church?](http://www.wayoflife.org), www.wayoflife.org.

The glorification of doubt is part of the deconstruction aspect of the emerging church. They aim to deconstruct traditional theology with the objective of reconstructing something different, something allegedly more fitting for “these times.”

Rob Bell says that God gives men “the invitation to follow Jesus with all our doubts and questions right there with us” (*Velvet Elvis*, p. 28). He says, “We sponsored a Doubt Night at our church awhile back. People were encouraged to write down whatever questions or doubts they had about God and Jesus and the Bible and faith and church” (p. 29). He says, “Questions bring freedom” (p. 30), and, “Questions, no matter how shocking or blasphemous or arrogant or ignorant or raw, are rooted in humility” (p. 30).

Tim Condor, pastor of Emmaus Way and member of the coordinating team for Emergent Village, says there must be a “climate of theological openness” to allow people to express their doubts (*An Emergent Manifesto of Hope*, p. 106). He says there should never be a punitive consequence or exclusion for expressions of doubt and questioning of even the most cardinal of doctrinal truths.

Adam Cleaveland says that churches should be “open to critique and deconstruction” (*An Emergent Manifesto of Hope*, p. 125). He says there should be safe places “where people can come and be involved in the process of deconstructing ideas and practices, all while remaining open to the new movements and new waves of the Spirit.”

Barry Taylor says, “Christian faith is open to discussion. Historically it always has been. It can be questioned and reinterpreted. In fact I would argue that it is meant to be

questioned and reinterpreted” (*An Emerging Manifesto of Hope*, p. 167).

Brian McLaren says that we should welcome “the disillusioned and the doubters” (*A Generous Orthodoxy*, p. 172).

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY?

The emerging church’s position on doubt/questionings is refuted by the Bible’s distinction between sincere and foolish questions.

Believers should entertain honest questions from seekers, but foolish questions are to be rejected.

“But foolish and unlearned questions avoid, knowing that they do gender strifes” (2 Timothy 2:23).

“But avoid foolish questions, and genealogies, and contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and vain” (Titus 3:9).

We wholeheartedly support the idea of giving unbelievers “space” for expressing their questions and doubts as they are coming to the Lord. The man who led me to Christ spent a few entire days with me patiently teaching me the Bible and answering my questions. I was chock full of Humanism, New Age, Hinduism, Christian Science, and other errors, and I had a lot of questions and challenges to what the Bible taught. I believed there were many ways to God, that reincarnation was true, that a man can find the truth by following his heart, that God would not send people to Hell if they had never heard the gospel, that Christ had learned wisdom in Egypt during the “hidden years,” and many other false things. The man who led me to Christ knew little to nothing about the things I believed at the

time, but he did know the Scripture, and as I expressed my views to him, including my doubts about the Bible, he patiently listened and then replied with Scripture.

In our church planting work in South Asia, many unbelievers visit our public meetings and home Bible studies and village meetings, and we deal with their many questions and doubts. Sometimes their questions are as ridiculous as whether or not we baptize people in cow's blood (some of the Hindus have actually said this behind our backs) or as substantial as why we believe that Jesus Christ is the only Saviour and why He died on the cross. As we deal with their questions, sometimes they go on to saving faith in Christ and sometimes they turn away, but we deal as best as we can with all of their sincere issues.

After people are saved, they still have many doctrinal questions, of course. I thank the Lord for those who patiently taught me the Scriptures and set my thinking straight when I was a young believer. For example, soon after I was saved I found a book by a Seventh-day Adventist at the public library and became confused about the sabbath and whether or not people go to Heaven or Hell at death and such things. The pastor of the church where I was a member showed me what the Bible said and his help and my own prayerful Bible study resolved those doubts.

The same thing happened in regard to Pentecostal-Charismatic doctrine. Having been led to Christ by a Pentecostal, I was confused about whether tongues-speaking is for today and such things, but by studying the Bible privately and receiving help from sound teachers, those issues were resolved. I asked sincere questions and received honest Bible answers and the problem was settled. I recall my late friend and former pastor, Gary Prisk. He had lived a roving lifestyle before he was saved, hitchhiking, using drugs, and he didn't know anything about the Bible. Not long after he came to Christ he went to Bible College, and one day soon after arriving he saw a book with the title "Is Jesus God?" He thought to himself, "No, God is God." He wasn't a heretic; he was simply ignorant; and after he was taught what the Bible says about Christ's divinity he accepted it readily and defended it for the rest of his life.

Foolish questions, on the other hand, are not to be entertained. A "foolish question" is *a question that is asked insincerely by a heretic with the goal of confusing*

people and leading them astray from sound doctrine. This is the immediate context of Titus 3:9-10. A heretic is someone who is self-willed and has rejected sound doctrine in favor of his own opinions and perversions of the truth. The terms "heretic" and "heresy" refer to the willful choice of false doctrine, a willful alignment with error. The heretic is not content with the plain teaching of Scripture but pursues his own agenda. This is exactly what we find in emerging church circles. A foolish question is one that is used in an attempt to overthrow plain Bible teaching, such as questions about the Trinity or Christ's bodily Resurrection and virgin birth or biblical inspiration or the eternal suffering of Hell or separation from the world.

It is good to ask sincere questions in the honest search for the truth, but it is evil to entertain questions that deny Bible truth. If the Bible says all unbelievers will suffer conscious eternal torment in fire, which it does, we must not entertain questions that speculate if this is a just punishment. If the Bible claims to be the infallible Word of God, which it does, we are not to question how this could be possible. If the Bible says we are not to love this world, which it does, we are not to question whether this might be a narrow, "legalistic" position.

Our questions must be controlled by the Bible, not the Bible by our questions. "*The secret things belong unto the LORD our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law*" (Deut. 29:29).

A foolish question is also *a question that produces strife and contention* among Bible-believing Christians. Titus 3:9 associates foolish questions with "contentions and strivings," and 2 Timothy 2:23 says foolish questions "gender strifes." When someone only wants to argue with the Word of God, he stirs up strife and doubt and confusion among others and causes trouble in the churches.

A heretic is not a person who is merely ignorant of sound doctrine. A true believer can be ignorant of sound doctrine, but the evidence that he is not a heretic will be seen when he responds to sound doctrine and rejects the error.

The mouths of heretics are stopped *by refuting their questions and by putting them out of the assemblies* (Titus 3:10-11).

It is impossible to keep the truth without separating from false doctrine and maintaining church discipline. False teachers must be dealt with and not ignored, and the scriptural way to deal with them is to put them out of the assemblies and to separate the believers from them.

The heretic is to be admonished two times (Titus 3:10). An effort is to be made to reclaim the heretic from his error. It is possible that he is not truly a heretic but that he is only teaching out of ignorance, but the effort is not to be long and drawn out. The heretic is to be admonished *only* two times (Titus 3:10). When it is obvious that he is set in his false ways, he must be rejected and put out of the assembly. Otherwise, he will corrupt others. “A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump” (Gal. 5:9).

The heretic condemns himself by his self-willed commitment to error. “*Knowing that he that is such is subverted, and sinneth, being condemned of himself*” (Titus 3:11). There is something wrong in the heretic’s heart. “Subverted” is from the Greek word “ekstrepho,” which means to be twisted or turned inside out.

Something has perverted that person’s heart so that he loves heresy rather than the truth.

“Such a one is subverted or perverted--a metaphor from a building so ruined as to render it difficult if not impossible to repair and raise it up again. Real heretics have seldom been recovered to the true faith: not so much defect of judgment, as perverseness of the will, being in the case, through pride, or ambition, or self-willedness, or covetousness, or such like corruption, which therefore must be taken heed of” (Matthew Henry).

Consider an example of how to deal with a foolish question from Jesus’ earthly ministry in Luke 20:1-8 and 20:20-26. Observe that Jesus did not argue with the Pharisees, nor did He waste time giving detailed replies to their insincere questions. He answered with statements that got to the root of the matter and shut their mouths!

If a person asks a sincere question, it should be answered from the Bible, but if he is asking a question to try to spread rebellion and promote false doctrine and draw people away from the truth, it is not profitable to answer it.

Therefore, our first point is that we must make a clear distinction between sincere and foolish questions.

The emerging church’s position on doubt/questionings is refuted by the Bible’s requirements for church membership.

There are Bible qualifications for church members, and one of those is that they continue stedfastly in sound apostolic doctrine. This is the pattern that was set in the first church.

“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).

Those who were saved and added to the church at Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost were Jews who were steeped in Judaism, but here we see that through the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit they committed themselves to the teaching of the apostles and continued therein.

I am sure they had a thousand and one questions, but the teaching of the apostles settled every issue for them. This is the way it should be in every church.

If a church member asks a question about the deity of Christ or Hell or the sabbath, he should be taught in a patient and compassionate manner. If, though, he refuses to accept the Bible’s teaching and persists in his doubt and unbelief and chooses heresy over the truth, he must be put out of the church.

Thus, there are doubts that an unbeliever can express to us in our evangelistic work that a church member is not allowed to hold.

The emerging church’s position on doubt/questionings is refuted by the Bible’s exaltation of faith.

The Bible exalts faith over doubt. “*But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him*” (Heb. 11:6). Jesus rebuked those who doubted (Mat. 6:30; 8:26; 14:31; 16:8) and praised those who had faith (Mat. 8:10; 15:28). He taught that faith is one of the weightier matters of the law (Mat. 23:23) and instructed the people to have faith in God (Mk. 11:22). Zacharias was judged for doubting

(Luke 1:20). James says those who doubt can receive nothing from the Lord (James 1:6-8). Christian men are exhorted to praise God *without doubting* (1 Tim. 2:8). To doubt is sin (Rom. 14:23).

The Bible teaches that we must come to terms with doubt; it must be dealt with; it must be resolved.

The Psalmist momentarily doubted in Psalm 73, but his doubt was resolved in the same Psalm and he saw himself as a foolish beast for doubting God.

John the Baptist doubted when he was in prison, but Jesus settled his doubt by doing Messianic miracles and thus reminding John that He is the One who was promised and also warning that it is those who are *not* offended in him that are blessed (Luke 7:19-22).

On the cross, Jesus cried, “My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?” (Mat. 27:46), but this was not

unresolved doubt; the question He asked is clearly resolved in Scripture. God the Father forsook the Son on the cross because He was bearing the sins of the world (Isaiah 53:5-6; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Galatians 1:4). Jesus’ question was answered.

The emerging church’s position on doubt/questionings is refuted by the Bible’s teaching on the source of faith.

Faith does not come through contemplative practices or ecumenical dialogue; it comes by God’s Word.

“*So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God*” (Rom. 10:17).

True faith, being founded upon God’s inspired revelation has substance and evidence (Hebrews 11:1). The believer’s faith is founded upon “*many infallible proofs*” (Acts 1:3). There is nothing blind about it.



The following is excerpted from [Mastering the English Bible: Old Testament](#), which is a Bible survey course, a one-volume commentary, and a Bible Handbook, www.wayoflife.org.

Some of the Psalms contain amazing conversations between God the Father and the Son. Here we see the doctrine of the Trinity. We see that God has a Son, and the Son is the Anointed (Christ). We see the Son addressed by God as God, even as Jehovah. We see that the Son is the Creator. We see that the Son will sit at the right hand of God in heaven. We see that the Son will rule over God’s kingdom forever.

Psalm 2

- Verses 1-3 describe the world’s end-time rebellion against God and His Anointed, who is Christ. The

Anointed is identified as the Son. Compare v. 2 with v. 7 and v. 12.

- Verses 5 is the Father’s words to the Son to conquer the nations and rule them. “I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou *art* my Son; this day have I begotten thee. Ask of me, and I shall give *thee* the heathen *for* thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth *for* thy possession. Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter’s vessel.”

Psalm 45

- From Hebrews 1:8-9, which quotes Ps. 45:6-7, we know that Psalm 45 is the Father speaking directly to the Son. The Father addresses the Son as God (v. 6).

- The Father addresses the son as king (v. 1), as the fairest of men (v. 2), as one whose speech is full of grace (v. 2), as blessed of God forever (v. 2). He instructs the Son to ride in majesty and victory over the wicked (vv. 3-5). He describes the Son's eternal kingdom of righteousness and joy (vv. 6-7). He describes the Son's glorious reign: the righteousness (v. 6), the justice (v. 7), the joy (v. 7), the palaces and odors and clothing (vv. 8, 9), the Queen (vv. 10, 11), the supplicants and petitioners from the nations (v. 12), the children who are all of those who are redeemed by Christ (v. 16), the eternal praise (v. 17).

Psalm 102

- Psalm 102 is a conversation between Christ in His incarnation and the Father. This is clear in that Hebrews 1 quotes Psalm 102 as words spoken by the Father to the Son. Hebrews 1:8 quotes Ps. 102:12 and Hebrews 1:10-12 quotes Ps. 102:25-27.

- Verses 1-11: The Son describes his afflictions on earth. He asks the Father not to hide His face from him (v. 2). Compare Mt. 27:46. He describes His suffering on the cross (vv. 3-5). He describes the continual reproach of His enemies and their plots against Him (v. 8). Compare Mt. 26:4; Mr. 11:18; 14:1; Lu. 19:47. He describes His tears (v. 9). Compare Lu. 19:41; Joh. 11:35. He describes enduring God's wrath (v. 10). Compare Isa. 53:5, 10; 2 Co. 5:21; Gal. 3:13. He describes being cut off in His youth (v. 11).

- Verses 12-22: The Father encourages the Son. He addresses Him as LORD (v. 12). In Hebrews 1:8 this is translated "God." The Father speaks to the Son of the eternal joy and fruitfulness that lies before Him beyond the cross and because of the cross. He will live forever (v. 12). He will rise from the dead (v. 13). He will build up Zion and rule in glory over the nations (vv. 13-16, 21-22). He will rule with compassion on the needy (v. 17). He will redeem sinners from enslavement and death (v. 19-20).

- Verses 23-24: The Son again speaks of His sufferings and His approaching death. This kind of

language was used in Gethsemane (Lu. 24:41-44).

- Verses 25-28: The Father again encourages the Son in His earthly afflictions. He states that the Son has created all things and will live forever (vv. 25-26). The first creation will perish and be replaced with the new creation (v. 26). The Son is eternal and unchanging (v. 27). The Son will redeem multitudes of sinners who will be His servants and children (v. 28).

Psalm 110

- The LORD Jehovah speaks to David's Lord (v. 1). Jesus used this to confound the Pharisees (Lu. 20:41-44). "David therefore calleth him Lord, how is he then his Son"? Jesus' enemies could not answer this, because they did not believe the Scripture's teaching that the Messiah is both man, David's son, and God, David's Lord.

- Verses 1-7 is the Father's words to the Son. He will sit at the right hand of God until His enemies are made His footstool (v. 1). This happened at Christ's ascension after He had made the perfect atonement as the price of redemption. "But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God; From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool. For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified" (Heb. 10:12-13). Beginning with Peter's sermon at Pentecost, Ps. 110:1 is often quoted and referred to in the New Testament (Ac. 2:34-35; Ro. 8:34; Eph. 1:20; Heb. 1:3, 13; 8:1; 12:2; 1 Pe. 3:22). The Son will rule in Zion over his enemies (vv. 2-3). He is a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek (v. 4). He will conquer the kings of the earth through the power of the Lord (vv. 5-7).

- Between verses 1 and 2 is the Church Age, which is a mystery unseen in Old Testament Scripture. During this period, God calls out a people from among the nations to be special eternal trophies of His grace. See Ac 15:14; Ro. 11:25-27; Eph. 2:4-7. The Spirit of God was sent at Pentecost for this great work (Ac. 1:8). It is overseen by the Son from the right hand of God in heaven.

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?



U.S. SUPREME COURT OVERTURNS ROE V. WADE

(Friday Church News Notes, July 1, 2022, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- On June 24, the U.S. Supreme Court overturned the 1973 Roe v. Wade decision that wrongly made abortion a constitutionally protected right and the 1992 Planned Parenthood v. Casey decision that reaffirmed the right to abortion. The recent opinion, written by Justice Samuel Alito, says, "We therefore hold that the Constitution does not confer a right to abortion. Roe and Casey must be overruled, and the authority to regulate abortion must be returned to the people and their elected representatives." Joining Alito were Clarence Thomas, Neil Gorsuch, Brett Kavanaugh, and Amy Coney Barrett. The latter three are Trump appointees. More than 63 million unborn babies have been aborted since the Supreme Court's decision ("State of Abortion 2022," National Right to Life). Though pro-abortionists are having a conniption, the Supreme Court ruling fails to grant the unborn child constitutional protection and does not outlaw abortion. It simply leaves the matter up to the states. Currently, there will probably be abortion bans in about half of the states. The following states currently allow abortions through every stage of pregnancy: California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Washington, D.C., Hawaii, Idaho,

Illinois, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia (until the third trimester), and Washington. The following states currently allow abortion, but have trigger laws that will ban abortion in the eventuality that Roe v. Wade is overturned: Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Wyoming. Some large corporations have announced that they will pay their employees to travel to other states for abortions (*Fox Business*, June 24, 2022). These include Airbnb, Alaska Airlines, Amazon, Apple, Citigroup, Dick's Sporting Goods, Disney, GoDaddy, Hewlett-Packard, JPMorgan, Levi Strauss, Lyft, Microsoft, Starbucks, Tesla, Yelp, and Uber.

MYTHS SURROUNDING ABORTION RIGHTS AND ROE V. WADE

(Friday Church News Notes, July 1, 2022, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The following is excerpted from "9 Myths," *Christian Headlines*, June 24, 2022: "MYTH #1: ABORTION WAS A COMMON AND WIDELY ACCEPTED PRACTICE THROUGHOUT HISTORY. **Truth:**

This inaccurate claim was repeated throughout the 1960s. The fact is that abortion was rare well into the 19th century. ... If abortion is to be considered a common practice throughout history, the method was



infanticide or abandonment. **MYTH #2: ROE WAS BASED ON A CAREFUL INVESTIGATION OF THE FACTS.** **Truth:** When *Roe v. Wade* and *Doe v. Bolton* were tried in the lower courts there were no trials, and the judges did not look at evidence. One of the attorneys even stated that ‘the facts don’t matter.’ ... **MYTH #3: WOMEN WERE DYING BY THE THOUSANDS BECAUSE OF BACK-ALLEY ABORTIONS.** **Truth:** The number of maternal deaths from *all* causes was 780 in 1972 (down from 7,267 in 1942). Of the 780 maternal deaths, 140 were listed as “abortion deaths” by the National Center for Health Statistics, and included in this number were those deaths caused by spontaneous miscarriage. ... **MYTH #5: THE DESTRUCTION OF THE FETUS WAS NEVER TREATED AS INFANTICIDE IN THE AMERICAN LEGAL TRADITION.** **Truth:** Anglo-American law, in a tradition inherited from Roman law, had called the fetus an ‘unborn child’ or ‘child’ since at least the 1200s. In the 19th century statutes enacted in 17 states referred to the crime against an unborn child as ‘manslaughter,’ ‘murder,’ or ‘assault with intent to murder.’ Most of these statutes called the unborn child a ‘child,’ not a fetus or some term which could undermine the full personhood of the unborn. ... **MYTH #9: THE PRO-LIFE MOVEMENT IS ANTI-WOMEN.** **Truth:** Women are less supportive of

abortion than men. According to a 2010 Rasmussen poll, 53 percent of women believe abortions are too easy to get, compared with 42 percent of men. Likewise, 58 percent of women believe abortion is morally wrong in most cases; 49 percent of men agree with the same statement.”

ABORTION INCREASING IN AMERICA (Friday Church News Notes, July 1, 2022, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from “Long-Term Decline in US Abortions Reverses,” Guttmacher Institute, June 15, 2022: “The new data released by Guttmacher include several notable trends: (1) In 2020, there were 930,160 abortions in the United States, an 8% increase from 862,320 abortions in 2017. (2) Similarly, the abortion rate increased from 13.5 abortions per 1,000 women aged 15–44 in 2017 to 14.4 per 1,000 women, a 7% increase. (3) In 2020, about one in five pregnancies ended in abortion. More specifically, the abortion ratio (the number of abortions per 100 pregnancies) increased from 18.4% in 2017 to 20.6% in 2020, a 12% increase. (4) The increase in abortion was accompanied by a 6% decline in births between 2017 and 2020. Because there were many more births (3.6 million) than abortions (930,000) in 2020, these patterns



mean that fewer people were getting pregnant and, among those who did, a larger proportion chose to have an abortion. (5) The number of abortions increased in all four regions of the country between 2017 and 2020. The rise was largest in the West (12% increase) and Midwest (10% increase); abortions increased 8% in the South and 2% in the Northeast.”

SUPREME COURT RULES IN FAVOR OF HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL COACH WHO WAS FIRED FOR A POST-GAME PRAYER (Friday Church News Notes, July 1, 2022, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from “High School Football Coach,” *Fox News*, June 27, 2022: “The Supreme Court handed a big win to a former Washington high school football coach who lost his job over reciting a prayer on the 50-yard line after games. The Supreme Court ruled Monday in a 6-3 decision ... ‘Here, a government entity sought to punish an individual for engaging in a brief, quiet, personal religious observance doubly protected by the Free Exercise and Free Speech Clauses of the First Amendment. And the only meaningful justification the government offered for its reprisal rested on a mistaken view that it had a duty to ferret out and suppress,’ Justice Neil Gorsuch wrote in the Court’s opinion. ... ‘The Constitution neither mandates nor tolerates that kind of discrimination.’ Joe Kennedy was a junior varsity head coach and varsity assistant coach with the Bremerton School District in Washington from 2008 to 2015. He began the practice of reciting a post-game prayer by himself, but eventually students started joining him. According to court documents,



Coach Joe Kennedy

this evolved into motivational speeches that included religious themes. After an opposing coach brought it to the principal's attention, the school district told Kennedy to stop. He did, temporarily, then notified the school that he would resume the practice."

TRANSGENDER "WOMEN" BANNED FROM

INTERNATIONAL SWIMMING EVENTS (Friday Church News Notes, July 1, 2022, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The following is excerpted from "Transgender Women," *Christian Headlines*, June 20, 2022: "Three months after a transgender athlete won an NCAA title, the international organization that oversees swimming competitions on Sunday approved new rules prohibiting biological males from competing in women's competitions if they have gone through male puberty. The International Swimming Federation, known worldwide as FINA, approved the new policy with 71.5 percent of the vote. It will prohibit swimmers



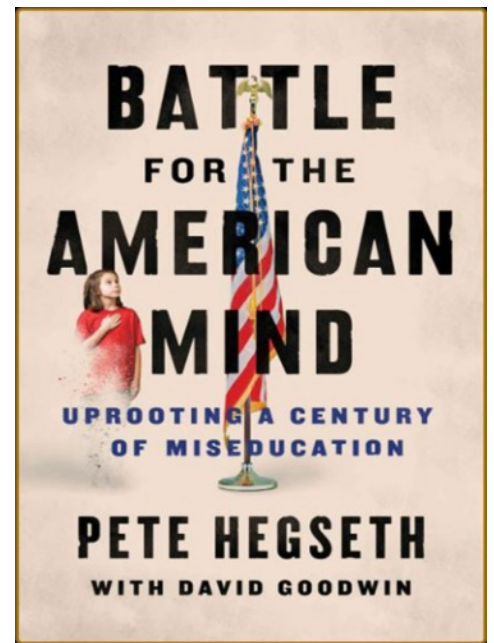
Lia Thomas

such as Penn's Lia Thomas from competing in international competitions--including the Olympics--and from being eligible for world records. Thomas, in March, became the first transgender woman to win an NCAA championship with a dominant performance in the women's 500-yard freestyle. Thomas previously swam for Penn as a man. The new FINA rules prohibit transgender athletes from swimming in women's competitions if they transitioned after the age of 12. FINA says it will work toward establishing an 'open' category for swimmers who are transgender women. Male to female transgender athletes may only compete in FINA meets if they 'can establish they have not experienced any part of male puberty,' said FINA Executive Director Brent Nowicki. FINA cited studies showing that males have a 'relative performance advantage over biological females.' 'A biological female athlete cannot overcome that advantage through training or nutrition,' FINA said. Michael Joyner of the Mayo Clinic said male-to-female transgender athletes maintain their advantage even after taking hormone suppressors."

THE SIZE AND INFLUENCE OF AMERICA'S PUBLIC SCHOOLS

(Friday Church News Notes, July 8, 2022, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The following is excerpted from *Battle for the American Mind: Uprooting a Century of Miseducation* by Pete Hegseth & David Goodwin: "To an outside observer, the sheer scale of 'school' in America is head-turning. The largest transportation system in the world is not in New York or London—it actually takes children to American public schools in half a million yellow buses. The



United States spends more on national defense than China, Russia, Saudi Arabia, India, France, United Kingdom, and Japan combined. Yet America spends even more on school than on defense—more than \$700 billion annually on education alone. The largest union in the United States supports not steelworkers or the teamsters, but schoolteachers. Public schools in the United States are the largest state-owned monopoly in the world, outside of China. How and why did this education story become so massive in America? And why are more than 90 percent of students educated in progressive public schools? In a nation of capitalists, why is one of America's largest industries publicly controlled?" (p. 18). **CONCLUDING NOTE:** *Battle for the American Mind* gives a helpful background of what has happened to public education since the last half of the 19th century, but like the vast majority of prominent political conservative writers, the authors do not understand Bible prophecy, including the apostasy, the mystery of iniquity, God's plan of the ages and sovereign control of history, Israel and the Church, Christ's Great

THE COMMUNICATING FIREFLY (Friday Church News Notes, July 1, 2022, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is from CreationMoments.com, April 22, 2022: “There are more than 200 species of fireflies around the world. Almost everyone has seen these small insects flying about or sitting in the grass. On dark summer nights they can be seen flashing their lights like ships far out at sea. As they flash, they are communicating very specific messages to one another. The light created by fireflies is called cold light because it is produced without creating any heat. To make a flash, the firefly must make and mix a chemical called *luciferin* with oxygen and an enzyme called *luciferase*. This mixture is combined with a catalyst to create the flashes of light. The result is a method of producing light that is far more efficient than any source of light in your home. A relatively tiny amount of energy creates a generous amount of light. Fireflies do not make light so they can read a book. Their flashes are used for finding a mate. Fireflies are able to read the light signals of other fireflies. These signals may contain several messages. Some



flashes can tell a firefly whether the sender is one of his species. Light flashes are used to identify whether the sender is a male or female. If it's a female, the flashes can identify whether she has already mated. This is another example of the unlimited creativity and extravagance of our Creator God. The same beauty of the firefly that creates wonder in the child should also fill us with wonder at the limitless imagination of God. Author: Paul A. Bartz.”

Commission, the imminent Rapture, and the Day of the Lord, so they do not know the true fundamentals of current events and do not know Christ's agenda for His people. They also give far too much credence to the benefit of Greco-Roman thought and political schemes and to Catholic Europe (e.g., the Holy Roman Empire and England prior to the Reformation, which they mistakenly label “Christian”).

WOKE AGENDA TAUGHT IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

NATIONWIDE (Friday Church News Notes, July 8, 2022, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from *Battle for the American Mind: Uprooting a Century of Miseducation* by Pete Hegseth & David Goodwin:

“The battlefield for the hearts and minds of our kids is the 16,000 hours they spend inside American classrooms from kindergarten to twelfth grade ... Through a seemingly unstoppable progressive pipeline—teachers union priorities, teachers colleges, Common Core prerogatives, and unchecked teachers and administrators—the woke, social justice agenda is showing up in the youngest of classrooms. Often the books and curricula are hidden from



parents, or at least largely until now. In one Idaho school district alone, books like *A Is for Activist*, *Antiracist Baby*, and *Not My Idea: A Book about Whiteness* are being read to elementary students. Not only is *A for Activist*, but *L is for L-G-B-T-Q*, *T is for Trans*, *X is for Malcom X* ... Anti-racist babies are taught to ‘confess when being racist’ and that ‘whiteness is a bad deal. It always was.’ At Creekside Intermediate School in Michigan, students read *Black Brother, Black Brother*, which highlights a black student who feels like he is ‘constantly swimming in whiteness.’ Cambridge, Massachusetts, public schools’ ‘Early Childhood Curriculum’ teaches black families to be ‘free from patriarchal practices’ as part of the ‘disruption of Western nuclear family dynamics’ and a return to the ‘collective village.’

Kindergarten students in Illinois and fourth and fifth graders in parts of Pennsylvania also read *Not My Idea: A Book about Whiteness*. The book pounds home the idea that being white is inherently evil and that being black means you are inherently oppressed. This is being taught to six-year-olds in America. These books—and so many more like them—are designed to divide students by race and gender; that is the goal, not just the result. ... Maybe your sixth or seventh grader will encounter the ‘gender unicorn’ instead—a widely used Barney look-alike purple unicorn who explains concepts like gender identity, gender expression, and sexual attraction” (pp. 9, 10).

ORIGIN OF AMERICA’S PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

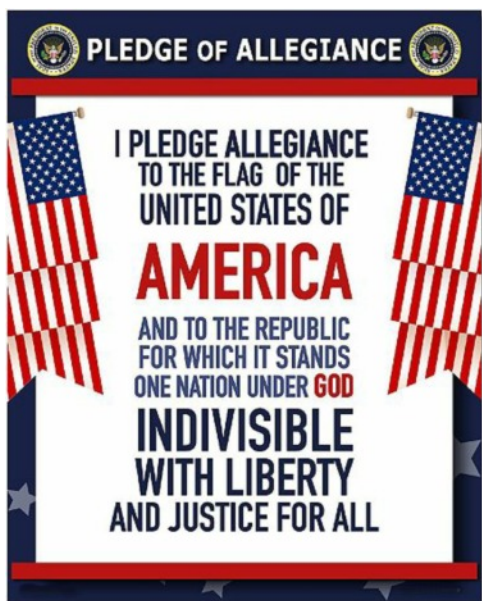
(Friday Church News Notes, July 8, 2022, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from *Battle for the American Mind: Uprooting a Century of Miseducation* by Pete Hegseth & David Goodwin: “In 1892, [Francis] Bellamy, an early Progressive [social gospel/socialist Baptist pastor], authored the precursor to the pledge of allegiance, called the

Bellamy Salute, which would come to be used in schools across the United States. Curiously, Bellamy’s pledge included the Roman salute with outstretched arm—very similar to what would later be known as the Nazi salute. It was nearly identical to what would become our current pledge, except that it made no mention of God. **Bellamy’s salute had a purpose: to unite and elevate the American people with reference only to America, not to Christ.** The WCP [Western Christian Paideia] no longer bound America together; the new pledge was designed to supplant the creeds of Christianity. The public school classroom would become a shrine of sorts to progressive ideas. The Bellamy Salute was intentionally part of that liturgy, as were American flags. By the early 1900s, there were portraits of John Dewey and Horace Mann in the classroom, alongside George Washington. In 1942, the original salute, with hands outstretched, was replaced for its obvious connection with the Nazi salute. In the 1950s, Bellamy’s original pledge was amended to add ‘under God’ by Congress amid fears of another form of Marxism—atheistic communism. ... The original 1892 Bellamy Salute: ‘I pledge allegiance to my Flag and the Republic for which it stands; one Nation indivisible, with Liberty and Justice for all.’ The current pledge of allegiance: ‘I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands; one Nation, under God, indivisible, with Liberty and Justice for all.’ **The Bellamy Salute served its purpose as nationalism slowly replaced Christianity over a period of decades. This form of nationalism, married to what has been called Manifest Destiny,**

became a sort of civil religion in its own right in America. Nationalism has its place—no doubt—but this form of American ‘democracy’ was intentionally disordered. It was an early placement of ‘nation’ above ‘Christ’—and executed intentionally” (pp. 76-77).

GOD’S PEOPLE HAVE THEIR MARCHING ORDERS AND IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH PUBLIC SCHOOLS (Friday Church News Notes, July 8, 2022, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- We don’t give these facts so that Bible-believing Christians will engage in “saving the schools.” There is no possibility of redeeming the public school system in America (or any other nation). It is godless and filthy beyond belief. It is the mystery of iniquity in near full bloom. But the government school system should never have been supported by God’s people even in its more benign condition at its inception in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. It is never right and biblical for Christian parents to send their children to be educated in a mixed multitude by unregenerate and/or doctrinally unsound teachers in an atmosphere permeated with humanistic “enlightenment” philosophy (2 Co. 6:14-18; Col. 2:6-8; 2 Ti. 3:5) and the



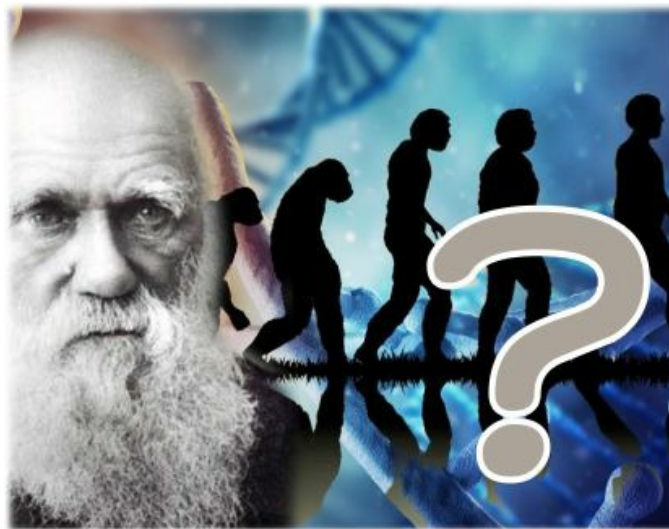
world (1 Jo. 2:15-17). We are instructed to teach our children the whole Word of God (De. 6:4-9; 2 Ti. 3:15-17). They are to be taught to observe all things that Christ has given by divine revelation (Mt. 28:19-20), which is the whole Bible. They are to be prepared for salvation and a surrendered life in Christ as priests (1 Pe. 2:5), ambassadors (2 Co. 5:20), soldiers (Eph. 6:10-19), ministers of spiritual gifts (Ro. 12:3-8), builders of the church (1 Co. 3:9-15 Eph. 4:16), and builders of the home (Eph. 5-6). That requires a lot of godly education, and the church, which is the pillar and ground of the truth (1 Ti. 3:15), is the only institution that can give it. The church and home are to operate together in harmony for the great work of raising a godly seed for Christ. God's instructions for the Christian home are given in the church epistles. The church is to build up the home, and the home is to disciple the children. The pastors and other ministry-gifted men are to be the chief educators (Eph. 4:11-16). The fathers are to be engaged personally and energetically in this business (Eph. 6:4). The mothers are to be the keepers and guides of the home in this business (1 Ti. 5:14 Tit. 2:4-5). God's people are to live as pilgrims in a foreign world. The Captain's marching order is to focus like a laser on fulfilling the Great Commission until He comes, and this is emphasized by repetition (Mt. 28:18-20; Mr. 16:15-16; Lu. 24:44-48; Joh. 20:21 Ac. 1:8). He promised to be with those churches that obey this command "even unto the end of the world" (*aion*, age). The church at Thessalonica got it right and is a model church until the end. "For they themselves show of us what manner of entering in we had unto you, and how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true

God; And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, *even* Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come" (1 Th. 1:9-10).

EVOLUTIONISTS ADMIT THEIR FIELD'S FAILURES

(Friday Church News Notes, July 15, 2022, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from "Evolutionists Admit," *Evolution News and Science Today*, July 1, 2022: "An article in *The Guardian* by science journalist Stephen Buranyi represents something remarkable in the way the public processes the failures of evolutionary theory. In the past, those failures have been admitted by some biologists ... but always in settings (technical journals, conferences) where they thought nobody outside their professional circles was listening. ... Well, the field of evolutionary biology has just done the equivalent of a massive Facebook dump ... In a very long article, top names in the field share with Buranyi what intelligent design proponents already knew, but few *Guardian* readers guessed. The headline from the left-leaning British daily asks, 'Do we need a new theory of evolution?' Answer in one word:

yes. The article is full of scandalous admissions: 'Strange as it sounds, **scientists still do not know the answers to some of the most basic questions about how life on Earth evolved.** Take eyes, for instance. Where do they come from, exactly? The usual explanation of how we got these stupendously complex organs rests upon the theory of natural selection. ... This is the basic story of evolution, as recounted in countless textbooks and pop-science bestsellers. **The problem, according to a growing number of scientists, is that it is absurdly crude and misleading. For one thing, it starts midway through the story, taking for granted the existence of light-sensitive cells, lenses and irises, without explaining where they came from in the first place.** Nor does it adequately explain how such delicate and easily disrupted components meshed together to form a single organ. **And it isn't just eyes** that the traditional theory struggles with. 'The first eye, the first wing, the first placenta. How they emerge. Explaining these is the foundational motivation of evolutionary biology,' says Armin Moczek, a biologist at Indiana University. 'And yet, we still do not have a good answer. **This classic idea of gradual change, one happy accident at a time, has so far fallen flat.**' There are certain core evolutionary principles that no scientist seriously questions. Everyone agrees that natural selection plays a role, as does mutation and random chance. But how exactly these processes interact--and whether other



GLOW-IN-THE-DARK SHARK (Friday Church News Notes, July 8, 2022, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is from CreationMoments.com, June 16, 2022: "The creation is filled with plants and animals which use deception to survive. The glow-in-the-dark cookie-cutter shark is a master at such deception. The cookie-cutter shark is only a foot to a foot-and-a-half long. It doesn't have powerful muscles and can't swim very fast. But it doesn't need to. Lunch serves itself. The shark typically lives between 600 and 3,000 feet below the surface of the water. Looking down from above one of these sharks, you would probably not see it because the top of its body is as dark as the deep waters where it lives. Looking up from below, you wouldn't see the dark outline of the shark against the light that filters down from the surface. This is because of the shark's first deception: its underside is completely covered with light-emitting cells that match the illumination from above. The deception doesn't stop there, however. A small patch beneath the shark's jaw doesn't glow. From beneath, the cookie-cutter shark looks like a small fish, just the kind of dinner a tuna might like. As the tuna speeds toward what it thinks is a small



fish, at the last minute the shark turns and takes a bite out of the tuna. Its open, round jaw takes a plug of flesh out of the tuna, hence the name cookie cutter shark. Interestingly, most cookie-cutter shark wounds are not fatal. The fact that the cookie-cutter shark's form, deceptions and habits all match each other perfectly is not a result of chance, mindless evolution, but of God's careful design. Ref: S. Milius, 'Glow-in-the-dark shark has killer smudge,' *Science News*, v. 154, p. 70."

forces might also be at work--has become the subject of **bitter dispute**. 'If we cannot explain things with the tools we have right now,' the Yale University biologist Günter Wagner told me, 'we must find new ways of explaining' [Buranyi, 'Do we need a new theory of evolution?' *The Guardian*, June 28, 2022] ... [U]nderneath all this lurks another, deeper question: **whether the idea of a grand story of biology is a fairytale we need to finally give up.** ... 'Absurdly crude and misleading'? A 'classic idea' that 'has so far fallen flat'? 'A fairytale we need to finally give up'? ... This is how writers for *Evolution News* have characterized the troubles with Darwinian theory. But I didn't expect to see it in *The Guardian*." [CONCLUDING NOTE: Natural

selection, mutation, and random chance are not creative powers and explain absolutely nothing about the existence of life as we know it.]

EX-TRANS TEEN BACKS FLORIDA BAN ON MEDICAID FUNDS FOR TRANSGENDER MEDICAL INTERVENTIONS



(Friday Church News Notes, July 15, 2022, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following sad account is excerpted from "California ex-trans teen," *Fox News*, July 10, 2022: "A California teen girl who once identified as transgender and took hormones and underwent surgery to affirm such an identity spoke out in favor of a Florida rule blocking Medicaid funds from paying for medical interventions for gender dysphoria. 'I really didn't understand all of the ramifications of any of the medical decisions that I was making,' Chloe Cole, 17, said at a public hearing Friday. She said she was medically transitioned from ages 13 to 16, taking so-called puberty-blocking drugs and testosterone, and undergoing surgery to remove her

breasts at age 15. 'I was unknowingly physically cutting off my true self from my body, irreversibly and painfully.' 'I don't know if I'll be able to fully carry a child, and I might be at increased risk for certain cancers, mainly cervical cancer,' Cole said in a separate private meeting with Florida Surgeon General Joseph Ladapo Friday, footage of which Ladapo posted on Twitter Sunday. 'I am not able to breastfeed whatever future children I have.' ... 'No child should have to experience what I have,' she concluded. When asked what she would say to the public, Cole said, 'Do not transition your kids.' ... 'Medicalization of minors with gender dysphoria might advance the political views of physicians involved in their care, but the data showing any benefits for the actual children is extraordinarily thin,' the surgeon general told *Fox News Digital*. 'The affirmation model runs an unacceptably high risk of harm.'"

ABORTION OF BLACK BABIES HAS DESTROYED THE EQUIVALENT OF THE ENTIRE POPULATION OF BLACKS IN 1960 (Friday Church News Notes, July 15, 2022, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from "Abortion's twisted logic of racism," *Washington Examiner*, Feb. 28, 2020: "While many positive accomplishments by African Americans are now brought to our attention every February [during Black History Month], there are those who exploit this annual event to further their own political agenda, which is actually counter to the historical advancement of blacks in American history. Among them is Planned Parenthood. The nation's largest abortion provider has done a



masterful job of creating a false impression that its programs somehow benefit the black community. ... Abortion in America has contributed to the greatest decline in the black population since the first black slaves arrived in the Americas in the 1600s. According to U.S. census data, there were 18,871,831 black American citizens in 1960. Since Roe v. Wade legalized abortion in 1973, abortion has killed an estimated 20 million black babies--more than the entire black population of 1960. How does this benefit the black community? ... Claims that the pro-life community is a bunch of white supremacists are completely baseless. Such calumny cannot erase the truth that abortion has been used to control the black birth rate, and Planned Parenthood has led that charge. ... Only in a world of twisted logic could organizations and individuals working tirelessly to save black lives from abortion be called 'racist' for their efforts."

MORE BLACK BABIES ABORTED IN NEW YORK IN 2016 THAN BORN (Friday Church News Notes, July 15, 2022, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from "More Black babies are aborted," LiveAction.org, Feb. 16, 2020: "The most recent data available shockingly reveals that in 2016, more Black babies were killed by abortion than

were born in New York City. The data also shows that in 2016, Black abortions accounted for nearly 40 percent (38.7%) of all abortions in NYC. These alarming statistics reveal how abortion is decimating the Black community and is also hurting other minority groups. Out of 60,000 (59,854) total abortions reported in NYC, nearly 67 percent (66.7%) were committed on minority Black (23,209) and Hispanic women (16,718), leaving some to speculate that there is a targeted eugenics agenda at work."

JOEL OSTEEN'S SUPER-DUPER BLESSING CUBE (Friday Church News Notes, July 15, 2022, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Joel Osteen, pastor of America's largest megachurch, is offering "The Inspiration Cube" for gifts of \$50 or more. With the press of a button, the cube will bless your life with daily inspirations, sermons, and affirmations. It is advertised as "the beginning of a new life," "victory over negative thoughts," "the overcoming of any obstacle," "enablement to walk in your destiny," and "new levels of blessed life and influence." With this device, "The blessings of God are drawn to you like a magnet." This is based on the Pentecostal Word-Faith, "name it and claim it," heresy. Lakewood Church



was founded by Joel's father, John, the author of *How to Flow in the Super Supernatural*. He taught that believers can use their words to create their own reality. Joel holds his father's Word-Faith theology, but he focuses more on a "positive uplifting" message and ignores unpopular Bible teachings such as judgment, hell, surrender, sacrifice, apostasy, and separation. When Osteen packed out the coliseum in Charlotte, North Carolina, in March 2005, his message was, "Make a decision before you leave this place, you're going to get happy where you are." That message resonates with apostate America. In an interview on the international cable television program *Larry King Live*, June 20, 2005, Osteen was asked where atheists, Jews, or Muslims go if they don't accept Jesus Christ. He replied, "You know, I'm very careful about saying who would and wouldn't go to heaven; I don't know." In an interview with *The Washington Post* in Oct. 2011, Osteen said that Mormons are true Christians. In August 2014, Joel's wife Victoria, co-pastor of Lakewood, told the congregation "I want you to know this morning: Just do good for your own self. Do good because God wants you

to be happy" ("Osteen Says Obedience, Worship 'Not for God,'" *Christian News Network*, Aug. 28, 2014). Joel, standing by Victoria's side, nodded in agreement.

COMPLEX ANT SOCIETY (Friday Church News Notes, July 15, 2022, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)



The following is from creationmoments.com, October 29, 2021: "Imagine a huge living creature covering about one square mile and made up of almost a third of a billion cells. Imagine each of those living cells being able to move about independently of the others. No, it's not the plot of a new science fiction movie. Some scientists have suggested that ant colonies may be

thought of as one large living organism. They suggest this because of the way individual members within ant colonies behave. Ant colonies have many kinds of members, each with its own specific task. The soldier ants in a colony have extra large heads and heavy-duty jaws for fighting. Other ants are concerned only about finding and returning food. Still other workers do nothing but process and store food. Within the colony another caste of ants does nothing but tend the eggs. Others prepare the food for the larvae and deliver it to other specialized ants who do nothing but feed the next generation. If this sounds complex, imagine the largest known ant colony. This Japanese ant colony has an estimated 306 million worker ants, and more than a million queens. The colony occupies 45,000 interconnected underground nests that range over about a square mile! There is obviously intelligent design and control behind ant society—intelligence not found in ants or in nature itself. This intelligence comes from *outside* nature. Here is yet another witness that no concern of any living thing is too small for God's complete attention! Author: Paul A. Bartz."

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