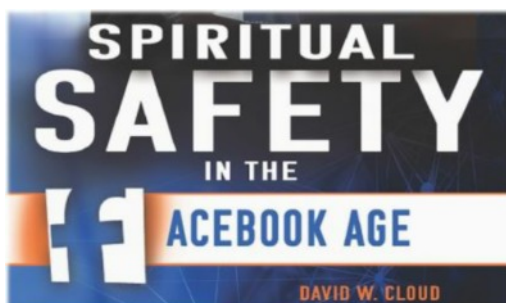


O Timothy

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

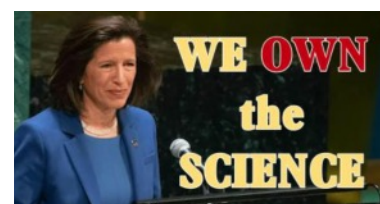
A Monthly Newsletter for Spiritual Protection and Edification

Volume 39 - Issue 11 - November 2022



"The church should help oversee young people who want to do right. It can't help rebels in this way, except for preaching and prayer, but for those young people who love the Lord and are wise and want help to stay safe, the church should be intimately involved in their lives. God's Word commands this." Page 9.

Digging in the Walls: A month's worth of news items, republished from Friday Church News Notes. **Page 12.**



SINGING THE PSALMS ~ By David Cloud

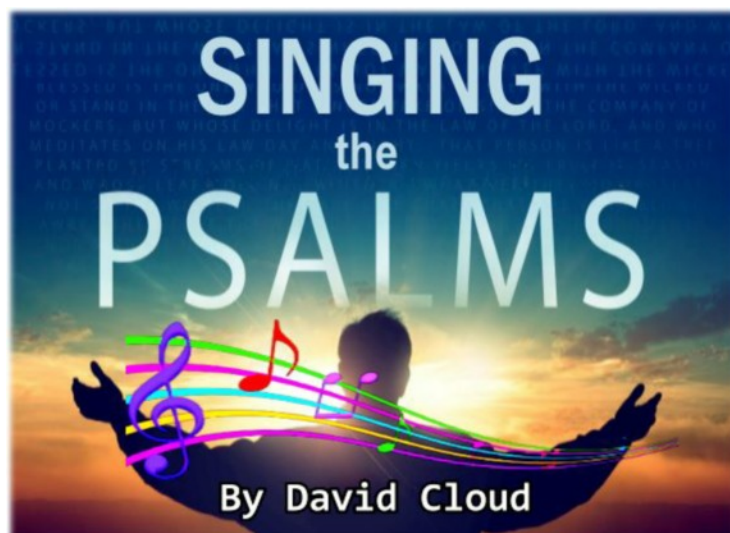
"Speaking to yourselves **IN PSALMS** and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord" (Ephesians 5:19).

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another **IN PSALMS** and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord" (Colossians 3:16).

New Testament churches are instructed to sing the Psalms, referring, of course, to the Psalms in our Bibles. The book of Psalms is a divinely-inspired song book.

The Psalms are so magnificent that it is difficult to know where to begin in describing their glory. Psalms is a peerless book. There is nothing like the Psalms in all of human literature.

The book of Psalms is God's hymn book, God's worship book, God's poetry book, God's treatise on suffering,



God's comfort book, God's book on prayer. Its Messianic prophecy is peerless. I love everything about the Psalms!

The 150 psalms deal with every facet of God's character and every situation in human life.

Psalms is infinite in teaching. It is a whole world of revelation. William Law said, “Singing psalms awakes all that is good and holy within you, calling your spirits to their proper duty, setting you in your best posture toward heaven, and tuning all the powers of your soul to worship and adoration.” John Berridge, in the preface to his hymnbook, wrote, “The book of Psalms seems intended as a model for Hymns; and after this model I have copied as nearly as I could. Here we find instruction, exhortation, caution, and Christian experience, blended with prayer and praise. The thoughts are easy and free, flowing from the heart, and the language simple and plain, yet neat and elegant. And nothing, sure, can be more unsuitable than humble prayer uttered in pompous expressions.”

Since the largest book in the Bible is a songbook, we see the importance of sacred music before God.

The language of the entire Bible is beautiful, but the Psalms have a beauty all their own. It far surpasses anything that the pens of the most acclaimed men have produced apart from divine inspiration. And the King James Bible captures the exquisite language of the Psalms in peerless English. Dr. Leland Ryken, professor of English emeritus at Wheaton College, in his 2002 book *The Word of God in English: Criteria for Excellence in Bible Translation*, called the King James Bible “MATCHLESS IN ITS LITERARY QUALITIES among all English translations” (p. 188) “THE NOBLEST

MONUMENT OF ENGLISH PROSE” (p. 258), “unquestionably the most beautiful book in the world” (p. 267), and a “PEERLESS LITERARY MASTERPIECE” (p. 270).

The title “Psalms” in the English Bible is from the Greek *Psalmoi*. It means “a poem to be sung to a stringed instrument.” It is the title that is used in the New Testament (Acts 1:20; Eph. 5:19). *Psalmos* is from *psallo*, which refers to touching or plucking the strings of a harp.

The name of the book of Psalms in Hebrew is *te'hillim* (songs of praises). The individual psalms are called *miz'mor*, meaning melody of praise.

The Psalms have been sung by God’s people from time immemorial, beginning in the Davidic kingdom.

The following link is to Psalm 24 sung at the Great Synagogue in Sydney, Australia:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GgxZ_uCbuf8

SINGING BY METER

Before we give a brief history of the singing of psalms, we need to give an overview of singing by meter. This refers to music that is written to match the poetry of a song’s lyrics. Meter is a notation indicating the number of syllables in each line of a song. The first number is the number of syllables in the first line of the song, and the second number is the number of syllables in the second line, etc.

For example, the most popular meter is 8.6.8.6., which is called Common Meter. There are 8 syllables in the first line, 6 in the second, 8 in the third, 6 in the fourth, etc. Consider “Amazing Grace” -

8 Am-az-ing grace, how sweet the sound,
6 That saved a wretch like me.
8 I once was lost but now am found,
6 Was blind, but now I see.

Some Basic Types of Meter

Iambic

The pattern is weak-strong-weak-strong - duh-DUH, duh-DUH. It has a skipping feel when read.

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“Because I Could Not Stop for Death” by Emily Dickinson

We passed the school where children played, Their lessons scarcely done; We passed the fields of gazing grain, We passed the setting sun.

In hymns, “Amazing Grace” is a prominent example:

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch like me.
I once was lost but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see.

Other examples: “Sweet Hour of Prayer” and “O God Our Help in Ages Past.”

Trochaic

The pattern is strong-weak - DUH-dah, DUH-dah.

“MacBeth” by Shakespeare (1606)

Double, double toil and trouble;
Fire burn, and caldron bubble.

“The Raven” Edgar Allen Poe (1845)

And the Raven, never flitting, still is sitting, still is sitting
On the pallid bust of Pallas just above my chamber door.

A hymn example is “Onward Christian Soldiers.”

“Onward, Christian soldiers,
marching as to war,
With the cross of Jesus
going on before!
Christ, the royal Master,
leads against the foe;
Forward into battle,
see His banner go!”

Another example is “Jesus, What a Friend for Sinners.”

“Jesus! what a friend for sinners! Jesus! Lover of my soul;
Friends may fail me, foes assail me, He,
my Savior, makes me whole.”

Another example is “Hark, the Herald Angels Sing.”

Dactylic

The pattern is strong-weak-weak - DUM-da-da.

“The Charge of the Light Brigade” by Alfred, Lord Tennyson (1854)

Half a league, half a league,
Half a league onward,
All in the valley of Death
Rode the six hundred.
“Forward, the Light Brigade!
Charge for the guns!” he said.
Into the valley of Death
Rode the six hundred.

An example of a hymn written to dactylic meter is “Be Thou My Vision.”

“Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart-
Nought be all else to me, save that Thou art;
Thou my best thought, by day or by night-
Waking or sleeping Thy presence my light.”

Anapestic (reverse dactyl)

The pattern is two unstressed syllables followed by a stressed; weak-weak-strong - da-da-DUM.

“Twas the Night Before Christmas” by Clement Clarke Moore (1822)

Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house
Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse;
The stockings were hung by the chimney with care,
In hopes that St Nicholas soon would be there.
The children were nestled all snug in their beds,
While visions of sugar-plums danced in their heads.
And mamma in her kerchief, and I in my cap,
Had just settled our brains for a long winter’s nap.

“The Destruction of Sennacherib” by Lord Byron (1815)

The Assyrian came down like the wolf on the fold,
And his cohorts were gleaming in purple and gold;
And the sheen of their spears was like stars on the sea,
When the blue wave rolls nightly on deep Galilee.

Like the leaves of the forest when Summer is green,
That host with their banners at sunset were seen:
Like the leaves of the forest when Autumn hath blown.
That host on the morrow lay withered and strown.

For the Angel of Death spread his wings on the blast,
And breathed in the face of the foe as he passed;

And the eyes of the sleepers waxed deadly and chill,
And their hearts but once heaved, and for ever grew still!

And there lay the rider distorted and pale,
With the dew on his brow, and the rust on his mail:
And the tents were all silent, the banners alone,
The lances unlifted, the trumpet unblown.

And the widows of Ashur are loud in their wail,
And the idols are broken in the temple of Baal;
And the might of the Gentile, unsmote by the sword,
Hath melted like snow in the glance of the Lord!

A hymn example is “Sweet By and By.”

“There's a land that is fairer than day,
And by faith we can see it afar,
For the Father waits over the way To prepare us a
dwelling place there.”

Though songs of a certain meter can generally be sung to any tune written for that meter, it is important to match the mood and tone of the tune and lyrics. Some lyrics require a somber tune, while some require a lighter, happier tune. For example, “There Is a Fountain” and “Joy to the World” are both 8.6.8.6., but the moods of the songs are very different and are not necessarily interchangeable.

Also songs with the same meter can differ according to “poetic foot.” This refers to the pattern of emphasis. This can make it difficult to match tunes with lyrics, even if the meter matches.

A helpful list of meters and tunes (with audio) can be found at the following link:

<https://psalms.seedbed.com/index-of-meters-and-tunes/>

The following link has a list of meters and tunes (with sheet music):

<https://www.bibleuniverse.com/hymn-index/hymns-by-meter>

The following link has audio files for a large number of meter tunes:

<http://lnwhymns.com/HymnMeter.aspx>

Common Meter CM (8.6.8.6.)

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name
Am I a Soldier of the Cross

Amazing Grace (the tune is *New Britain*)
America the Beautiful

At the Cross

Auld Lang Syne

Come, Every Soul by Sin Oppressed

Greensleeves

Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee (St. Agnes)

Joy to the World

Lead Me to Calvary

Must Jesus Bear the Cross Alone

My Faith Has Found a Resting Place

O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing

O God Our Help in Ages Past (St. Anne)

Oh Little Town of Bethlehem

On Jordan's Stormy Banks (I Am Bound for the Promised Land)

There Is a Fountain Filled with Blood

This Is the Day

While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks

Common Meter Double CMD (D means the meter is doubled--used twice in each verse)

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

There Is a Fountain

Short Meter SM (6.6.8.6.)

Blessed Be the Tie That Binds

Come, We That Love the Lord

Crown Him with Many Crowns

O, Bless the Lord, My Soul

Long Meter LM (8.8.8.8.)

Doxology (Old Hundred)

Just As I Am

On Jordan's Stormy Banks I Stand

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

The Solid Rock

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

8.7.8.7.D (D means the meter is doubled--used twice in each verse)

All the Way My Saviour Leads Me

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken

I've Found a Friend

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Saviour, Like a Shepherd

Shall We Gather at the River

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

8.8.8.8.8

Faith of Our Fathers

Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

6.6.6.6.8.8.

Rejoice, the Lord Is King

6.6.4.6.6.6.4.

Come Thou Almighty King

My Faith Looks up to Thee

The Psalms were sung by Israel (Ps. 95:2; 105:2)

David organized the continual singing of Psalms by the Levites in preparation for the building of the temple. This began when David brought the ark to Jerusalem (1 Ch. 15:1-28). See also 1 Ch. 16:4-6; 23:1-5; 25:1-31. David wrote Psalms specifically for use by the priests. See the headings to Psalm 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 31, 36, 39, 40, 41, 42, 44, 45, 46, 47, 49, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 70, 84, 88, 109, 139, 140.

Some of these psalms incorporate psalms David had written earlier. David invented special musical instruments for singing the Psalms (2 Ch. 7:6). (For lessons from this, see the study on David in *Mastering the English Bible - Genesis to the Silent Years*, “David organizes the music worship for the temple.”)

Solomon expanded this great musical worship enterprise with the completion of the temple (2 Ch. 5:12-13; 9:11). In the early part of Solomon’s kingdom, before his apostasy, the grand worship consisting of singing the Psalms to the accompaniment of musical instruments reached its zenith, and it must have been glorious indeed. Consider this description of the dedication of the temple:

“It came even to pass, as the trumpeters and singers were as one, to make one sound to be heard in praising and thanking the LORD; and when they lifted up their voice with the trumpets and cymbals and instruments of musick, and praised the LORD, saying, For he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever: that then the house was filled with a cloud, even the house of the LORD” (2 Ch. 5:13).

Sometimes there were 120 trumpets sounding together in perfect accord with the singers (“the trumpeters and

singers were as one, to make one sound to be heard in praising and thanking the LORD,” 2 Ch. 5:12)!

The public singing of the Psalms in the temple was revived whenever there was spiritual renewal in Israel. This happened in the days of **Jehoshaphat** (2 Ch. 20:18-22). It played a prominent role in the revival under **Hezekiah**, who restored the singing and playing that had been practiced in David’s day (2 Ch. 29:25-30). They used cymbals, harps, psalteries (a stringed instrument similar to a lyre or harp, probably with 12 strings), and trumpets, and they sang “praise unto the Lord with the words of David, and of Asaph the seer” (2 Ch. 29:30). The singing of the psalms was also revived in the days of **Josiah** (2 Ch. 35:15).

The psalms were also doubtless sung by individuals and in homes and on many occasions. Psalms were sung during Passover. It is stated in the Talmud that the Hallel (Ps. 113-118) were sung in the morning service of the synagogue during Jewish holidays, the new moon, and during the Passover meal. The songs of degrees (Ps. 120-134) might have been sung by pilgrims on their approach to the temple during the festivals (Ps. 122:1; 132:7).

The Psalms were sung by Protestants

The **French Calvinists** sang the Psalms through twice a year on a weekly schedule (P. Janson, “Once Again: How to Sing Psalms,” Christian Study Library, 1989).

In 1545, a visitor to Strasbourg described the French Calvinist services as follows: “On Sundays ... we sing a psalm of David or some other prayer taken from the New Testament. The psalm or prayer is sung by everyone together, men as well as women with a beautiful unanimity, which is something beautiful to behold. For you must understand that each one has a music book in his hand; that is why they cannot lose touch with one another. Never did I think that it could be as pleasing and delightful as it is. For five or six days at first, as I looked upon this little company, exiled from countries everywhere for having upheld the honor of God and His Gospel, I would begin to weep, not at all from sadness, but from joy at hearing them sing so heartily, and, as they sang, giving thanks to the Lord that He had led them to a place where His name is honored and glorified. No one could believe the joy which one experiences when one is singing the praises and wonders of the Lord in the mother

tongue as one sings them here’ (Charles Garside, *The Origins of Calvin’s Theology of Music*)” (Congsing.org).

Claude Goudimel, one of the Huguenots who were killed in 1572 in the St. Bartholomew Day Massacre, had produced a musical edition of the Psalms for singing in the home (Needman, *2000 Years of Christ’s Power*, Vol. 3, p. 229).

Isaac Watts (1674-1748) published the most influential English metrical psalter (1719). (A metrical Psalter is an edition of the Psalms meant to be sung by meter. The Psalms are translated and adapted in such a way that they can be sung to one or more meters or tunes.” Watts is known as “the father of English hymnology.” He spent 19 years producing his Psalter and wrote another 697 hymns. Watts was a premillennialist who believed that Israel would return to the land and be converted. He was a pioneer in adapting the Psalms to New Testament truth. He wrote,

“Far be it from my thoughts to lay aside the Book of Psalms in public worship. ... But it must be acknowledged still, that there are a thousand lines in it which were not made for a Church in our Days, to assume as its own. There are also many deficiencies of Light and Glory, which our Lord Jesus and his Apostles have supplied to the Writings of the New Testament. ... You will also find in this Paraphrase dark expressions enlightened, and the Levitical ceremonies and Hebrew forms of speech changed into the Worship of the Gospel, and explained in the language of our time and nation” (Preface, *Hymns and Spiritual Songs*, 1707).

He also said,

“I have not been so curious and exact in striving everywhere to express the ancient sense and meaning of David, but have rather exprest myself as I may suppose David would have done, had he lived in the Days of Christianity. And by this means perhaps I have sometimes hit upon the true Intent of the Spirit of God in those verses farther and clearer than David himself could ever discover, as St. Peter encourages me to hope, 1 Pet. 1:11, 12” (Preface. *The Psalms of David Imitated in the Language of the New Testament*, 1719).

Watts’ Psalter, with its five meters (tunes), is an example of singing hymns to simple melodies (“making melody,” Eph. 5:19).

Psalm 1 (sung to the Common Meter, 8.6.8.6., i.e., “Oh God Our Help in Ages Past,” “Amazing Grace”)

1. Blest is the man who shuns the place
Where sinners love to meet;
Who fears to tread their wicked ways,
And hates the scoffer’s seat;
2. But in the statutes of the Lord
Hath placed his chief delight;
By day he reads or hears the Word,
And meditates by night.
3. He like a plant of gen’rous kind,
By living waters set,
Safe from the storms and blasting wind,
Enjoys a peaceful state.
4. Green as the leaf and ever fair
Shall his profession shine,
While fruits of holiness appear
Like cluster on the vine.
5. Not so the impious and unjust;
What vain designs they form!
Their hopes are blown away like dust,
Or chaff before the storm.
6. Sinners in judgment shall not stand
Amongst the sons of grace,
When Christ the Judge, at His right hand
Appoints His saints a place.
7. His eye beholds the path they tread.
His heart approves it well;
But crooked ways of sinners lead
Down to the gates of hell.

A good study of, and presentation of, Watts’ Psalter is *Singing Psalms with Isaac Watts and a Biography* by N.A. Woychuk.

An alternative is **The Scottish Psalter**, which was first published by the Church of Scotland in 1650 and was the product of many years of labor and cycles of revision. The 1650 edition is called by many Presbyterians “the gold standard of Psalters.” Many conservative Presbyterian churches still use it.

Unlike Watts, the Scottish Psalter covers most verses, and it stays closer to the biblical text. The psalms are paraphrased to be sung to meter.

An edition of the Scottish Psalter is published by the Free Church of Scotland. It includes 193 songs, and each one can be sung to three or more tunes.

Following are samples from the Scottish Psalter that can be heard online:

Psalm 51 to the tune Ottawa (87.87.77)

<https://soundcloud.com/connorq/psalm-51-tune-ottawa-sing-psalms>

Psalm 130 to the tune Martyrdom (common meter 8.6.8.6.)

<https://soundcloud.com/connorq/psalm-130-tune-martyrdom-sp>

Psalm 23 to the tune Bays of Harris (common meter 8.6.8.6.)

<https://soundcloud.com/connorq/psalm-23-tune-bays-of-harris>

The **Reformed Presbyterian** Church of North America publishes a Psalter that includes the musical notations together with the lyrics.

The *Trinity Hymnal* contains a partial Psalter. The psalms are not listed by number but can be found by an index in the rear of the book.

The Psalms were sung by Baptists

The Metropolitan Tabernacle of London, England, has represented the old Particular Baptist style of congregational singing throughout its history.

The church's name originally was New Park Street Baptist Church. The name was changed to Metropolitan Tabernacle in 1861 when it moved to its new building at Elephant & Castle. The building seated 5,000, with standing room for another 1,000.

John Rippon (1751-1836), pastor of New Park Street Baptist Church for 63 years (1773 to 1836), published a hymnal in 1787 popularly called *Rippon's Selection*. (The full title was *A selection of Hymns from the best authors, intended as an Appendix to Dr. Watts's Psalms and Hymns*.)

An expanded edition was published in 1844 entitled *The Comprehensive Edition*, popularly called *The Comprehensive Rippon*. It contained more than 1170 hymns in 100 meters. Rippon's hugely influential hymnal was reprinted 27 times in over 200,000 copies. Rippon himself authored some hymns, though none have been popularized by wide use. Rippon was considered the

foremost authority on Isaac Watts' hymns. In 1801, he published a comprehensive edition entitled *An Arrangement of the Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs of the Rev. Isaac Watts, D.D.* The 718 Watts' hymns were arranged by subject.

Charles Spurgeon, who pastored Metropolitan Tabernacle from 1853 to his death in 1892, took the ministry of singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs seriously and was careful about the selections as well as about every aspect of the congregational singing.

In 1866, the church published an update of Rippon's hymnal called *Our Own Hymn Book*. The first 150 selections are Watts' psalter. The psalms have been translated and adapted in such a way that they can be sung to one or more meters or tunes.

Watts was a pioneer in adapting the psalms so that New Testament truth is included. He wrote, "Far be it from my thoughts to lay aside the Book of Psalms in public worship. ... But it must be acknowledged still, that there are a thousand lines in it which were not made for a Church in our Days, to assume as its own. There are also many deficiencies of Light and Glory, which our Lord Jesus and his Apostles have supplied to the Writings of the New Testament. ... You will also find in this Paraphrase dark expressions enlightened, and the Levitical ceremonies and Hebrew forms of speech changed into the Worship of the Gospel, and explained in the language of our time and nation" (Preface to *Hymns and Spiritual Songs*, 1707).

Watts also said, "I have not been so curious and exact in striving everywhere to express the ancient sense and meaning of David, but have rather exprest myself as I may suppose David would have done, had he lived in the Days of Christianity. And by this means perhaps I have sometimes hit upon the true Intent of the Spirit of God in those verses farther and clearer than David himself could ever discover, as St. Peter encourages me to hope, 1 Pet. 1:11, 12" (Preface to *The Psalms of David Imitated in the Language of the New Testament*, 1719).

In Spurgeon's day, congregational singing at Metropolitan Tabernacle was strictly *a cappella*.

Following is the description of the congregational singing: "The singing was almost overpowering. When that ocean of people rose and sung, 'Grace, 'tis a

charming sound,' it seemed as if the windows of heaven were opened. This seemed like worshipping God, like making melody in the heart unto the Lord. How unlike this is an organ and a choir, making music for a sitting, silent congregation" (Eugenio Kincaid).

"Mr. Spurgeon evidently takes delight in the service of song, and is anxious above all things that every man, woman, and child in the place should sing. In announcing the hymn he generally makes some remark, such as, 'Let us sing joyfully the 48th Psalm,' – 'Dear friends, this hymn is full of joy, let's sing it with all our hearts,' &c." (J.S. Curwen, *Studies in Worship Music*, 1880).

Under the leadership of **Peter Masters** (since 1970), Metropolitan Tabernacle uses the same sacred music it used in Spurgeon's day, with additions representing the same deep theological depth and sacred style, avoiding a contemporary sound by conviction and with clear purpose and understanding.

The 1991 edition of the Tabernacle's *Psalms & Hymns of Reformed Worship* has selections from Isaac Watts, Charles Wesley, Henry Lyte, Philip Doddridge, Nahum Tate, and others. The tunes are published in a separate music edition. They sing a lot of the Psalms, as we are commanded to do. The singing is accompanied by an organ which is played in a low key manner.

Everything is focused on the lyrics and edification and singing from the heart to one another and to God, which is true biblical worship. The service is conducted in a serious demeanor; there is no flippancy. It is the opposite of the revivalist approach.

We don't agree with the Tabernacle's "sovereign election" Calvinism--not even their evangelistic, "non-hyper" brand of it--but Baptists today could learn a lot

from John Rippon and his heirs about congregational singing.

Pastor **Tim Kelly** of Lewiston Baptist Church, Lewiston, Maine, is putting some of the Psalms to music with new melodies and arrangements. His email is pastortimkelly@gmail.com

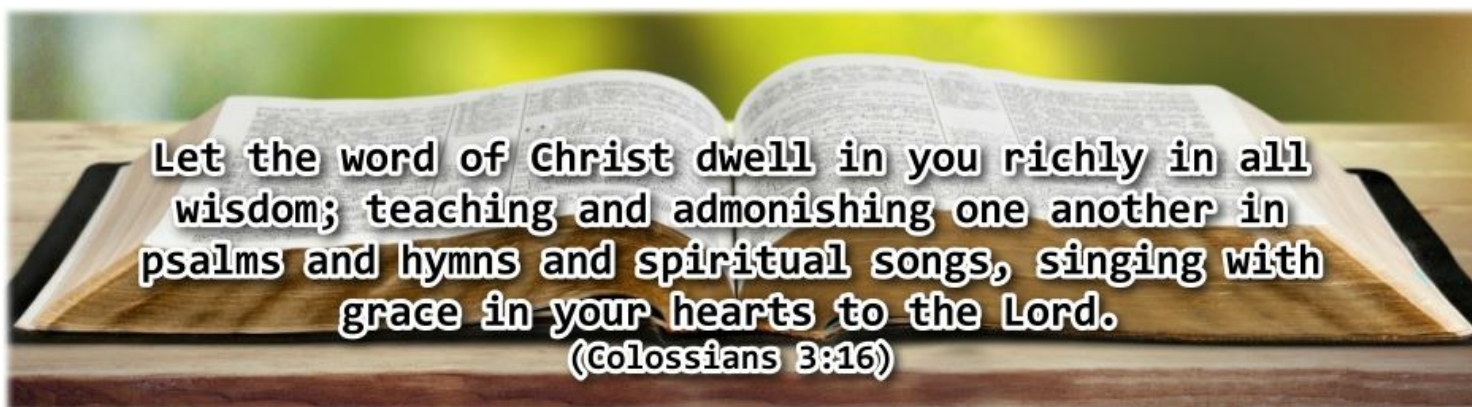
We believe that a combination of psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs is the right balance, so we don't reject the revivalist tradition that will be discussed later in these studies. We want to exercise discernment to weed out shallow and unscriptural revivalist songs (of which there are many). And we want to put the emphasis where the Bible tells us to put it, which is on the Word of God dwelling in the congregation in all wisdom, sobriety, speaking and admonishing one another, praising God with good understanding, theological depth, true spirituality, and rejection of every taint of worldliness.

We urge churches to sing the Psalms as God commands and to continually expand their repertoire of songs and hymns to include an ever-increasing number of those of challenging theological depth.

Metropolitan Tabernacle congregational singing -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L8979HFOqgM>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=psjdove76B0>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZWXAYBBtYck>

Another way to "sing" the Psalms is by responsive reading. By this means, the Psalms can be read just as they appear in our Bibles. By responsive reading, a psalm is divided into sections and the first section is read by the leader, while the next section is read by the congregation. The congregation can also be divided into parts and the parts can read responsively to one another.





The following is excerpted from [Spiritual Safety in the Facebook Age](https://www.wayoflife.org/publications/books/spiritual_safety_in_the_facebook_age.php), which is available from Way of Life Literature - https://www.wayoflife.org/publications/books/spiritual_safety_in_the_facebook_age.php

The church should help oversee young people who want to do right. It can't help rebels in this way, except for preaching and prayer, but for those young people who love the Lord and are wise and want help to stay safe, the church should be intimately involved in their lives. God's Word commands this.

"Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus" (Colossians 1:28).

Our church is starting a phone accountability program for those who want this help.

Many people are waking up to the moral danger of the smartphone age and are taking steps to protect themselves and their families. Jesse Weinberger, who teaches internet safety to thousands of parents and teachers each year, says,

"As parents raising 21st century digital citizens, it is critical that we become educated in order to understand the reality of where our children live, who they interact with, and who they become once they enter the digital sphere. ... The entire landscape of parenting has changed; some for the better, much for the worse. AD era (After Digital) parenting holds all of the same issues from the BD (Before Digital) era, plus a full slate of new ones. ... The constantly changing landscape of digital risks demands constant parental engagement" (*The Boogeyman Exists, And He's in Your Child's Back Pocket*).

Many families are making "Family Phone Agreements." A sample is as follows (from *Smartphone Sanity*):

- Parents have full access to any phone at anytime.

- No sneaky apps designed to hide or keep secrets.
- Calls from parents are answered or responded to in a certain time period we decide.
- GPS location services are on for our family.
- No pornography and no sexting.
- No dating or 'hook-up' apps.
- We will not use our phones to bully or gossip.
- No abusing or inappropriate language communicated through this device.
- Handle phones legally (not while driving, etc.).
- Respect the parameters of the family data plan.
- Be wise.

If unbelievers and evangelical and denominational Christians are taking such steps, how much more should Bible-believing fundamentalists and Baptists!

Spiritually mature men who understand the technology are assigned to oversee the phones of other men who want to sign up for the program. Each participant is assigned to one of the overseers. The overseer has all passwords and has complete access to the phones, laptops, etc. He can ask to see the devices any time.

Church members sign up on a freewill basis. Without a personal and strong desire to live a holy life in God's will, no accountability program will work.

One of the benefits of this program is that it keeps the issue of Internet danger before the church, and keeps the church informed and communicating about this.

An accountability ministry is a "one another" ministry

The Christian life is not a solitary life lived for self. It is a family life lived with others and for others. I *am* my brother's keeper!

- "admonish one another" (Ro. 15:14)
- "by love serve one another" (Ga. 5:13)
- "bear ye one another's burdens" (Ga. 6:2)

- “forbearing one another, and forgiving one another” (Col. 3:13)
- “teaching and admonishing one another” (Col. 3:16)
- “edify one another” (1 Th. 5:11)
- “consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works” (Heb. 10:24)
- “exhort one another” (Heb. 3:13; 10:25)

Preparation

We spent many weeks preparing for this by teaching in the weekly men’s meeting on surrender, holy living, seeking God’s will, being transformed by the renewing of the mind by God’s Word, controlling the emotions, and the importance of separation from evil, all with a strong application to Internet dangers.

Some of the studies we taught are in the course [Spiritual Safety in the Facebook Age](http://www.wayoflife.org), www.wayoflife.org.

Another thing we emphasized is the blessing of God’s will. See, for example, Ps. 16:11; 37:4, 10; Joh. 10:10; 1 Ti. 6:17; Jas. 1:17. A holy life as a pilgrim believer is a blessing-filled life. Within the protective boundaries of God’s will are massive blessings. There is liberty to do anything that is good, and that is a very long list.

The program must be explained carefully to the church and discussed and fine-tuned according to the feedback. Emphasize that the purpose is for protection, not control. The adult participants must not be treated like children or like they are in a prison. The overseers of the accountability program are not prison guards, they are friends in Christ.

Overseers

Overseers are selected on the basis of how many members sign up for oversight. Ideally, an overseer should not be responsible for more than three or four people so that he can give proper attention to this.

The overseers should be chosen and assigned with wisdom.

They must be spiritually mature and wise enough to shepherd the individuals under their care, and they must know enough about technology to be an effectual overseer. They must know how to check for new apps, browser histories, etc.

They must have knowledge of protection tools such as AppLock (an Android app that can be used to control select apps), web browser filters (e.g. CleanInternet), Covenant Eyes, and parental control software (e.g., Qustodio, Norton Online Family, Family Shield OpenDNS, Family Pro Shield).

The major spiritual qualifications of an overseer in this program are found in Romans 15:14. Here we see two things that are necessary for the effectual function of admonishing others. First, there must be goodness, which refers to a good Christian character and testimony. Second, there must be knowledge, which refers to knowledge of God’s Word and God’s will. If an individual lacks goodness, lacks a good testimony, he can’t effectively admonish others because they won’t take him seriously. If he lacks Bible knowledge he will not have the wisdom to admonish in a right way.

Participants

The individual who joins the program promises not to hide anything and to avoid visiting wrong sites or looking at wrong things. He agrees to obey God’s command to set no wicked thing before his eyes (Ps. 101:3), to have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness (Eph. 5:11), and to avoid evil communications (1 Co. 15:33).

He agrees that the overseer will have access to all areas of his phone, tablet, laptop, etc.

He agrees not to delete the history of Internet use, such as browsing history. He agrees not to use browsers such as Tor or Epic or SRWare Iron that do not leave a history and agrees not to use private modes in browsers (such as Chrome’s incognito mode) that do not leave a history. (These are unofficially called “porn modes.”) He agrees not to use secret IDs to log in to YouTube, etc., that are kept from his overseer. There should be no deleting of photos and videos and music except when they were received as unwelcome intrusions, such as sent by someone via text or WhatsApp. In other words, the deletions should not be for the purpose of hiding sin. When using the YouTube app, he/she will log in so that a history is maintained.

The participants should be categorized by age and situation and treated accordingly. For example, married people cannot be treated the same as single ones. Married people should have more privacy. For example, married people’s communication with their spouses should be strictly private, but single people should not have intimate communication with members of the opposite sex other than close relatives. In fact, every person in the program must be treated as an individual.

The program

The overseer starts by meeting with each individual under his care to develop a plan for how he is going to supervise that individual. The overseer must be firm and protecting but not overly forceful. If he forces the individual to do

something against his will, it won't work, because there are endless ways to get around supervision. From beginning to end, the program must be free will. In general, the overseer talks with the individual to find out how he is currently using his phone and other devices, in what legitimate and good ways, and tries to work out a plan so that the individual can use his devices for good but not for sin. Following are some of the things that should be done in the first meeting:

- At the very beginning, the individual must agree to keep everything open, to have no secrets on his devices, to not delete things in order to hide wrongdoing, to allow the overseer to check his phone at any time, and to communicate with the overseer to seek help if he is experiencing problems.
- Find out all of the ways the individual currently uses his phone and/or other devices.
- Ask if the individual has experienced any special temptations pertaining to the use of his devices.
- Thoroughly examine the individual's phone and other devices. First check overall usage for last ten days. (On an iPhone, screen time can be checked easily by going to Settings >> Battery >> "Last 10 Days.") Then look at every app and find out its function and how the individual uses it.
- Decide on a plan: What apps will be kept? How will they be used? Will something like Covenant Eyes be installed? Will a browser filter be installed? Some individuals should have no use of a web browser, for example, while others should have access to it. The overseer can recommend using the aforementioned protection tools for controlling and filtering.
- Pray together about the program and ask God's help.

The main thing is to treat each participant as an individual and have good communication and rapport with that individual. The individual's age, spiritual maturity, and background must be taken into consideration. If an individual has had problems with pornography in the past, for example, he should desire and should be given closer supervision.

The overseer commits to be mindful of the men under his care, to pray for them, and to be observant of them. He will meet each individual under his care at various times (irregular and unexpected, ideally) and do the following things: inquire about the individual's situation and how he is doing with the Lord; look to see what apps are installed; check overall smartphone use (Settings >> Battery >> "Last 10 Days"); check histories (browsers, YouTube, photos, calls, etc.); perhaps look at photos and videos (this depends on each

individual's situation, as we have discussed); and pray with the individual. The overseer doesn't read the individual's private communication (e.g., email, SMS, WhatsApp), but he does try to get an idea with whom the individual is communicating. The overseer must allow the individual to explain any particular aspect of his devices and Internet use that might be questionable and not be hasty to condemn.

The overseers give reports to the church leaders so they can be informed about what is happening.

The Attitude

We cannot emphasize enough the importance of the right attitude on the part of the church leaders and the overseers of this program. If the participants feel that they are being treated with true Christian love, kindness, patience, mercy, and wisdom, if they feel that the overseers are truly wanting to help and protect them and not to dominate them, they will benefit from the program and will want to continue to participate in it. Otherwise, it will be a short-lived thing.

"And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you" (Ephesians 4:32).

"Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ" (Galatians 6:1-2).

The author of the previously cited Family Phone Agreement observes, "This agreement is a WIP, a work in progress. It will need to be adjusted as time goes on."

Feedback and Adjustment

For this type of program to work, there must be good feedback and adjustment. It can't be set up and forgotten. Each church in each place and time is different, and a program like this must be well adapted to the church's particular situation.

What devices are being used? What are the most popular apps, Internet sites, social media, etc., in that place? What are the main ways that young people in that place are using technology? Are the men happy with the program? Do they want to continue? Do they have suggestions for improvement? Plus the technology is constantly changing and God's people must be aware of what is happening and be in control of the technology rather than allowing the technology to control them.

DIGGING IN THE WALLS

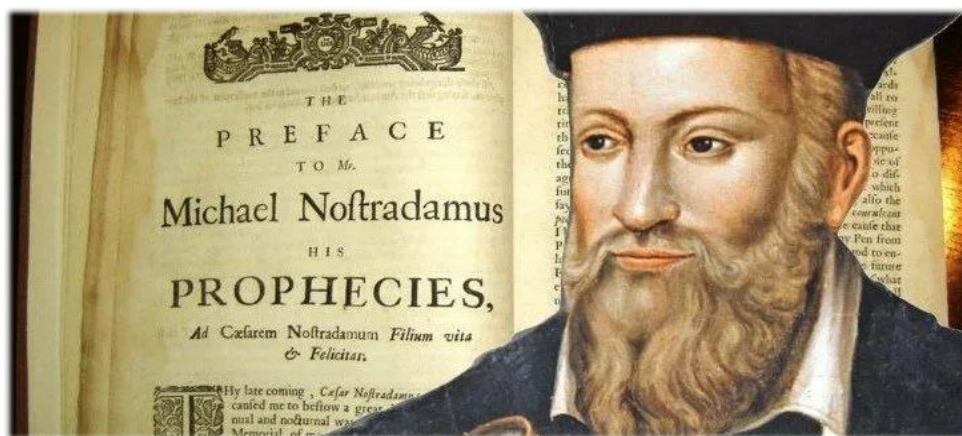
God commanded the prophet Ezekiel to dig in the walls of Israel's temple and observe the evils being done in secret by apostate religious leaders of that day. "Then said he unto me, Son of man, dig now in the wall ... And he said unto me, Go in, and behold the wicked abominations that they do here. So 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?



DID NOSTRADAMUS PREDICT QUEEN ELIZABETH'S DEATH?

(Friday Church News Notes, September 30, 2022, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- According to reports blazing across online news sites and social media, Queen Elizabeth's death this month was predicted by Nostradamus (real name Michel de Nostredame), a French astrologer and soothsayer who published *Les Propheties* (*The Prophecies*) in 1555. It is a collection of 942 quatrains, which are prophecies consisting of four lines of text. Nostradamus' "prophecies" are so obscure that they can mean anything and everything; therefore, they actually mean nothing. In 2005, Mario Reading published *Nostradamus: The Complete Prophecies for the Future* in which he interpreted Nostradamus' writings to say the Queen would die in 2022. That was a good guess on Reading's part, but Nostradamus certainly didn't predict this. Consider Nostradamus' actual prophecy in Quatrain 10/22 - "For not wishing to consent to the divorce, which then afterwards will be recognised as unworthy: The King of the Isles will be driven out by force; in his place put one who will have no mark of a king." What's that mean? Who knows! Reading claimed that the number of the quatrain indicates the year that the prophecy will take place.

Reading also claimed that a Nostradamus' prophecy indicates that King Charles III will abdicate the throne because of his unpopularity and be replaced by Prince Harry. The actual prophecy reads like this: "At the end of the war the great powers change; near the bank three beautiful children are born. Ruin to the people when they are of age; in the country the kingdom is seen to grow and change more" (8/97). For another example of the obscurity of Nostradamus' prophecies, consider the following, which is said by some to predict the rise of Hitler: "Beasts ferocious from hunger will swim across rivers: The greater part of the region will be against the Hister. The great one will cause it to be dragged in an iron cage, when the German child will observe nothing" (2/24). What does this mean? No one knows! And consider the alleged Nostradamus prophecy of London's Great Fire of 1666: "The blood of the just will commit a fault at London, Burnt through lightning of twenty threes the six: The ancient lady will fall from her high place, Several of the same sect will be killed." What does it mean? No one knows! By the way, the Great Fire didn't start by lightning; it started with a fire in a bakery. People are now scrambling to purchase Nostradamus' prophecies, 8,000 having sold in a

few days, but they should be scrambling to purchase the Bible. In contrast to Nostradamus' dark, mind-bending obscurities, Bible prophecy is clear and detailed and enlightening, and it has never failed. For example, the prophecies about Christ's first coming in the Old Testament describe the exact time of His coming, the exact place of His birth, the injustice of His "trial," the piercing of His hands and feet on the cross, the words that He spoke from the cross, the soldiers gambling for His garments, His burial in a rich man's tomb, His bodily resurrection, His ascension back to heaven, among many other details. Consider just one of these: "But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel..." (Micah 5:2). This was written hundreds of years before Christ was born, and it names His birth town. The Bible's prophecies about Israel are equally precise. It is said that Frederick the Great once demanded proof in one word that the Bible is divinely inspired. The answer provided by his chaplain was "the JEW, your majesty" (Robert Newman, "Israel's History Written in Advance," *Evidence for Faith*, edited by John Montgomery, pp. 193-201). At the dawn of Israel's experience as a nation, before she entered the Promised Land, Moses prophesied her complete history. God warned that if Israel turned from His Law, He would judge her. See Deuteronomy 28:25-32, 36-37, 63-67; 30:1-6. This prophecy was written in about 1450 B.C., or nearly 3,500 years ago. The prophecy describes Israel's defeat at the hands of foreign powers, her eviction from the land, her dispersion to the ends of the earth, and her return. (See [An Unshakeable Faith: A Christian Apologetics Course](http://www.wayoflife.org), available from www.wayoflife.org.)



T.D. JAKES ANOINTS DAUGHTER TO BE SUCCESSOR OF HIS WOMEN'S MINISTRY (Friday Church News Notes, September 30, 2022, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - On Sept. 24, T.D. Jakes, pastor of Potter's House church in Dallas, anointed his daughter, Sarah Jakes Roberts, with oil to "empower" her to take the reins of the Woman, Thou Art Loosed ministry with its annual conferences (now called Woman Evolve). Jakes said, "As Samuel's horn of oil anointed David, I so anoint you." She was "slain in the Spirit" and lay on the stage while Jakes said to the crowd, "I want every woman in this room to lift up your hands and to receive the anointing of God." Sarah co-pastors two branches of the Potter's House (Los Angeles and Denver) with her husband Touré Roberts. She had an out-of-wedlock pregnancy at age 13, and her first marriage at age 19 ended in divorce ("T.D. Jakes' Daughter," *Church Leaders*, Sept. 26, 2022). Jakes is a Church of God in Christ motivational speaker and pastor of a megachurch in Dallas, Texas. His book *Woman, Thou Art Loosed* has sold millions of copies. He preaches a positive, self-esteem, "it's all about you" message. Jakes preaches the prosperity gospel, falsely claiming that Jesus was rich and that God wants us to be rich, too. He lives in a \$1.7 million mansion.

He babbles in unintelligible mutterings he calls "tongues." In a 2015 interview with the *Huffington Post*, Jakes described his views on homosexuality as "evolved and evolving" ("T.D. Jakes Comes Out for 'Gay Rights' and 'LGBT Churches,'" *Christian News Network*, Aug. 7, 2015).

ATHEISM ON THE MARCH AMONG PROFESSING CHRISTIANS (Friday Church News Notes, September 30, 2022, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Atheism is on the march among professing Christians. In 1994, it was reported by the *Sunday Times* (July 31) in London that at least 100 Anglican priests are atheists who do not believe in "an external, supernatural God." On May 16, 2009, the bells of the Anglican Cathedral of Liverpool pealed out John Lennon's hypnotic, atheistic song "Imagine" three times ("imagine there's no heaven ... no hell ... no religion"). A spokesperson for the cathedral stupidly said, "We feel this performance has inspired many people to think about their relationship with God in their lives" ("Imagine That," *The Daily Mail*, May 17, 2009). In 2007, George Perdikis, co-founder of the Christian rock band Newsboys, "renounced Christianity once and for all and declared myself an atheist" ("Co-



founder of Newsboys,” standupforthetruth.com, Jan. 22, 2015). In August 2019, Marty Sampson, song writer and worship leader for Hillsong, said he no longer believes in God. That same year, Joshua Harris, author of the best-selling *I Kissed Dating Goodbye*, renounced his faith in Christ. He is divorcing his wife. He says he is following his “heart” and is happy and at peace. In May 2020, Jon Steingard of the Christian rock band Hawk Nelson, declared on Instagram that he is an atheist. Steingard said, “I am stunned by the number of people in visible positions within Christian circles that feel the same way as I do. Like me, they fear losing everything if they’re open about it.” In 2021, Kevin Max, formerly of the Christian rock bands DC Talk and Audio Adrenaline, said that he was “deconstructing” his Christian faith and believes in a “universal Christ.” He says that he hasn’t given up “the faith,” but it is a “faith” filled with doubts. He calls himself an “exvangelical.” On May 17, 2021, Max tweeted that he is “pro-LGBTQIA, pro-BLM, pro-open mindedness, anti-narrow mindedness...” In January 2022, Christian rapper Brady Goodwin (aka Phanatik) said he was leaving “the universal church” and “denouncing the Christian faith.” Goodwin made the point of saying, “I’m good; I’m where I think I’m going to be.” In September 2022, Rhett McLaughlin, a Christian comedian and singer, announced that he no longer believes the Bible, but is a “hopeful agnostic.” In his album *Human Overboard*, he tells God that they are breaking up. These men make the point of saying that everything is wonderful now that they have renounced the Bible. It is nonsense.



RECOMMENDATION OF THE WAY OF LIFE BIBLE COMMENTARIES

(Friday Church News Notes, September 30, 2022, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- We received the following testimony about the *Way of Life Commentary Series*: “I am continually astounded by, not only the volume of your work, but by its quality. Everything you write seems to have the Spirit of God behind it, and nothing is as exceptional as your commentary on the General Epistles. I’ve only finished going through the first 13 verses of 1 Peter and you have already handled depression, angels, heaven, election, holiness and our glorified bodies in such a deeply profound manner that it’s as if I had never studied those issues before (as a 35 year Christian and zealous student of Scripture)! My wife and I look forward to digging in deeply every day. I truly think this is your greatest work. I am deeply grateful for your hard labor for the Lord, and for the fact that so many of your books are offered for free.” Currently there are commentaries on 36 books of the Bible in the following volumes: Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, Minor Prophets, Romans, Corinthians, Prison Epistles, Thessalonian Epistles, Pastoral Epistles, Hebrews, General Epistles, Revelation.

SHE SELLS SEA SHELLS (Friday Church News Notes, September 30, 2022, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The following is from CreationMoments.com, Sep. 20, 2022: “British comedian Milton Jones tells this one-liner: It’s difficult to say what my wife does for a living. She sells sea shells on the sea shore. However, the famous tongue-twister actually refers to a young woman who never married. Mary Anning was born in 1799 to Richard, an impoverished furniture maker, and his wife, Molly, in Lyme Regis, England. This coastal town is now famous for its discoveries of dinosaur fossils, discoveries that began with Mary. Richard would take the young Mary and her older brother Joseph out on to the cliffs and the beach looking for fossils, and they would sell these to visitors. The teenagers discovered what would later be named the ichthyosaur, and this was the first of many discoveries made by Mary. One biographer of Anning has stated that her many discoveries of so-called prehistoric animals paved the way for Darwinism. Mary was mostly self-taught, having learned to read and write only in Sunday School. Nevertheless, her extensive



knowledge of her finds did not cause her to lose her faith, despite her many hardships. She was not allowed to join the Geological Society because she was a woman and also because she and her family were members of a Dissenting Chapel, not the Church of England. It is of note that her most prized possession was a volume of the *Dissenters' Theological Magazine and Review*. Her pastor, James Wheaton, had contributed two articles to this journal. One urged his flock to get interested in geology. The other emphatically taught the biblical truth that God had made the world in six literal 24-hour days. Author: Paul F. Taylor. Ref: *Encyclopedia Britannica*, biography/Mary-Anning, accessed 7/25/2017.”

LESSONS FROM A HURRICANE

(Friday Church News Notes, October 7, 2022, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Hurricane Ian, a Category 4 storm of massive proportions, devastated part of the Florida Gulf Coast, particularly the Fort Meyers and Naples area, and caused widespread flooding in other parts of the state. Born and raised in Florida, I have a lot of experience with hurricanes. At age 10, I was staying over with my grandparents in 1960 when Donna destroyed and severely damaged 6,000 homes. **Hurricane Ian reminds us of many Bible lessons:**

First, this is a world under judgment. When the first man sinned, God cursed the ground for his sake (Genesis 3:17-19). The Bible well says, “the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now” (Romans 8:22). The Florida Gulf Coast is one of the most beautiful places on earth, but there is no paradise in this fallen world. Sorrow, trouble, pain, and death are everywhere. “Yet man is born unto trouble, as the sparks fly upward” (Job 5:7). “And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment” (Hebrews 9:27). **Second, God is in control of the weather.** “... the LORD hath his way in the whirlwind and in the storm, and the clouds *are* the dust of his feet” (Nah. 1:3). The God who made the world is in control of the world. He created natural forces, but He has not left the earth to “nature.” He upholds all things, and by Him all things consist (Col. 1:17; Heb. 1:3). **Third, God’s mercy is operating in this fallen world.** “The earth, O LORD, is full of thy mercy” (Psalm 119:64). Mankind has willfully sinned against God and doesn’t deserve any blessing, yet God is merciful. At great cost, by His Son God purchased salvation *for* sinners and is offering salvation as a free gift to those who repent and exercise saving faith in Jesus Christ. This is an act of unimaginable mercy

and grace for those who have eyes to see. **Fourth, God answers prayer.** One of my sisters informed me of the approaching storm a couple of days before landfall and we began praying for God’s mercy. Though they were in the very path the hurricane took across the peninsula, they were largely unaffected. The electricity didn’t even go out. I heard from other friends that their prayers were answered, and the governor of South Carolina credited prayer for helping his state. **Fifth, it is important to heed warnings.** Sufficient warnings were given to evacuate the areas that were hardest hit, but some people stayed put and were killed. In 1980, Harry R. Truman famously refused to evacuate his home near Mt. Saint Helens in Washington state and died in the volcanic eruption. The most important warning to heed is the one issued by Jesus Christ: “except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish” (Luke 13:3, 5). **Sixth, Ian reminds us that we had better live lightly on this earth and be ready to go at any moment.** Many people were quoted by the media saying they had lost everything in a day that they had worked for over their entire lives. They were shocked and confused. It is truly amazing that men and women can live in this world, knowing that their lives are uncertain and brief at best, and yet make no clear plan for eternity and act surprised when death and destruction come. **Seventh, the really big “destructive nature events” are yet future.** “And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, *and* so great. ... And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found. And there fell upon men a great hail out of heaven, *every stone* about the weight of a talent: and



men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail; for the plague thereof was exceeding great” (Revelation 16:18-21). One-fourth of the world’s population will perish in the very first part of the coming Tribulation (Revelation 6:8). The world’s emergency and health-care systems will be utterly overwhelmed.

UNITED NATIONS/WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM CLAIM TO “OWN SCIENCE” (Friday Church News Notes, October 7, 2022, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from “Who Owns Science?” Powerlineblog.com, Oct. 3, 2022: “Science is a method that can, in principle, be practiced by anyone. So no one can ‘own’ it. But don’t tell that to the United Nations and the World Economic Forum. The following is chilling: ‘Melissa Fleming, Under-Secretary for Global Communications at the United Nations at [World Economic Forum] Disinformation’ event: “We partnered with Google,” said Fleming, adding, “for example, if you Google *climate change*, you will, at the top of your search, you will get all kinds of UN resources. We started this partnership when we were shocked to see that when we Googled *climate change*, we were getting incredibly distorted information right at the top. So we’re becoming much more proactive. **We own the science, and we think that the world should**



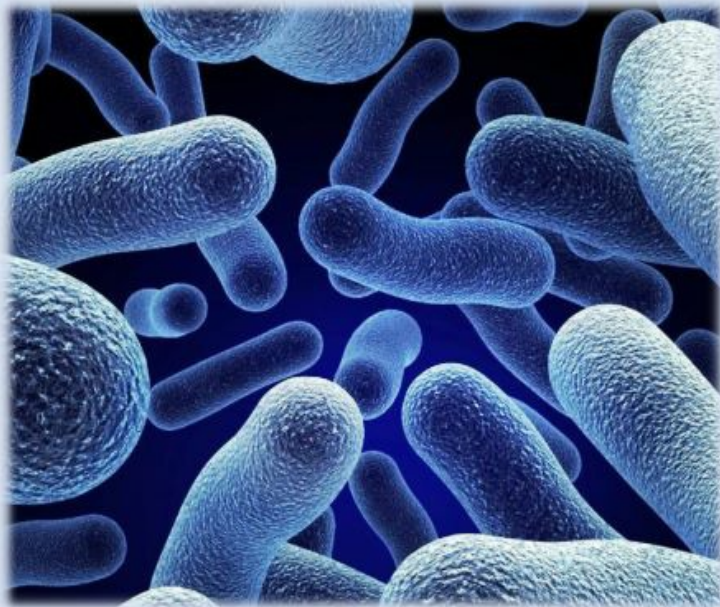
know it, and the platforms themselves also do.” ... Fleming also highlighted that the UN worked with TikTok on a project called *Team Halo* to boost COVID messaging coming from medical and scientific communities on the Chinese-owned video sharing platform. “We had another trusted messenger project, which was called ‘Team Halo’ where we trained scientists around the world and some doctors on TikTok, and we had TikTok working with us,” she said” (*Watts Up With That?* Oct. 2022). ... There is nothing accessible from Google’s front page of search results other than global warming propaganda. ... It seems remarkable that, after just about everything the public health establishment said about covid turned out to be wrong, these people have not acquired the slightest bit of humility. ... This, from a professor of Global Economic Governance (!) at Oxford, is telling, and reflects a remarkable lack of self-awareness: ‘The good news is the elites across the world trust each other more and more ... The bad news is that in every single country they were polling, the majority of people trusted their elites less.’ There is a lesson there, but it is one that those who purport to rule the world would rather ignore.”

TENNESSEE GOVERNOR SIGNS “DAY OF PRAYER” PROCLAMATION (Friday Church News Notes, October 7, 2022, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from *Christian Headlines*, Sept. 26, 2022: “Tennessee’s governor has signed a proclamation declaring Friday, September 30, a ‘day of prayer, humility, and fasting.’ He added that the state needs ‘God’s guidance’ for the future. Tennessee Gov. Bill Lee,



a Republican who is in his first term, signed the proclamation last Friday and posted a picture of the document on his social media account, tweeting that he and his wife Maria ‘invite Tennesseans to join us in this tradition to thank God for his many blessings, seek His wisdom in all circumstances, and ask for His continued grace & favor in the days ahead.’ ... Following is the full text of the proclamation: ‘WHEREAS, **we acknowledge God’s sovereignty and the need for God’s grace over our state and our nation;** and WHEREAS, we walk humbly together with God in hope so that we may act with justice, kindness and love, no matter the circumstance; and WHEREAS, **we seek forgiveness for our many transgressions so that our hearts and our minds may be renewed;** and WHEREAS, Scripture tells us that the beginning of wisdom is the fear of the Lord, and the Lord gives wisdom freely to those who ask for it; and WHEREAS, **the people of Tennessee acknowledge our rich blessings, our deep transgressions, the complex challenges ahead, and the need to pause, to humble ourselves and to seek God’s guidance for the days ahead;** NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Lee, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim September 30, 2022, as a voluntary Day of Prayer, Humility, and Fasting.”

OUR BACTERIA FRIENDS (Friday Church News Notes, October 7, 2022, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is from creationmoments.com, July 13, 2020: "Scientists are beginning to get a better picture of how digestion works and have identified 500 to 1,000 different kinds of bacteria that live in our large intestine. The human body actually works in a symbiotic relationship with these bacteria--we are their host and provide them with a warm environment while they work to benefit us, including digestion of our food. These bacteria carry out many jobs. Some protect our digestive system from bad bacteria. Others specialize in helping to break down food. One of the most common bacterium breaks indigestible complex carbohydrates down into easily digested sugars. It also produces vitamins and other nutrients our body can absorb. Researchers now believe that this busy bacterium also turns-on some of our genes, so that more blood is able to absorb food. Laboratory mice bred to be germ-free must eat 30 percent more food than regular mice because they lack this bacterium. What's more, when there is little sugar to work with, the bacteria prompts intestinal cells to make sugar.



Yet another bacterium makes proteins that manage sugar production. Scientists now believe that most bacteria benefit us. They are part of God's creation, designed for the good of the creation. God always has our good in mind, our greatest good being our salvation that He has prepared for us in Jesus Christ. Ref: *Science News*, 5/31/03, pp. 344-345, John Travis, 'Gut Check.'

RAPTURE ANXIETY (Friday Church News Notes, October 7, 2022, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - A CNN report in September warned of "rapture anxiety." The report cites networks of "exvangelicals" "who have removed themselves from what they now view as the damaging beliefs of some evangelical, Pentecostal and Baptist churches" ("For some Christians," CNN, Sept. 27, 2022). CNN warns of "traumatic religious experiences that can last for years--even a lifetime." One of these is "rapture anxiety," which is "recognized by some faith experts and mental health professions as a type of religious trauma." The whining, easily-offended exvangelicals talk of "being tricked by church leaders into watching violent rapture-themed films or crying themselves to sleep thinking



about people and pets that would be left behind." Rapture anxiety is even credited with causing a fear of heights! The CNN report claims that "the rapture ... is scantily mentioned in the Bible" and "only dates back to the 1800s." Neither of these claims is true. The Rapture is plainly described in the Bible in two

prominent passages (1 Corinthians 15:50-58 and 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18). It was first taught in the apostolic churches 2,000 years ago and has been believed by Christians throughout the church age. (See "[When Was the Pre-Trib Rapture First Taught?](http://www.wayoflife.org)" www.wayoflife.org.) As for "rapture anxiety," it is a malady for the unsaved. For the born again, the Rapture is comfort, encouragement, and godly challenge. The major passages on the Rapture, emphasize this. "Wherefore comfort one another with these words" (1 Thessalonians 4:18). "But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord" (1 Corinthians 15:57-58).



WEST VIRGINIA'S HISTORIC PARENTAL CHOICE

SCHOOLING LAW (Friday Church News Notes, October 14, 2022, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - If this spreads to other states, this type of legislation could have a significant impact in overturning the power of the public school system. The following is excerpted from "West Virginia Supreme Court overturns circuit court," *Fox News*, Oct. 7, 2022: "The West Virginia Supreme Court reversed a previous circuit court injunction on the Hope Scholarship Program, opening the door for families across the state to access flexible educational opportunities. ... Back in July, Kanawha Circuit Judge Joanna Tabit shot down the scholarship program offering public money for private education, calling it unconstitutional. However, the West Virginia Supreme Court held that the program is indeed constitutional. Therefore, the program can provide money to students leaving the public school system for either charter, private, religious, or home-schooling. ... Benefactors of the scholarship program receive up to \$4,300 per year to leave the public school system."

PASTOR CALLS ON CALIFORNIA GOV. TO REPENT AND BE SAVED (Friday Church News Notes, October 14, 2022, www.wayoflife.org,

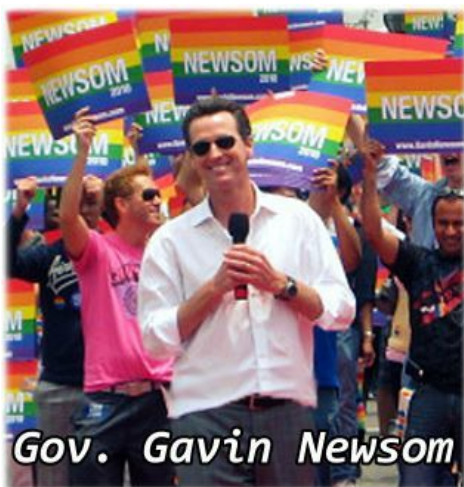
fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from an open letter from Pastor John MacArthur, Grace Community Church, Sun Valley, California, to Governor Gavin Newsom, Sept. 29, 2002: "Almighty God says in His Word, 'Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a disgrace to any people' (Proverbs 14:34). Scripture also teaches that it is the chief duty of any civic leader to reward those who do well and to punish evildoers (Romans 13:1-7). You have not only failed in that responsibility; you routinely turn it on its head, rewarding evildoers and punishing the righteous. ... The diabolical effects of your worldview are evident in the statistics of California's epidemics of crime, homelessness, sexual perversions (like homosexuality and transgenderism), and other malignant expressions of human misery that stem directly from corrupt public policy. ... Nevertheless, my goal in writing is not to contend with your politics, but rather to plead with you to hear and heed what the Word of God says to men in your position. 'Let all kings bow down before Him, all nations serve Him' (Psalm 72:11). ... In mid-September, you revealed to the entire nation how thoroughly rebellious against God you are when you sponsored billboards across America promoting the slaughter of children, whom He creates in the womb (Psalm 139:13-16; Isaiah 45:9-12). You further compounded the wickedness of that murderous campaign with a reprehensible act of gross blasphemy, quoting the very words of Jesus from Mark 12:31 as if you could somehow twist His meaning and arrogate His name in favor of butchering unborn infants. You used the name and the words of Christ to promote the credo of Molech (Leviticus 20:1-5). ... My



concern, Governor Newsom, is that your own soul lies in grave, eternal peril. 'Each one of us will give an account of himself to God' (Romans 14:12). One day, not very long from now, you will face that reality. Nothing is more certain. 'It is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment' (Hebrews 9:27). ... When you look ahead of you and see that nothing awaits you but eternal misery—the just punishment for your sins—what will all the clever rationalizations and political talking points avail for you then? And by then it will be too late for any remedy or redemption. ... Please respond to the gospel, forsake the path of wickedness you have pursued all your life, turn to Christ, ask for forgiveness, and use your office to advance the cause of righteousness (as is your duty) instead of undermining it (as has been your pattern). ... Governor Newsom, 'now is the acceptable time, behold, now is the day of salvation' (2 Corinthians 6:2)." The entire letter can be found at the following link:

<https://www.gracechurch.org/news/posts/3592>

NEWSOM SIGNS BILL THAT REMOVES CHILDREN FROM PARENTS WHO OPPOSE TRANSGENDER TREATMENTS (Friday Church News Notes, October 14, 2022, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from



Christian Headlines, Oct, 3, 2022: "California Gov. Gavin Newsom has signed a bill into law [SB 107] ... which Newsom and supporters say would make California a so-called 'refuge' for children whose states restrict transgender treatments or whose parents oppose such treatments. ... Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF) presented four possible scenarios in which the new law could harm families. First, 'an unfit parent about to lose custody could travel to California with the child, give the child puberty blockers or cross-sex hormones, and in doing so win custody under SB 107, even if the home-state court has already entered.' Second, 'parents whose child visits a relative in California could lose custody of their child forever if the relative persuades the child to identify as a different gender during the visit.' Third, 'a state court actively involved in a custody determination could be deprived of jurisdiction by a California court if the case involved gender identity and the child travels to California, even if all of the evidence and parties involved in the case are located in the home state.' Fourth, 'parents of children who never travel to California could be denied medical information about their child if the child obtains puberty blockers from

a doctor in California via telemedicine.'"

BARRINGTON DECLARATION DOCTORS SUING U.S. GOVERNMENT FOR CENSORSHIP

(Friday Church News Notes, October 14, 2022, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The following is excerpted from "Jay Bhattacharya: The Legal Case against Anthony Fauci," *UnHerd News*, Oct. 1, 2022: "In October 2020, the *Great Barrington Declaration* was published by three academics--Jay Bhattacharya, Sunetra Gupta and Martin Kulldorff--who appeared on *UnHerd* to break the story. It marked a watershed moment in the pandemic, but the authors found their criticisms of Covid policy were increasingly censored on social media. Now, alongside Martin Kulldorff and two other doctors, Bhattacharya is taking his case to the courts to prove collusion between the Biden administration and Big Tech to silence the signatories of the *Great Barrington Declaration*. **Talking to *UnHerd's* Freddie Sayers, he lays out the evidence that social media companies were instructed to quell scientific views which opposed government lockdown measures. Who was responsible for this infringement? According to the legal case, the conspiracy extends to the highest levels of power in Washington, and primarily at fault is the Chief Medical Advisor to the President, Anthony Fauci.** Bhattacharya tells *UnHerd* that 'there was a debate going on inside the scientific community, and Tony Fauci and the federal government of the United States could not abide that [...] because they implemented an extraordinary policy that required



absolute consensus.' Further, they 'suppressed and censored and smeared' any reasoned but critical voices through social media and the mainstream press. Bhattacharya stresses, 'My primary motivation here is to recreate or maybe regain an environment where active scientific work can happen.' Joining Bhattacharya was Jenin Younes, a lawyer involved in the case ... Citing the constitution, she adds, 'The First Amendment is pretty clear that the government can't censor people based on their viewpoints,' yet President Biden, Fauci and then-Press Secretary Jennifer Psaki made numerous public statements calling for tech companies to do more to stamp out any interrogation of federal pandemic management."

IMAGINE: JOHN LENNON'S ANTHEM OF THE NEW AGE

(Friday Church News Notes, October 14, 2022, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The Bible prophesies an age of apostasy, blasphemy, unbelief, rebellion, and scoffing skepticism preceding the Day of the Lord, and we are observing that age nearing full bloom. See Psalm 2; 2 Timothy 3; 2 Peter 3. While rejecting the God of the Bible, mankind will strive to create a new Babel that will create religious harmony, produce communalism, and bring in world peace and prosperity. The Beatles frontman John Lennon wrote an anthem for this global pipe



dream in his extremely popular song “Imagine” (1971). Powered by a haunting tune, the lyrics proclaim, “Imagine there’s no heaven, it’s easy if you try/ No hell below us, above only sky/ Imagine all the people living for today. Imagine there’s no countries; it isn’t hard to do/ Nothing to kill or die for, and no religion too/ Imagine all the people living in peace. Imagine no possessions; I wonder if

you can/ No need for greed or hunger, a brotherhood of man/ Imagine all the people sharing all the world./ You may say that I’m a dreamer, but I’m not the only one/ And some day I hope you’ll join us/ And the world will be as one.” This is precisely the world that New Agers, Marxists, Leftists, and Humanistic dreamers of all stripes are attempting to create. But man cannot achieve a New Age of peace, because he is a sinner who cannot get along with his own closest neighbors. When Lennon was dreaming of world harmony, his own son said, “How can you talk about peace and love and have a family in bits and pieces--no communication, adultery, divorce?” (Bill O’Reilly, *Killing the Legends*). As long as man is at war with God, he will be at war

with man. John Lennon was murdered in December 1980 at age 40.

LEONARD COHEN’S HALLELUJAH: ANTHEM FOR THE AGE OF SELF (Friday Church News Notes, October 21, 2022, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The Bible prophesies an age of apostasy, blasphemy, narcissism, unbelief, rebellion, and scoffing



HUMMINGBIRD DINOSAUR (Friday Church News Notes, October 14, 2022, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is from CreationMoments.com, Aug. 23, 2021: “Another day, another dinosaur! A recent article in *Nature* announced the discovery of a tiny dinosaur skull. The article starts with these words: Dinosaurs were big, whereas birds--which evolved from dinosaurs--are small. ... The smallest dinosaurs weighed hundreds of grams, but the smallest living bird, the bee hummingbird, weighs only 2 grams. The newly discovered dinosaur has been given the name *Oculudentavis khaungraae*. Its tiny skull was found encased in Burmese amber. Evolutionists have suggested a date of 99 million years old for this fossil. Pictures accompanying some articles show a tiny creature, looking a bit like a hummingbird, but with a long beak, filled with tiny teeth. The pictures show the creature’s wings outstretched, covered with feathers. Interestingly, the article keeps switching between referring to the creature as a dinosaur and as a bird. Although not stating the case as such, the article seems to suggest this fossil is some sort of missing link between dinosaurs and birds because evolutionists believe that birds evolved from dinosaurs. Sober judgment requires us to point out a



few problems. The fossil does not have wings or feathers; it is just a fossil skull. And if the creature is a bird, then its evolutionary date requires it to have been living about 30 million years before dinosaurs are supposed to have died out. Instead, we should see this new creature as part of God’s wonderful design. He made it for His good pleasure. Author: Paul F. Taylor. Ref: Rice, D. (2020), ‘New species of tiny *bird-dinosaur* discovered trapped in 99-million-year-old amber,’ www.usatoday.com, Mar. 11, 2020.”

skepticism preceding the Day of the Lord, and we are observing that age nearing full bloom. See Psalm 2; 2 Timothy 3; 2 Peter 3. Leonard Cohen's (1934-2016) "secular hymn" *Hallelujah* is one of the anthems of the perverted age. Wildly popular, it has been covered in at least 300 versions. It celebrates the spiritualization of everything. Holy and unholy merge into one. There is no repentance, no redemption, no saving light. The Bible restricts the use of "hallelujah" to the worship of God and His holy character. *Hallelujah* is from the Hebrew "Halal Jah" or "halal Jehovah," but Cohen and his proud generation would apply "hallelujah" to whatever pleases man. The singer questions God's right to judge. "You say I took the name in vain/ I don't even know the name/ But if I did, well really, what's it to ya?/ There's a blaze of light in every word/ It doesn't matter which you heard/ The holy or the broken hallelujah. ... Love is not a victory march/ It's a cold and it's a broken Hallelujah. Maybe there's a God above/ But all I've ever learned from love/ Was how to shoot at someone who outdrew you. And it's not a cry that you hear at night/ It's not somebody who's seen the light/ It's a cold and it's a broken Hallelujah." Though Cohen sang and wrote of love, it was eros love, self love, lust love. Leonard Cohen exemplified the life he acclaimed in poetry, fiction, and song. Jonathon Van Maren observes, "Like so many artists, he deluded himself into believing that passionate promiscuity could be the pursuit of art. It was the women and children who paid the price of these delusions. There is a trail of blood through Cohen's canon. In *Leonard Cohen, Untold Stories: The Early Years*, musician Julie Felix says of Marianne [Cohen's girlfriend on the

Greek island of Hydra]: 'He made her have five abortions.' ... Cohen's friend Peter Katoundas recalled that one abortion had left Marianne sterile ... Marianne was Cohen's most famous muse, and he nearly destroyed her. ... few marriages survived that island paradise ... Few children did, either. The histories of those raised on the island are rife with substance abuse, suicide, and institutionalization. Marianne's son Axel never recovered and spent much of the rest of his life in mental hospitals" (Van Maren, "Leonard Cohen's Lost Children," *FirstThings.com*, July 4, 2022). "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).

TIKTOK ADDICTION AND INFLUENCE (Friday Church News Notes, October 21, 2022, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from

"TikTok addiction," *Fox News*, Oct. 4, 2022: "Scrolling ... scrolling ... gone. (Hours gone, that is.) Standout social media app TikTok has gotten pretty good at keeping its users on its platform, and indulgers are having a hard time kicking the habit, as has been widely reported. ... TikTok's main feed called the 'For You' page provides short videos that are circulated based on each user's specific interactions with the app and its content. ... 'The real secret sauce is the algorithm,' Open Influence CEO and social media expert Eric Dahan told *Fox News*. 'It's layering in a really solid content recommendation algorithm and the content format is really bite-sized,' he added. 'And so, the algorithm can quickly learn.' ... *Fox News Digital* sat down with author Celeste Headlee recently at the Library of Congress National Book Festival in Washington, D.C. She explained that, in her view, **TikTok is 'designed to be addictive.'** The author said that the social media app actually 'tricks your brain' by 'shooting in dopamine.' 'It's called the addiction hormone for a very good reason. It's the exact same hormone that's triggered by pulling a slot machine,' she added. ... Dahan said that TikTok's short-form video format specifically aligns with the interests of Gen Z [born 1997 to 2012, the first smartphone generation]--the primary



user age group--such as mobile video creation and staying up-to-date on the latest trends. 'That makes it a lot more engaging than just really good content recommendation,' he said. 'That's why it's addictive.' Dahan mentioned that, compared to other social media apps, TikTok's format is skewed against social connection, since users can scroll for hours and hours and never interact with a single person. ... Instead, **the app seemingly 'reads your brain,' Dahan described--based on personal thoughts and interests.** ... While the app has the intention of entertaining, TikTok is most often used to leverage brands. ... Dahan mapped out the powerful scale of how TikTok moves markets and consumer interest, as more people hop on the trend of 'TikTok made me buy it.' ... 'It's becoming, increasingly, a key platform for engaging consumers,' he said. 'TikTok has a massive amount of influence.' ... TikTok continues to drive other media sectors such as music--as today's top-streamed songs are commonly used and discovered first as TikTok sounds. It also has been known for driving the news cycle, since the app is a growing news source for many."

PARENTS WIN IN COURT AFTER 6-YEAR-OLD SON LABELED "TRANSPHOBIC" (Friday Church News Notes, October 21, 2022, www.wayoflife.org,



fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from "Christian Parents Win," *Fox News*, Sept. 28, 2022: "Two Christian parents in the United Kingdom have prompted the government to revise its gender-related guidance for children after they took legal action when a school labeled their 6-year-old son as potentially 'transphobic.' ... Nigel and Sally Rowe explained to *Fox News Digital* how they first raised concerns with their son's Isle of Wight primary school after he came home 'confused' by the school's transgender-affirming policies toward his male classmates who identified as girls. ... Nigel said of his case, 'To cut a long story short, in the school, when our boys were six years of age, in the classroom one of their friends decided to transition from being a boy to a girl. It was just announced to the kids. And therefore, when we heard, we objected to that.' ... The Rowes, who have since taken to homeschooling their children, met with their son's teachers at the time about the issue and sent a letter to the school laying out their concerns about its gender policies. They reportedly were met with a 'cold' response. Instead of listening to their concerns, they said the school sent them a letter that accused both them and their young son of potential 'transphobic behavior.' ... After seeking legal counsel regarding whether the school's behavior was legal, the London-based Christian Legal Centre (CLC) told them it was not. ... The government agreed to settle the case last week after the Rowes won permission for a full judicial review hearing before the High Court in February. They intended to present international expert evidence exposing how transgender-affirming policies have led to 'catastrophic

outcomes' for children struggling with gender dysphoria. They were awarded £22,000 in legal costs, which they are donating to CLC, and the government also committed to reform. ... Given their son's primary school was affiliated with the Church of England, they said they also went to the leaders of their local diocese about their ordeal. 'They weren't supportive at all,' Sally remembered. ... Nigel said the Church of England representatives were against them then and remain opposed. 'They still don't support us,' he said. 'It's a bizarre world we live in.'"

RELIGIOUS OPPRESSION INCREASES IN TURKEY (Friday Church News Notes, October 21, 2022, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)



- The following is excerpted from "Victims of religious oppression in Turkey," *Christian Post*, Oct. 14, 2022: "Victims of religious oppression in Turkey shared their stories at an event on religious freedom at the European Parliament where the speakers suggested that political and social atrocities in that country were behind **the Christian population's decline from 20% to a mere 0.2% over the last century.** The victims highlighted atrocities against Christian minorities committed by the Turkish government and parts of society, according to the human rights group ADF International, which held the event this week in partnership with

the group European Conservatives and Reformists. Among those who testified at Wednesday's event in Brussels, 'Freedom of Religion in Türkiye,' was Mark Smith, a Christian missionary who was expelled from the country in 2020 after living there for over a decade.

... The Turkish government has expelled at least 60 foreign Christian missionaries and their families since 2020, according to the religious freedom group Open Doors, which says Christians in Turkey experience 'incredible pressure from very strong--and increasing--religious

nationalism' in the country. ... Turkey has a long history of Christian persecution, and its government still refuses to admit that the Ottoman Turks committed genocide of Christian Armenians in 1915. Turkey is 99% Muslim, according to its own statistics."

CORAL REEF TIME CLOCKS (Friday Church News Notes, October 21, 2022, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is from creationmoments.com, April 6, 2021: "Many people know that, despite its appearance, coral is actually a tiny animal. Even a small coral growth may be made up of billions of tiny animals, each living inside its limestone skeleton. What many people don't know is that coral cannot live without the help of algae--a plant. Thousands of one-celled algae live in the tiny stomach of each coral polyp. The polyp requires the waste products of the algae to complete its nutrition requirements and to get the calcium with which it builds reefs. In return, the polyp's stomach provides an ideal protected living place for the algae. Incidentally, the wonderful colors in living coral come from the algae in each polyp's stomach. Evolutionists have said that it must take millions of years for the tiny polyps to build large coral reefs--like the 2,000-kilometer-long Great Barrier Reef in Australia. The Great Barrier Reef, incidentally, is considered the largest structure ever built by living organisms. However, it has now been shown that coral polyps can double their own weight in just over 10 days! As a result, the claim of millions of years for the age of



the Great Barrier Reef has been reduced by a factor of 40! Many of the long-age figures claimed by evolutionists have had to be drastically revised downward as we have learned more about the creation. The resulting figures fit the Bible's account of history much more closely. Author: Paul A. Bartz Ref: Langreth, R.N. 1990. 'Bleached reefs,' *Science News*, v. 138, Dec. 8. p. 364. Chen, I. 1990. 'Great Barrier Reef: A youngster to the core,' *Science News*, v. 138, Dec. 8. p. 364."

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