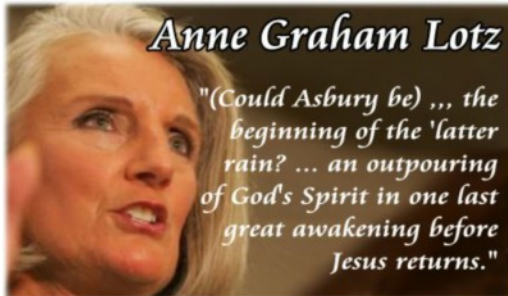


O Timothy

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

A Monthly Newsletter for Spiritual Protection and Edification

Volume 40 - Issue 4 - April 2023



"The Asbury 'revival' is driven by TikTok (over 100 million views), but if it were of God, it would be renouncing TikTok as polluting, addictive, and time-wasting, among other things... It has been reported that some students have been 'saved,' but what does this mean? Have they been counseled biblically by a sound church? Has their salvation testimony been tested by the Word of God? " Page 2.

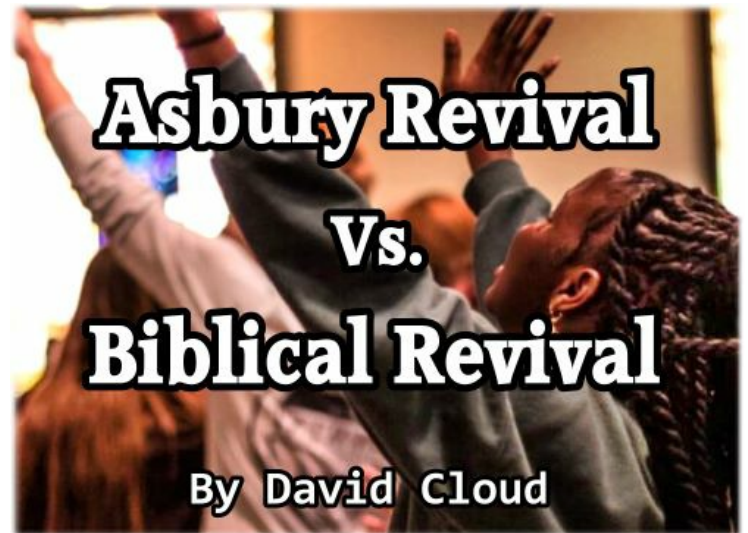
Digging in the Walls: A month's worth of news items, republished from Friday Church News Notes. **Page 13.**

Wuhan Institute of Virology	\$159,122
Wuhan Institute of Virology	\$159,122
Wuhan Institute of Virology	\$139,015
Wuhan Institute of Virology	\$133,595

ASBURY REVIVAL VS. BIBLICAL REVIVAL ~ By David Cloud

There is a lot of talk about revival these days, particularly the multi-day event at Asbury University in Wilmore, Kentucky, that spread to other college campuses. Thousands flocked to Asbury from various parts of the country in an attempt to "experience revival." It was reported in the *New York Times* and *Fox News*. Prominent Christian leaders called it a revival. Anne Graham Lotz, Billy Graham's daughter, said it could be the "last Great Awakening."

We must test these things, and we have God's Word as the infallible standard. We are to "try the spirits" (1 Jo. 4:1), "prove all things" (1 Th. 5:21), "search the scriptures daily whether those things were so" (Ac. 17:11). The Bible warns repeatedly about spiritual deception, and particularly so in the last days. "But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived" (2 Ti. 3:12). We are warned about the devil's subtilty. "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).

God's Word describes the simple person as gullible. "The simple believeth every word: but the prudent *man* looketh well to his going" (Pr. 14:15).

At every ecumenical event, every charismatic conference, every contemporary worship music forum I have attended with media credentials, I have met the "simple." I recall the North American Congress on the Holy Spirit and World Evangelism in New Orleans, 1987, attended by a mixed multitude of 35,000 people from 40 denominations, including a large contingent of Roman Catholics. Heresies abounded and musical mysticism ruled. Speakers included female pastors, nuns, and Catholic priests. There were tongues and prophecies, so called.

In a conversation with a participant one afternoon, I asked how he could be comfortable in the midst of such things. He replied, "You need to relax and enjoy what God is doing." Proverbs 14:15 came to mind immediately!

When tested Scripturally, the Asbury "revival" is dangerous mysticism and blind ecumenism.

Here is how it began:

"On February 8, after a regularly scheduled chapel service on Asbury University's campus, in Wilmore, Kentucky, a group of about 20 students lingered and began to worship and pray for one another. The chapel

speaker that day, Zak Meerkreebs, had exhorted the students to 'become the love of God by experiencing the love of God,' and closed with a prayer asking God to 'revive us by your love.' According to the students, as they stayed and prayed, an unexplainable, surreal peace descended upon the room. As minutes stretched into hours, many students who had gone to class returned to the auditorium when they heard what was going on. They would eventually be joined by faculty, staff, and community members who trickled in to participate in worship and prayer. ... People I have spoken with who entered these spaces describe encountering a 'sweet presence,' 'deep peace,' or 'the quiet, heavy presence of God.' ... Tom McCall, a professor at Asbury Theological Seminary, described 'a quiet but powerful sense of transcendence'" ("When a Christian Revival Goes Viral," *The Atlantic*, Feb. 23, 2023).

In the many reports of the Asbury "revival" I have read, I have found no emphasis on sin, repentance, the blood of Christ, regeneration, separation from the world, and casting down unscriptural imaginations. God's love cannot be understood or experienced properly until the sin issue is dealt with. Any "love" that is not defined biblically is a satanic imitation. "For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous" (1 Jo. 5:3).

It has been reported that some students have been "saved," but what does this mean? Have they been counseled biblically by a sound church? Has their salvation testimony been tested by the Word of God?

The Asbury "revival" is driven by TikTok (over 100 million views), but if it were of God, it would be renouncing TikTok as polluting, addictive, and time-wasting, among other things.

The Asbury "revival" is driven by repetitive, hypnotic, sensual contemporary worship music.

<https://www.facebook.com/SUChurchRelations/videos/493237856339515/?t=411>

I have found no evidence that the Asbury "revival" has renounced the world's vain, fleshly pop culture that permeates the lives and minds of college-age Christians. It has not renounced unisex, feminism, homosexuality, transgenderism, rock & roll, rap, fornicating, drinking, drugging, etc.

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JAMES 4:4-10 - WHAT BIBLICAL REVIVAL LOOKS LIKE

“Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God. Do ye think that the scripture saith in vain, The spirit that dwelleth in us lusteth to envy? But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble. Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse *your* hands, ye sinners; and purify *your* hearts, ye double minded. Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and *your* joy to heaviness. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.”

1. Biblical revival renounces the friendship of the world (Jas. 4:4).

- The worldly Christian loves this present evil world. This verse contains very powerful language, showing God’s passion about His people’s relationship with this evil world, how their love for this world hurts and angers Him.
- Consider what friendship with the world is not. *First, James is not talking about the world that God made.* “The world as such--the physical structure of the earth, of the mountains, forests, flowers, seas, lakes, and vales--is full of illustrations of the Divine character and it cannot be wrong to contemplate those things with interest, or with warm affection toward their Creator” (Barnes). *Second, James is not talking about loving unsaved sinners and wanting to see them saved.* Jesus was a great friend of sinners in that sense. He loved sinners and sought to bring sinners to salvation (Lu. 19:10), but He did not love their ways. He was always an enemy of sin and He never participated in any sinful activity. He was involved socially with sinners, attending their weddings and feasts, but He was not a “party guy.” He lived and preached righteousness in every situation. He was a friend of sinners even while being “separate from sinners,” because of His absolute holiness (Heb. 7:26). Matthew 11:19 says that Christ was “a man gluttonous, and a winebibber, a friend of publicans and sinners,” but this was what His enemies said and it was a slander. In fact, Christ was neither gluttonous

nor a winebibber. He was a friend of publicans and sinners, not in that He partied with them and had some sort of “non-judgmental” relationship with them, but in that He loved them and sought to lead them to repentance.

- Illicit friendship with the world refers to the following: *First, it refers to loving the evil things of the world* (1 Jo. 2:15-16). The believer is to be “unspotted from the world” (Jas. 1:27). He is to have “no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness” (Eph. 5:11). *Second, it refers to being conformed to the world’s ways, its lifestyle and thinking and philosophy* (Ro. 12:2; Col. 2:8, 20; Ps. 1:1; Jer. 10:2). “It refers to that strong desire which often exists, even among professing Christians, to secure the friendship of the world; to copy its fashions and vanities; to enjoy its pleasures; and to share its pastimes and its friendships” (Barnes). *Third, it refers to being more interested in and caught up with the things of this world than the things of Christ* (Ga. 6:14; Col. 3:1-2). “This spirit exists in all cases where no worldly interest is sacrificed for religion; where everything that religion peculiarly requires is sacrificed for the world” (Barnes). *Fourth, it refers to an unequal yoke with unbelievers* (2 Co. 6:14-17). When the believer yokes together with unbelievers in marriage and business partnerships and such, he is committing spiritual adultery. According to this passage, the believer is to have no fellowship with unrighteousness, darkness, the devil, infidelity, or idolatry. That is a very strict and far-reaching standard of separation. “They were to have no part with them in their heathenism, unbelief, and idolatry, and infidelity; they were not to be united with them in any way or sense where it would necessarily be understood that they were partakers with them in those things. ... We are not to associate with idolaters in their idolatry; nor with the licentious in their licentiousness; nor with the infidel in his infidelity; nor with the proud in their pride; nor with the gay in their gaiety; nor with the friends of the theatre, or the ball-room, or the circus, in their attachment to these places and pursuits. And whatever *other* connection we are to have with them as neighbours, citizens, or members of our families, we are not to participate with them *IN these things*” (Barnes).

- Spiritual adultery is idolatry. It is to give one’s heart to something other than God, who is man’s Creator and deserves and demands the first place in one’s heart and

affections. We are to love God with all the heart, strength, and might (De. 6:5). God is a loving God toward His creatures, and He desires and expects their love in return (De. 10:12). When it comes to the New Testament believer, he is doubly obligated to give God first place in his heart and life, because God has redeemed him with a great price (1 Co. 6:20) and Christ is espoused to him (2 Co. 11:2). To give my affection to this wicked world, which is in rebellion against God and hates Him and which crucified His Son and mocks His holy things, is like a wife that gives her heart to a man who is an enemy of her husband and has done him great harm. It is a wicked and selfish thing. Demas committed this sin and forsook Paul and the ministry (2 Ti. 4:10). Jesus demanded that our love for Him so excel that of even our dearest human relations that it would appear, by comparison, that we hate them. "If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple" (Lu. 14:26). Albert Barnes says, "It is a deeper crime to be unfaithful to God than to any created being; and it will yet be seen that even the violation of the marriage contract, great as is the sin, is a slight offence compared with unfaithfulness towards God." Matthew Henry adds, "It is constructive treason and rebellion against God to set the world upon his throne in our hearts."

- The Old Testament prophets charged Israel with spiritual adultery when they gave their affection to idols instead of to the true and living God and when they turned from obedience to God's Word to follow the precepts of the nations. See Isa. 1:21; 57:3, Jer. 3:1-11; 5:7; Eze. 6:9; 16:1-54; 23:1-49 (see especially verses 7, 8, 18, 25, 35-37, 49); Hos. 1:2; 2:2-13; 3:1; Nah. 3:4.

- This passage (Jas. 4:4) is a powerful rebuke of the "Christian rock" philosophy, which implies that the believer can have the world and Christ, too. It implies that he can love the world's sensual music, filthy entertainment, immodest dress styles, foolish pop culture ways (which epitomize the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life), attend ungodly rock concerts and nightclubs and bars, and love God, too. The Word of God says this is not possible. It doesn't matter how popular a philosophy is, if it is contrary to God's Word it is wrong!

- To love the world is the height of foolishness, because the will of God is infinitely superior to the friendship of the world. The path of Christ is superior to that of the world in every particular. It is a superior way of thinking and a superior way of living. The world does not have any true wisdom. It does not know where it came from or where it is going. It lives for the present and neglects eternity. It lives for pleasure and neglects godliness. It trades the important things in life--such as knowing and pleasing Jesus Christ, walking in holiness, obedience, and temperance, and having an eye to the judgment to come--for vanities. A missionary who was martyred once wisely said, "He is no fool who gives up that which he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose."

- To be the enemy of God is a fearful thing. He is the God who scattered Israel to the ends of the earth and persecuted her for thousands of years for her spiritual adultery (De. 28:15-67). He is the God who killed Ananias and Sapphira for lying to the Holy Spirit (Ac. 5:1-11). He is the God who warned the church at Laodicea that He would spew them out of His mouth for their lukewarmness (Re. 3:15-16). He is the God who will take vengeance in flaming fire on them that obey not the gospel (2 Th. 1:8) and will commit every unbeliever to eternal punishment in the lake of fire (Re. 20:10-15).

2. Biblical revival flows from humility ("*God ... Giveth grace unto the humble ... humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord,*" Jas. 4:6, 10).

- Pride is a characteristic of the world and of the worldly Christian, so grace through humility is mentioned as the first solution to worldliness and an essential element of revival.

- Worldliness is sin, and the only solution to sin is God's grace, but humility is necessary to receive the grace of God. If the worldly believer will humble himself before God and admit his worldly condition and ways and not pretend that everything is fine in his life and will humbly seek God's face, he will find grace and that grace will lift him out of the worldly condition. God has respect unto the lowly and gives grace to them (Ps. 138:6; Pr. 3:34). Hezekiah received grace when he humbled himself and confessed the pride of his heart (2 Ch. 32:25-26). Manasseh found

grace when he humbled himself in his affliction (2 Ch. 33:11-12). Josiah found grace when he humbled himself before God and admitted the sinful condition of his kingdom (2 Ch. 34:27). Isaiah says that God dwells with “him that is of a contrite and humble spirit” and He revives the spirit of the humble (Isa. 57:15). Thus, the worldly Christian must humble himself before God, confessing his worldly ways and attitudes and acknowledging that God is displeased with him for these things. In contrast, the proud person refuses to admit that his ways are wrong and refuses to accept the fact that God is displeased. He rejects godly reproof and attacks those who try to correct him. He boasts that he is right with God and that God accepts him as he is. He looks on God as a Helper but does not have the fear of God’s holiness.

3. Biblical revival is to “*submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil*” (Jas. 4:7).

- The devil cannot be resisted through human strength, but when I submit to God, I can resist the devil in God’s power.
- Spiritual victory does not come automatically. The devil must be resisted. He is an aggressive and relentless foe and he cannot be ignored. If I do not resist him, he will defeat me. He does not slumber. He “walketh about, seeking whom he may devour” (1 Pe. 5:8), and the one he may devour is the one that is careless and worldly and not engaged in the spiritual warfare, the one who is not studying the Bible as he should, lackadaisical in prayer, careless about what type of church he joins, unfaithful to church, failing to walk in daily communion with Christ, casual about sin, putting more value on the temporal things of this world than the eternal things of God. Such a person is like a soldier who sleeps in the midst of a fierce battle.

4. Biblical revival is to “*draw nigh unto God*” (Jas. 4:8).

- Victory over sin and worldliness is through a close relationship with God. The sinner can draw nigh unto God through Christ’s atonement. And being reconciled, the believer must draw nigh to God at all times. God draws nigh to those that draw nigh to Him. He honors those that honor Him (1 Sa. 2:30). When I seek to be near to God throughout the day, to commune with Him and to please Him, the Holy

Spirit is pleased and empowers me and enlightens me, and by that means I am protected from encroaching worldliness. The worldly Christian, on the other hand, is careless about his daily walk with God. He doesn’t maintain a first love for Christ. He doesn’t begin the day with a sweet time of fellowship with Christ in God’s Word and prayer. He doesn’t pray without ceasing throughout the day (1 Th. 5:17). He doesn’t walk in fellowship with the Father and the Son (1 Jo. 1:3) and in communion with the Holy Spirit (2 Co. 13:14).

5. Biblical revival is to “*cleanse your hands, ye sinners*” (Jas. 4:8).

- One draws nigh to God by cleansing the hands. This is essential, for God is holy. “This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth” (1 Jo. 1:5-6).
- James gives a sharp call to strict obedience. This refutes the popular definition of “grace,” which is actually license to live much as one pleases. A series of commands are given. “In each instance the Greek aorist imperative calls for immediate response” (Frank Gaebelein). The commands are submit, resist, draw nigh, cleanse, purify, be afflicted, mourn, weep, humble yourselves.
- Note that God’s Word is not soft in regard to sin. James calls worldly Christians “adulterers and adulteresses” and says, “Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.” This is the type of plain reproof that brings conviction and repentance and change. It is the type of preaching that God’s people need, yet so few preachers and teachers today are willing to give such reproof. Soft preaching produces soft Christian living. The softness of evangelical preaching has produced an evangelicalism that is meaningless in terms of sound belief and practice and true holiness. The same is happening among “fundamentalists.” A strong element of reproof and rebuke is absolutely essential to godliness, and this is why God requires it (2 Ti. 4:2).
- Cleansing the hands refers to all of one’s actions. The worldly individual must stop doing things that displease the Lord. He must stop listening to things that

are unedifying. He must stop looking at things that are unwholesome. He must stop going to places that do not glorify the Lord. Cleansing the hands requires searching one's life for those things that displease the Lord: anything that is worldly (1 Jo. 2:16), anything that is an unfruitful work of darkness (Eph. 5:11). I must give God first place. I must ask Him to show me anything in my life that displeases or grieves Him or that has come between me and Him, whether it be a form of entertainment, education, job, an idolatrous love for someone or something, even something legitimate, an unwholesome friendship, neglect of God's Word, neglect of church, or anything else. There is no shortcut to spiritual revival that does not deal seriously with removing evil things from my life and heart. I must get serious about this matter. I must stop making excuses for my sin.

6. Biblical revival is to “*purify your hearts, ye double minded*” (Jas. 4:8).

- Cleansing the hands and purifying the heart are intimately associated. The actions affect the heart and the heart affects the actions. See Proverbs 4:23-27. The heart must be guarded with all diligence. The meditations of the heart will decide the quality of one's Christian life. I must think about the right things. But the actions are also important. By speaking the right thing and looking at the right thing and doing the right thing and walking in the right places, one's heart can be kept right with God. Such a strict life of holiness is biblical Christianity, not some sort of “Phariseism.”

- The worldly individual must purify his heart. He must say with the Psalmist, “Let the meditation of my heart be acceptable in thy sight” (Ps. 19:14), and, “the meditation of my heart shall be of understanding” (Ps. 49:3), and, “Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting” (Ps. 139:23-24). The heart is purified by removing evil imaginations. “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 10:5). Whatever is polluting the heart and mind must be rejected, whether it is music, television, movies, video, social media, internet browsing, video games, literature, filthy comedy, unwholesome conversations with friends, or anything else. This is why I gave up rock music and

many other worldly things when I was a young Christian. I wanted to grow in Christ. I wanted God's blessing on my life. I wanted God to use me, and I understood through Scripture that it was essential to guard my thoughts. I stopped watching trashy movies and listening to trashy music and reading trashy books. I lived in Florida and loved the beaches, but I stopped going to public beaches to ogle the girls. These things didn't all happen overnight, but I surrendered to be a disciple of Christ and to walk the path of holy separation unto Christ, and as He showed me the spiritual and moral dangers in my life I confessed them and turned from them.

- Purifying the heart requires an intimate relationship with God's Word. It requires establishing a serious daily Bible study/prayer time and jealously guarding this from interference by other things. It requires learning how to study the Bible through courses like *Understanding the Bible for Yourself*, available from Way of Life Literature. It requires memorizing Scripture and meditating on Scripture throughout the day (Ps. 1:2). It requires reading books that will help you better understand the Bible and Christian living. Relatively few professing Christians are serious Bible students, but you don't have to follow the crowd. Charles Spurgeon read many entire sets of commentaries, and some he read multiple times. There are people who have read the entire *Way of Life Encyclopedia of the Bible & Christianity*, and many who have gone through the *Advanced Bible Studies Series* on their own and thus obtained the equivalent of a Bible college education. Carve out time for these things. Studying God's Word effectively and applying it to one's life takes time, and if you aren't willing to put God first in your daily affairs, you will never make much progress spiritually. Examine your daily schedule and find more time for the Lord and His Word. Most people waste a lot of time on things that have no eternal value. Spend that time, rather, on the things of God.

- Cleansing the hands and purifying the heart is a continual process, not a one-time thing. It would be wonderful if you could surrender everything to Christ once and for all and never have to worry about backsliding and worldliness again, but it doesn't work that way. There are many strong enemies, particularly the world, the flesh, and the devil, and they are persistent. Danger is always present. The church at

Ephesus was a model church, but Christ had to rebuke them for leaving their first love, and He warned them that if they did not repent, they were in danger of further backsliding and judgment (Re. 2:4-5). The believer that lets down his guard and stops cleansing his hands and purifying his heart has already taken the first step of backsliding.

- We must not grow weary of this process of spiritual growth. Cleansing the hands and purifying the heart of those things that displease the Lord is wearisome to the flesh. It gets tiresome. While the world is pursuing fun and living carelessly, according to its own pleasure, the disciple of Christ is pursuing holiness and living cautiously, according to God's pleasure. He has to deny himself and die to self and resist the natural impulses of the flesh. He is not at liberty to live as he pleases.

- The “*double minded*” person is one who professes Christ but also loves the world. He is unstable. One day he seems to be on fire to serve the Lord, but the next day he is enflamed with the things of the world. When he is around spiritual people he talks about spiritual things, but when he is around unbelievers he talks about worldly things with equal fervor. He seems to be at home in the church *and* in the world, but Christ said, “No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other” (Mt. 6:24). James says that the professing believer who loves the world is the enemy of God.

7. Biblical revival is to “*be afflicted and mourn*” (Jas. 4:9-10).

- The worldly Christian is in love with the things of the world. He looks upon life as a party to be enjoyed. This is the Christian rock philosophy. Tony Campolo wrote a book entitled *The Kingdom of God Is a Party*,

and he was referring to this present life. But this is not what the New Testament teaches. James says, “Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to heaviness”! The kingdom of God will be established when Christ returns and we will “party” then, but when Jesus established the Lord’s Supper He said, “I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s kingdom” (Mt. 26:29). This present church age is a time to carry the gospel to the ends of the earth. It is a time when God’s people are living as strangers in a foreign land, when they are living in the enemy’s territory. It is a time of spiritual warfare. There are great blessings in the Christian life, but it is serious business. In the kingdom of God, the saints will have new bodies, and there will be no indwelling sin nature to pull them down and impel them toward spiritual backsliding. There will be no devil walking about seeking whom he may devour. There will be no wicked world system tempting the saints to disobey God. Then we will enter into the joy of the Lord (Mt. 25:21, 23), but in this present time we can expect suffering, groaning, and travail (Ro. 8:18-23). Then we will enter the glorious liberty of the children of God, but presently we are in the “bondage of corruption” (Ro. 8:21). Then we will live by sight and enjoy the fulfillment of God’s promises, but now we live by faith and wait on the fulfillment (Ro.s 8:24-25). Thus, the solution to worldliness is to afflict oneself every day before God for one’s sin and to mourn and weep in longing for the mercy and power of God. To walk in the light requires confession of one’s sin (1 Jo. 1:8-10). To fulfill God’s will requires denying oneself, dying to self, and picking up one’s cross daily.

- When James says, “*let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to heaviness*,” he is talking about worldly laughter and carnal joy. He is talking about renouncing the pleasure associated with



Anne Graham Lotz

"(Could Asbury be) ... the beginning of the 'latter rain'? ... an outpouring of God's Spirit in one last great awakening before Jesus returns."

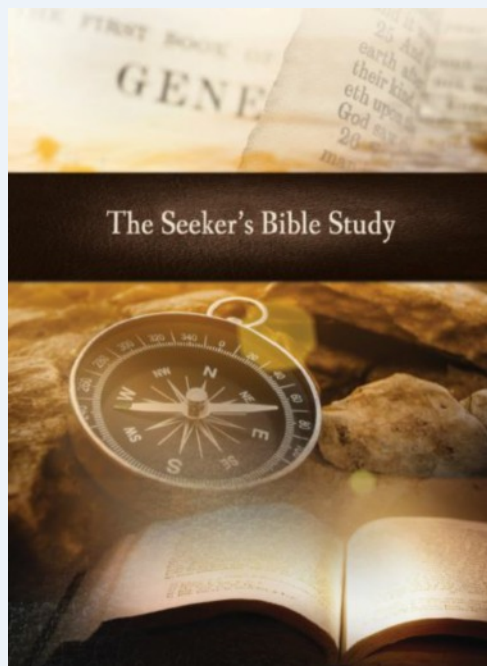
indulging the lust of the flesh. The worldly Christian is exhorted to stop partying with the world and rather to mourn for his sin and to repent of his worldly ways. It is those who sow in tears in this present world who will reap in joy in the next (Ps. 126:5-6). Jesus said, “Blessed are ye that weep now: for ye shall laugh. ... Woe unto you that laugh now! for ye shall mourn and weep” (Lu. 6:21, 25). “Afflicting the soul is meant; an inward mourning and weeping over the plague of the heart, the impurity of nature, and the various sins of life; after a godly sort” (John Gill).

- Observe how that James emphasizes the necessity of repentance and confession by means of repetition: be afflicted, mourn, weep, mourning, heaviness, humble

yourselves (Jas. 4:9-10). Nothing in the Bible is there by accident. When something is repeated, it is because God is emphasizing a point.

- This is the essence of spiritual revival. We don’t have to wait for a “revival” to come as it has in a few instances such as the first “Great Awakening” early 18th-century America. It is God’s will that each believer and each church have continual revival through daily repentance and confession and obedience and separation.

- Worldly Christians look upon these things as morbid and boring and “legalistic” and “Pharisaical,” but this is biblical Christianity.



The Seeker's Bible Study

By David Cloud

The Seeker's Bible Study is an evangelistic Bible study.

It begins with a study of the gospel in 1 Corinthians 15:3-4, dealing with the Bible, Christ, sin, Jesus' atoning death, Jesus' burial and bodily resurrection.

This is followed by practical studies on repentance and faith.

The last section answers the question, “When Is Jesus Coming?”

The *Seeker's Bible Study* is designed especially to be used as a multi-week, one-on-one course. In our church, we assign a qualified believer to go through the course with every willing visitor and contact.

The teacher is instructed to try to grow his or her class by involving family, neighbor's, and friends of the original student.

There are review questions for each section. The teacher's notes can be found in the file “Seeker's Bible Study - Teacher's Notes” at the same page as the Bible course.

English: The *Seeker's Bible Study* is available as a free download at :
https://www.wayoflife.org/free_ebooks/seekers_bible_study.php.

Nepali: <https://nepalgoodnews.com/books/>

HYMNS

Days, Hours, Moments

By David Cloud



DAY BY DAY

“Day by Day” was written by Carolina (“Lina”) Sandell (1832-1903) in 1865. Called the “Fanny Crosby” of Sweden, Sandell wrote 650 hymns, many of which were used in the evangelistic campaigns of Carl Rosenius during the Scandinavia revival. Many of the tunes, including that of “Day by Day” were written by Oskar Ahnfelt. The hymn was translated by Andrew Skoog, a Swedish immigrant to America, and appeared in American hymnals beginning in the 1920s.

Lina wrote “Day by Day” soon after witnessing the drowning of her father, with whom she was very close.

“Like many Christians, Carolina learned that when pain and tragedy strike, God may use that experience to deepen our faith. When she was 26, Carolina, or Lina (pronounced Lie-nah) as she liked to be called, experienced a tragedy which profoundly affected the course of her life. She was with her father on a ferry boat crossing Lake Vattern in Sweden. They were on the outer deck leaning against the rail enjoying the beauty of the day. Suddenly the ship lurched, and before her eyes, her father was thrown overboard and drowned before anyone could attempt to rescue him” (Enjoyingthejourney.org).

1. Day by day, and with each passing moment,
Strength I find to meet my trials here;
Trusting in my Father’s wise bestowment,
I’ve no cause for worry or for fear.
He, whose heart is kind beyond all measure,
Gives unto each day what He deems best,
Lovingly its part of pain and pleasure,
Mingling toil with peace and rest.

2. Every day the Lord Himself is near me,
With a special mercy for each hour;
All my cares He fain would bear and cheer me,
He whose name is Counsellor and Pow’r.

The protection of His child and treasure
Is a charge that on Himself He laid;
“As thy days, thy strength shall be in measure,”
This the pledge to me He made.

3. Help me then, in every tribulation,
So to trust Thy promises, O Lord,
That I lose not faith’s sweet consolation,
Offered me within Thy holy Word.
Help me, Lord, when toil and trouble meeting,
E’er to take, as from a father’s hand,
One by one, the days, the moments fleeting,
Till with Christ the Lord I stand.

I NEED THEE EVERY HOUR

This hymn was written by Annie Hawks (1835-1918) in 1872, and the refrain and tune were written by Robert Lowry. Hawks, who composed over 400 hymns, was a member of Hanson Place Baptist Church in Brooklyn, New York, where Lowry was pastor. He encouraged her gift of poetry. Lowry wrote the tunes for more than 500 hymns, including “Saviour Thy Dying Love.” He also authored many hymns, both lyrics and tunes, including “Shall We Gather at the River,” “Low in the Grave He Lay,” and “Nothing but the Blood of Jesus.” He published many popular hymn collections, beginning with *Pure Gold* in 1871. As a preacher, he was known as a “spellbinding” orator.

Hawks recounted the context of the hymn as follows: ““One day as a young wife and mother of 37 years of age, I was busy with my regular household tasks during a bright June morning [in 1872]. Suddenly, I became so filled with the sense of nearness to the Master that, wondering how one could live without Him, either in joy or pain, these words were ushered into my mind, the thought at once taking full possession of me -- ‘I Need Thee Every Hour.’” Following the death of her husband, Hawks wrote, “I did not understand at first why this hymn

had touched the great throbbing heart of humanity. It was not until long after, when the shadow fell over my way, the shadow of a great loss, that I understood something of the comforting power in the words which I had been permitted to give out to others in my hour of sweet serenity and peace.”

1. I need Thee ev'ry hour,
Most gracious Lord;
No tender voice like Thine
Can peace afford.

Refrain:

I need Thee, oh, I need Thee;
Ev'ry hour I need Thee;
Oh, bless me now, my Savior,
I come to Thee.

2. I need Thee ev'ry hour,
Stay Thou nearby;
Temptations lose their pow'r
When Thou art nigh. [Refrain]

3. I need Thee ev'ry hour,
In joy or pain;
Come quickly and abide,
Or life is vain. [Refrain]

4. I need Thee ev'ry hour,
Teach me Thy will;
And Thy rich promises
In me fulfill. [Refrain]

MOMENT BY MOMENT

This hymn was written by Daniel Whittle (1840-1901) in 1893.

Whittle was involved in the D.L. Moody evangelistic campaigns and was personal friends with Philip Bliss, Ira Sankey, and others. He edited Bliss's memoirs (1877). He was known as “Major Whittle” from his service in the American Civil War on the Union side. He wrote about 200 hymns, often under the pseudonym “El Nathan.” Whittle was the author of “I Know Whom I Have Believed,” “Showers of Blessing,” and “Banner of the Cross.” The tunes for these were written by James McGranahan. his tune for “I Know Whom I Have Believed” is called “El Nathan.”

Ira Sankey recounted the history of “Moment by Moment.” The context was D.L. Moody's massive evangelistic campaign at the 1893 Chicago World's Fair. Moody mobilized the students at his schools and gathered workers and preachers from out of town to preach the gospel to the great crowds. Speakers included J. Wilbur Chapman and a young Billy Sunday. Moody arranged for evangelists to come from

Germany, Poland, Russia, and France to preach to the international visitors in their own languages. They spread out among the great crowds and invited people to gospel meetings in more than 80 different venues. There were also open air meetings. One Sunday morning, 64,000 attended 70 different meetings. One week there were 150,000 attendees. Moody himself preached to crowds of 18,000 in a circus tent. The circus people had mockingly asked him if he thought he could get even 3,000 to come to a gospel meeting when they had so many attractions beckoning them, but six times that many attended. In some meetings, large choirs were organized. J. Wilbur Chapman said, “I am sure that in the days to come there will still be great harvests gathered from this sowing, and this World's Fair campaign will doubtless be numbered among the greatest ever conducted by Mr. Moody.”

During this campaign, visiting preacher Henry Varley made the comment, “I do not like the hymn ‘I need Thee Every Hour.’ I need him moment by moment.” Impressed with that thought, Whittle went home that day and wrote the hymn “Moment by Moment,” completing it at 2am. His daughter, May Whittle, composed the tune. It soon became a favorite in America, Canada, England, and beyond. Evangelist Andrew Murray of South Africa adopted it as his favorite hymn and had his wife sing it in most of his meetings.

“Moment by Moment”

1. Dying with Jesus, by death reckoned mine;
Living with Jesus, a new life divine;
Looking to Jesus till glory doth shine,
Moment by moment, O Lord, I am Thine.

Refrain:

Moment by moment I'm kept in His love;
Moment by moment I've life from above;
Looking to Jesus till glory doth shine;
Moment by moment, O Lord, I am Thine.

2. Never a trial that He is not there,
Never a burden that He doth not bear,
Never a sorrow that He doth not share,
Moment by moment, I'm under His care.

3. Never a heartache, and never a groan,
Never a teardrop, and never a moan;
Never a danger but there on the throne,
Moment by moment He thinks of His own.

4. Never a weakness that He doth not feel,
Never a sickness that He cannot heal;
Moment by moment, in woe or in weal,
Jesus my Savior abides with me still.

Reply To A Man Who Doesn't Agree With Article

"DOES REGENERATION PRECEDE FAITH?"

By David Cloud

God so loved
the world



On March 16, we published George Zeller's "Does Regeneration Precede Faith?"

Following is one of the replies:

Dear Sir:

You have no idea what Calvinism truly is. An extreme or hyper calvinist is one who doesn't believe in evangelism. A real calvinist strongly believes in evangelism. Many of the missionary movements of the 18th and 19th century were started by calvinists. Do you deny that soul winners like Spurgeon and Whitfield were ardent calvinists?? The book you are offering on regeneration preceding faith is embarrassingly bad. Read John 5:1 in the Greek The one believing (present tense) has been born (perfect indicative passive). Notice all the other times "born" is used in I John. All are the fruits of the new birth. You believe man is his own progenitor Read II Thess 2:13. Note the order. You as a KJV only advocate are at a big disadvantage.

Sincerely -----

The following is my reply, which I have enlarged for a wider audience:

I will reply one time to your text, though I did not write the article in question. There will be no ongoing conversation.

What Spurgeon or Whitfield were or did is not the issue.

As for Greek, I study the Greek of the NT to properly interpret the Scripture. Our Bible college teaches Greek. I love the KJV and over many decades have been increasingly thankful for its accuracy and beauty, but I know that it is a translation. I have openly renounced the

Peter Ruckman position that the KJV supersedes Hebrew and Greek and is advanced revelation, etc. I have studied Greek tenses, and I appreciate them and get much light from them, though I am careful to avoid error that has crept in these days by means of critical scholarship.

I have read *Calvin's Institutes*, *Spurgeon vs. the Hyper Calvinists*, and a great many other Calvinist writings. I have tried my best before God to understand Calvinism.

I do not believe man is his own progenitor. That is a slander. Salvation is 100% of God. It is a miracle as great as the creation of the world. Man can no more save himself than a leopard can change its spots. Salvation is 100% God's grace and 0% man's works. I don't believe in "1-2-3 pray after me."

By carefully examining context and comparing Scripture with Scripture, we know that the sanctification of the Spirit is the work of the Spirit in drawing all sinners. The Spirit of Christ draws all men (Joh. 12:32), enlightens all men (Joh. 1:9), and convicts all men (Joh. 16:8-11). He does that in operation with the preaching of the gospel (Ac. 1:8). That sanctification ministry leads sinners to the belief of the truth. They must respond to the wooing of the Spirit. They must receive the gift that God offers.

Every time the gospel is preached, sinners are being called. The gospel is to be preached to every sinner (Mr. 16:15). It is a genuine offer of salvation. God is not playing games with men. Christ made the propitiation for all men (1 Ti. 2:3-6; 1 Jo. 2:1-2).

Receiving a gift is not a work and is nothing to boast of. Faith is not a gift, salvation is a gift (Eph. 2:8-9).

The order of faith and the coming of the Spirit is described in the following passage: "That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ. In

whom ye also *trusted*, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise” (Eph. 1:12-13).

John 3:16 is enough to settle this matter.

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

God loves the world, not just part of it. The “world” never refers to the elect. God’s love gift to the world is the vicarious, substitutionary sacrifice of His beloved Son. “... the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world.” All men *can* believe in Christ and be saved. The gospel is a “whosoever” call.

Because of your Calvinist doctrine, you can’t honestly tell all men, not even your own children and grandchildren, that God loves them and will surely save them, because you don’t know if they are among the sovereign elect.

I can tell my children and grandchildren and every living soul on earth that God loves them and wants to save them and *will* save them if they will receive Jesus Christ.

“Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke *is* easy, and my burden is light” (Mt. 11:28-30).



THE AMAZING BLUE WHALE (Friday Church News Notes, March 17, 2023, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is from CreationMoments.com, Jan. 27, 2023: “As far as we know, the blue whale is the largest animal that has ever existed. Every statistic that we find about these giants is overwhelming. A blue whale’s tongue is larger than an elephant. Its flipper can be about six feet long--as long as a man is tall. A baby blue whale is the size of two minivans. A blue whale’s mouth could hold 400 people. Yet the creatures they eat--krill--are only about half an inch long. They swallow vast amounts of water, then filter it back through their baleen--the strange keratin filter-like structure that they have in their mouths. They eat four tons of krill a day. That is

4 million of the tiny creatures. Babies consume 50 to 100 gallons of milk per day. The blue whale’s tail is as wide as a soccer net. These whales can dive to nearly 1,000 feet, and they can stay there for 30 minutes, without needing a breath. The water that they blow through their blowhole can jet up to 30 feet high. In short, these are magnificent animals, clearly illustrating the greatness and the beauty of God’s creation. We read in Genesis 1:21 that God made them on the fifth day of creation: ‘And God created great whales, and every living creature that moveth, which the waters brought forth abundantly.’ The word translated *whales* could also refer to other large sea creatures, but it certainly includes these beautiful, amazing giants of the ocean. Ref: *Encyclopaedia Britannica*.”

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?



CONSERVATIVE SITES BLACKLISTED UNDER GUISE OF FIGHTING MISINFORMATION (Friday Church News Notes, February 24, 2023, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The following is excerpted from "Investigative Journalist," *The European Conservative*, Feb. 15, 2023: "Disinformation-tracking groups 'are part of a stealth operation blacklisting and trying to defund conservative media,' writes investigative journalist Gabe Kaminsky for the *Washington Examiner*. According to his report published on Thursday, February 9th, these supposedly non-partisan organizations are feeding blacklists of right-wing websites--and other news media--to major ad companies with the aim of 'defunding disfavored speech,' as leaked documentation shows. The story is simple: brands that want to advertise their products online turn to giant ad companies. These ad companies want to avoid advertising on sites with questionable reputations for fear of their clients being canceled, so in turn, they contract 'disinformation trackers' to obtain private information about potentially dangerous websites 'they should purportedly defund.' One of the groups behind this is the Global Disinformation Index (GDI), whose mission is to 'remove the financial incentive' to create 'disinformation.' The organization compiles a secretive

'dynamic exclusion list' of news outlets it deems to have a high risk of spreading disinformation, a list intended to severely impact the outlets' advertising revenue. Just as a side note, George Soros' Open Society Foundation and the U.S. State Department-backed National Endowment for Democracy are both listed among the founders of GDI. Among the ten outlets on GDI's 'riskiest' list are *The American Conservative*, *The Spectator*, *Real Clear Politics*, *The Federalist*, *The Daily Wire*, and *The New York Post*--all of which skew to the Right. Some ad companies, such as Xandr, have adopted GDI's exclusion list to punish content they deem 'morally reprehensible or patently offensive' or that 'could include false or misleading information.'"

THE TERRIBLE SOCIAL EFFECT OF DRINKING (Friday Church News Notes, February 24, 2023, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - "Abstain from all appearance of evil" (1 Thessalonians 5:22). That is a far-reaching exhortation. Alcoholic beverages are a great evil and curse in modern society. Consider the automobile wrecks, the ruined health and early graves, the suicides, the adulteries, the lewdness, the divorces, the neglected children, the abused wives, the sexual abuse, the waste of money, the gambling, the blasphemy, the pure foolishness. Look at the beer and liquor ads, how they invariably flaunt sensuality and irresponsibility. In January 2005, the Royal College of Physicians in England warned that Britain is suffering from an epidemic of alcohol-related problems that is fueling violence and illness throughout the country (*The Telegraph*, Jan. 3, 2005). The same epidemic is raging throughout the



world. According to an April 2010 report, vodka consumption in Russia is an epidemic. The average Russian drinks from 15 to 18 liters of hard liquor annually, which reduces the average life expectancy by a decade. For Russian men, the life expectancy is just 61.8 years. In 2014, the World Health Organization reported that 3.3 million people die each year because of alcohol. That's more than die of AIDS, tuberculosis, and violence combined. "Including drunk driving, alcohol-induced violence and abuse, and a multitude of diseases and disorders, alcohol causes one in 20 deaths globally every year." That's one death every 10 seconds. Another study found that alcohol use is responsible for 1 in 10 deaths among working-age adults. That adds up to 88,000 deaths between 2006 and 2010, and the lives of those who died were shortened by about 30 years ("Drinking behind 1 in 10 deaths of working-age adults," *USA Today*, June 26, 2014). If anything has the appearance of evil today, it is alcoholic beverages, and the Bible does not *suggest* that we abstain from all appearance of evil, it *commands* us to do so! For more about this subject, see "Christian Drinking Is a Bellwether Issue," https://www.wayoflife.org/reports/christian_drinking_is_a_bellwether_issue.php

CANADA AND THE EUTHANASIA SLIPPERY SLOPE (Friday Church News Notes,

February 24, 2023, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from "As Canada expands its euthanasia program," *Israel365 News*, Nov. 13, 2022: "Canada's voluntary euthanasia program called Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD) became legal in 2016. The program is part of Canada's healthcare system. To receive euthanasia, patients experiencing intolerable suffering must sign a written request expressing their wish to end their life. **In 2021, more than 10,000 people chose euthanasia, an increase of over 32% from the previous year, accounting for 3.3% of all deaths in Canada.** According to the latest report on Medical Assistance in Dying from Health Canada, 17.3% of people also cited 'isolation or loneliness' as a reason for wanting to die. In 35.7% of cases, patients believed that they were a 'burden on family, friends or caregivers.' The law has been amended to make the program available to people whose death is not medically foreseeable. It was also amended to include those with dementia who may not be able to understand the implications of their decision. The decision to access medically assisted suicide will also be for people whose only medical ailment is a mental issue. This amendment will go into effect next year. ... Though the Canadian program is described as 'Dying With



Dignity,' the government has a financial interest in promoting medically assisted suicide. According to a study published in the *Journal of the Canadian Medical Association*, doctor-assisted death could lower annual healthcare spending across the nation by between \$34.7 million and \$136.8 million."

ISRAELI SCIENTISTS TEACHING BACTERIA TO PRESERVE FOOD (Friday Church News Notes, February 24, 2023, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from "Israeli Scientists," NoCamels.com, Oct. 16, 2022: "Scientists are using drug development techniques to create a healthy alternative to chemical food preservatives. They 'educate' bacteria to create proteins that can preserve food safely without any of the health concerns associated with the benzoates, sorbates, propionates, nitrites, and other chemicals we see listed on food labels. 'What we're trying to do is maintain our functioning food supply chain while providing healthy alternatives to food preservatives,' Fabian Trumper, co-founder and CEO of Israeli food tech startup Bountica, tells NoCamels. Food manufacturers around the world use synthetic antibacterial agents to destroy bacteria or prevent mold growth. Bountica does the same thing by fermenting organic matter into a tasteless powder or liquid that is added to food in tiny amounts. ... The process is normally used to develop new drugs, and has never before been used for food. 'Just a handful of companies in the world are using this process for products that are not for pharma, and we are one of them' ... He says the proteins they create are fully digestible and safe to consume, unlike synthetic

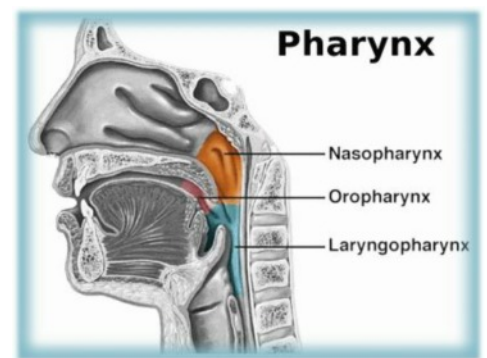


alternatives, and he hopes to achieve the regulatory approvals they need soon, so they can start selling to manufacturers. ... All the fungi that spoil food share the same metabolic pathway--a series of connected chemical reactions that feed one another. Bountica targets a very specific protein function, disrupting its functionality, and inhibiting the growth of all fungi. In other words, it actually stops the development of the cell structure of yeast and other contaminants. 'It's like throwing a wrench in a sequence of moving cogs,' says Trumper."

THE SUPPOSED BAD DESIGN OF THE HUMAN PHARYNX

(Friday Church News Notes, February 24, 2023, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from *Evolution News & Science Today*, Dec. 14, 2022: "In our book, *Your Designed Body* [Howard Glicksman and Steve Laufmann], we apply a five-part test for evaluating ostensible instances of bad design. This test can help determine whether we're looking at a bad design, or simply a bad argument. Let's consider the example of the human pharynx. Is it poorly engineered? The figure below shows that the pharynx is the common entry for both the respiratory and gastrointestinal tracts. Whatever is ingested can potentially go down the airway and cause obstruction, which can result in death by choking. Some insist that the pharynx is therefore

miserably designed, something no wise designer would engineer, but that evolution, with its trial-and-error messiness, very well might [e.g., Nathan Kentws and Abby Hafer]. ... These arguments are riddled with problems. To see why, we need to take a closer look at the human pharynx. In addition to the structures identified in the figure above, fifty different pairs of muscles, connected by six different nerves, are needed to swallow. After food in the mouth has been formed into a small ball (bolus), the tongue voluntarily moves it to the pharynx, which automatically triggers the involuntary swallow reflex. As the bolus enters, the pharynx sends sensory information to the swallow center in the brainstem, which immediately turns off respiration so that air is not breathed in during swallowing. This prevents the lungs from drawing food into the airway. The brainstem also sends precisely ordered signals telling the various muscles to contract and move the bolus downward into the esophagus, bypassing the airway. This takes about a second. As swallowing begins, several muscles contract to move the bolus into the pharynx, while moving the back of the palate and the upper pharynx close together to close off the path to the nose. Next comes the tricky part. The bolus has been blocked from going up into the nose, and muscular contraction is hurtling it down towards the airway and the esophagus. Three separate actions take place to protect the airway. First, muscles contract to close the larynx, which is the gateway to the lungs. Second, other muscles move the larynx up and forward (which you can feel in the front of your neck while swallowing) to hide it under the floor of the mouth and the base of the tongue while being protected by the



epiglottis. Third, this action, combined with other muscular activity, opens the upper esophagus to allow the bolus to enter. The timing and coordination are remarkable. ... While critics seem to miss the amazing design of this system, it should give the reader pause. Somehow, swallowing happens, usually without incident, a thousand times a day. Where did the information come from that specifies the size, shape, position, and range of movement of the pharynx, each of its nearby structures, and the fifty pairs of muscles involved in swallowing? How could such a system come about gradually, by accident?"

SOUTHERN BAPTISTS DISFELLOWSHIP SADDLEBACK (Friday Church News Notes, March 3, 2023, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from "Southern Baptists," *DailyWire*, Feb. 22, 2023: "California megachurch Saddleback Church, founded by prominent Christian leader and best-selling author Rick Warren, was disfellowshipped from the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) on Tuesday over having a female pastor. Officials on the Executive Committee voted out one of the largest churches in the United States less than a year after Warren delivered his final sermon as Saddleback's senior pastor and ushered in lead pastor Andy



Wood and his wife, Stacie, who serves as a teaching pastor. Due to the church continuing to have a female functioning in the office of pastor, SBC Executive Committee Chairman Jared Wellman told *The Daily Wire* in a statement that the convention ousted the 43-year-old megachurch, as it is 'not in friendly cooperation' with the denomination. Wood told The Associated Press last year that the Bible 'teaches that men and women were given spiritual gifts by God. The church should be a place where both men and women can exercise those spiritual gifts. My wife has the spiritual gift of teaching and she is really good. People often tell me she's better than me when it comes to preaching, and I'm really glad to hear that.' The move from the convention also comes after Warren ordained three women as pastors in May 2021, sparking the initial discussion to remove the church from the SBC, arguing it defied Biblical principles and Article VI in the Baptist Faith and Message. 'While both men and women are gifted for service in the church, the office of the pastor is limited to men as qualified by Scripture,' the article reads. ... Warren tweeted, 'We'll respond to #SBC in OUR time & way thru direct channels: Our newsletters to 600,000 ch leaders ... 1 million PDC alumni pastors list, 11 million social media followers.'" **CONCLUDING NOTE BY D. CLOUD:** Warren's arrogant response

revealed his pragmatism which overrules Scripture. As for the Southern Baptist Convention, this is too little too late. Saddleback should have been disfellowshipped decades ago for its gross heresies and radical ecumenism. By its inaction and failure to speak out for truth, the SBC has allowed Warren's heresies to spread far and wide. (See [Purpose Driven or Scripture Driven](#), available as a free eBook from www.wayoflife.org.)

AL GORE'S BROKEN RECORD OF HYPOCRISY (Friday Church News Notes, March 3, 2023, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from Steve Hayward, *PowerLine*, Feb. 19, 2023: "Al Gore's hypocrisy is well known: consuming ten times the average household's electricity in his Tennessee mansion, buying a beachfront mansion in California while warning of sea level rise, flying in private jets while hectoring us about our carbon footprint, etc. Turns out, Gore's investment fund, Generation Investment Management, dedicated to 'sustainable' investing (ESG before it was the cool term) is in on the con, too. Bloomberg reports: 'Espousing a mantra of *sustainable capitalism*, Generation says it aims to invest in businesses that support an *equitable, healthy and safe society* and minimize their contribution to global warming. Over time, it became one of the largest such firms, managing a peak \$39 billion in 2021 before assets dropped to \$30 billion last year. ... Despite Generation's focus on environmental, social and governance—or ESG—factors, **companies that make up almost half the holdings of its largest, \$26.4 billion fund have increased**



their planet-warming greenhouse gas emissions in recent years. Oops. Bloomberg sensibly observes: '... last year's losses, along with the growing carbon footprint of some of Generation's holdings, highlight just how messy sustainable investing can be--and raise an uncomfortable question: If Gore and his partners struggle to deliver on lofty environmental and financial goals, can anyone? A *Bloomberg News* analysis of emissions data for Generation's investments paints a more complex picture. Its Global Equity fund held 42 companies at the end of last year. For each of them, Bloomberg examined the emissions those businesses reported annually from 2015 to 2021. Eighteen of the companies, accounting for 46% of the fund's assets, **showed increases from the first year of available data to the last.** That was the highest of a dozen sustainable investment funds studied.'"

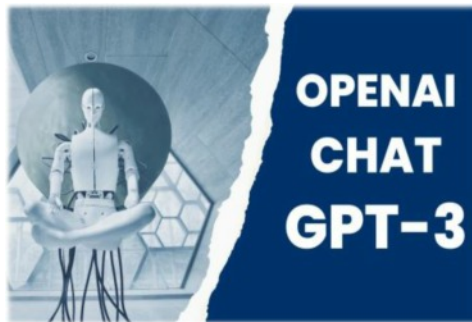
PERSONHOOD RIGHTS EXTEND TO UNBORN BABY: MASS. SUPREME COURT (Friday Church News Notes, March 3, 2023, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from "Personhood rights," *The Christian Post*, Feb. 20, 2023: "The Massachusetts Supreme Judicial



Court has ruled that an unborn baby killed as a result of the homicide of a pregnant woman is entitled to personhood rights. Last Tuesday's ruling comes amid increasing debate over the rights of the unborn in the wake of the recent U.S. Supreme Court decision that ruled there is no constitutional right to abortion. Peter Ronchi, who was convicted of two first-degree murder charges for killing his nine-month-pregnant girlfriend, Yuliya Galperina, and her full-term unborn baby in May 2009, asked the court to overturn the convictions. ... Ronchi's defense team argued the baby wasn't injured during the stabbing and that the unborn child's death should not subject him to a first-degree murder conviction. However, the court ruled that Ronchi's argument was weak. Although none of the 15 stab wounds were inflicted on the baby, Ronchi's violent act towards a pregnant woman in her ninth month resulted in the cessation of the mother's life-sustaining blood flow, ultimately leading to the death of the viable fetus, the ruling stressed."

ChatCPT (Friday Church News Notes, March 3, 2023, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is by Hughie Seaborn in Australia: "In recent times, when I have had a bit of a struggle reading online articles, I have been using the 'Microsoft Natasha Online' voice for

that purpose, and, even with my tech background, have been amazed at the quality of the voice. ... Brilliant text-to-speech voice. Right click on the text of any online document, select 'Read aloud' from the pop-up window, and choose Natasha from the list of available voices. Not perfect, but technology at its best--in my opinion--especially for someone with a bit of vision problems. ... In very recent times, however, things in the technology and AI world have developed exponentially, with the online chatter about an AI [artificial intelligence] program called ChatGPT, which is able to write legible articles on any subject, in response to written questions presented to it, and which has created obvious problems for schools and universities where students can have assignments written by the program. A short video about ChatGPT is at the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1EDqNyefUmM&t=69s> ... [T]here is potential for great evil here ... Anyone who has any audio recorded on the Internet is now at risk of having any text matched to their voice and presented to the public as them having said it. With the development of fake video technology, which is able to present someone as having said or done something, matched with AI voice cloning and ChatGPT, we live in perilous times indeed, and God's people need to be discerning about the potential for deception."



EU PARLIAMENT NAMED AMONG "WORLD'S MOST CORRUPT ORGANIZATIONS"

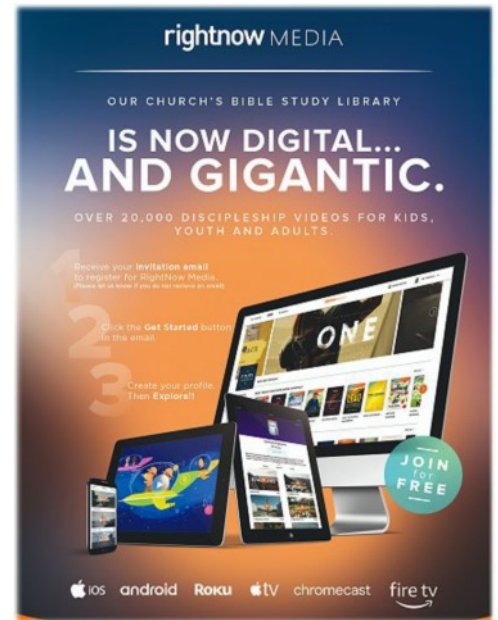
(Friday Church News Notes, March 3, 2023, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from "EU Parliament," *The European Conservative*, Feb. 15, 2023: "Hungarian Minister of Foreign Affairs Péter Szijjártó has sharply criticized the European Parliament, saying, among other things, that the institution lacks any credibility in light of its recent corruption scandals. During a Sunday morning interview with Hungary's *Kossuth Rádió* on February 13th, Szijjártó did not mince words when he said: **'The credibility of the European Parliament is practically zero,'** and added that **'the latest corruption issues have clearly shown that we are speaking about one of the world's most corrupt organizations,'** the news portal *Vadhajtások* reports. The foreign minister's statements come as the Qatargate scandal continues to embroil the European Parliament. ... In December, the scandal broke when Greek Vice President of the European Parliament Eva Kaili, her partner Francesco Giorgi, the Italian former MEP Pier Antonio Panzeri, and a lobbyist were arrested by Belgian police for allegedly taking over €1.5 million in bribes--discovered during searches in Belgium and abroad. The largest amount, about €600,000 in cash, was

found in the Brussels home of Panzeri. But the foreign minister's choice words for the European Parliament did not end with his lambasting the EU Parliament's corruption problem. After arguing that 'very few of the decisions, statements, and resolutions of the European Parliament have in fact helped Europe,' he went even further, saying that **decisions taken by the EU legislature were 'mostly harmful to Europe.'**"

THE UNICORN (Friday Church News Notes, March 3, 2023, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - "Will the unicorn be willing to serve thee, or abide by thy crib? Canst thou bind the unicorn with his band in the furrow? or will he harrow the valleys after thee? Wilt thou trust him, because his strength *is* great? or wilt thou leave thy labour to him? Wilt thou believe him, that he will bring home thy seed, and gather *it into* thy barn?" (God querying Job in Job 39:9-12). "Unicorn" is from the Hebrew word *rieym* (*reym*, *rem*), which appears nine times (Nu. 23:22; 24:8; De. 33:17; Job 39:9, 10; Ps. 22:21; 29:6; 92:10; Isa. 34:7). There is vast speculation as to what the biblical unicorn refers to. The main thing emphasized in the Bible is the unicorn's great strength and independent, untamable spirit (Job 39:9-12). Compare Nu. 23:22; 24:8. It had one large horn, as emphasized

in Psalm 92:10: "But my horn shalt thou exalt like *the horn of an unicorn.*" The biblical unicorn is probably an extinct type of rhinoceros, which was much larger than living rhinos. The *Elasmotherium sibericum* (*Siberian unicorn*), for example, had a 33-inch long skull. More than three times the size of the surviving rhinoceros, the Siberian unicorn was about 16 feet in length, 7-8 feet at the shoulder, and weighed 3.5-5 tons. The horn was three feet long *or more*. The 1828 edition of *Webster's American Dictionary of the English Language* defined "unicorn" as the rhinoceros. The Latin name of the Indian rhinoceros is *Rhinoceros unicornis*. The word *rhinoceros* is Greek and means nose horn (*rhino* - nose, *keros* - horn). From the living rhinoceros, we can see the basic untamable rhino character, which fits the biblical description perfectly. It is a fierce, unpredictable creature, and it has killed and maimed many people in Africa, India, and Nepal. In mythology, the unicorn is a magical, horse-like creature with a single horn, but this has absolutely nothing to do with the biblical unicorn.

RIGHTNOW MEDIA: A PATH INTO THE DANGEROUS WORLD OF CONTEMPORARY EVANGELICALISM (Friday Church News Notes, March 10, 2023, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - RightNow Media advertises itself to pastors as "the world's largest library of video-driven Bible study resources, used by more than 24,000 churches, schools, and organizations." A church membership gives the members "access to thousands of inspirational videos anytime, including kids content." That which is advertised as



a spiritual help and blessing is actually a window into the very dangerous world of modern evangelicalism, a world filled with heresy, an ecumenical path to "the greater church," which is nothing less than the end-time one-world church. The two great dangers of the internet are moral pollution (e.g., pornography) and spiritual pollution (heresy). These are great dangers to any Bible-believing individual, family, and church. Never was there a time when God's people more urgently need to be educated about heresy so as to be protected from its onslaught. A few of the dangerous authors promoted by RightNow Media are J.D. Greear, Louie Giglio, Max Lucado, Andy Stanley, Francis Chan, Matt Chandler, Tony Evans, Bruce Wilkinson, John Perkins, Mark Batterson, Ed Stetzer, Joseph Stowell, Erwin McManus, John Piper, Henry Cloud, Gary Smalley, R.C. Sproul, and David Platt. Some of the speakers on RightNow Media are fairly harmless, such as Tim Tebow, Kirk Cameron, and Dave Ramsey, and there are helpful teachings on subjects such as marriage, finances, and apologetics, but all of the personalities are ecumenical and are pathways to the



“broader church,” where *any* heresy can be found and the simple devoured (Proverbs 14:15). Further, things you will *not* find, typically, in contemporary evangelism include repentance, separation from the world, warnings about heresy, teaching on sacred music vs. contemporary, teaching on modest dress, clear identification of apostasy, and an emphasis on the New Testament church. Quietness on these issues is a mark of contemporary evangelicalism. The Bible teaching is kept on a soft, gentle keel, with little to no reproof and rebuke. Heresies you will encounter including Reformed Sovereign Grace Theology, Roman Catholicism, Psychological Self-esteemism, the Church Fathers, Replacement Theology (the church is Israel), Modern Textual Criticism, Form Criticism, Universal Church, Amillennialism, and the principle that Music is Neutral. (For an education in popular evangelicalism, see [New Evangelicalism: Its History, Characteristics, and Fruit](http://www.wayoflife.org), www.wayoflife.org. The third edition, August 2017, includes an extensive set of review questions as a teaching tool. I have used this book and the review questions to prepare people for membership in our church when they are coming from a weak background.)

AUSTIN SCHOOL DISTRICT TO HOST “PRIDE WEEK” FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN (Friday Church News Notes, March 10, 2023, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Texas is one of the “red” (Republican) states that citizens of more leftist-dominated states are relocating to, but the following report proves that the problem is not in politics, it is in the school house. As



long as the public schools are humanist, leftist, homosexualized propaganda institutions, it is only a matter of time when the Old America will be no more. The following is excerpted from “Austin School District,” *PJMedia*, Feb. 26, 2023: “LGBTQ+++ ‘Pride Month’ occurs every year in June. Austin Independent School District’s academic year ends on May 25, though, which means it loses out on the opportunity to groom the children in its care at that time. No matter: the school district just moved its ‘Pride Celebration’ to March 20-25, a time during which its captive audience is in class and ready to absorb the propaganda. Via the district’s website: ‘Every year, to celebrate LGBTQIA+ students, staff and families Austin ISD hosts its own Pride Week, a time to highlight the district’s commitment to creating a safe, supportive and inclusive environment. This year’s weeklong celebration is March 20-25, 2023, which aligns with the National LGBT Health Awareness Week. ... Pride Swag--Students and staff, during the week of March 20-24, please visit your campus front office to pick up Pride and Ally stickers, posters, flags, pronoun buttons and more!’ ... It’s unclear how many drag shows the children will be subjected to during the week.” We would also note that Austin, Texas, has participated in the asinine, super nutty business of defunding the police. Those who put their hope in conservative politics

and Red States are bound to be disappointed. “My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus’ blood and righteousness; I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus’ name. ... His oath, his covenant, his blood, support me in the whelming flood; when all around my soul gives way, he then is all my hope and stay” (Edward Mote, “My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less,” 1834).

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXPERTS DECEIVED BY A FAKE (Friday Church News Notes, March 10, 2023, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- On March 1, the Israel Antiquities Authority announced the discovery of an ostrakon (an inscribed potsherd) featuring the words in Aramaic “Year 24 of Darius” (498 BC). This was announced with much fanfare and media focus as the first written evidence of Darius the Great found in Israel. The ostrakon was discovered in the ruins of Lachish by Eylon Levy, adviser to Israel President Isaac Herzog. He turned it over to the Antiquities Authority and the piece was examined for some weeks by the advanced Analytical Laboratory under direction of Saar Ganor of the Israel Antiquities Authority and Dr. Haggai Misgav of the Hebrew University. Finally, Levy received the following statement from Ganor: “We’ve put it through three scanners. This is authentic. No modern hand could do it, and it’s from two and a half thousand years ago, from before the story of Purim.” Yet it turns out that the ostrakon was created in August 2022 by a teacher of archaeology as a visual aid to a group of students at Lachish and was left behind accidentally. This is an important reminder of the fallibility of the highest scientific experts. Man’s science is not infallible and

should never be an absolute authority. In fact, man's science, including archaeology, is shot through and through with the gross error of Darwinian evolution (i.e., the myth of the big bang, natural selection, long ages, the stone age).

TOP SCIENTIFIC STUDY: MASKS MAKE LITTLE TO NO DIFFERENCE

(Friday Church News Notes, March 10, 2023, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

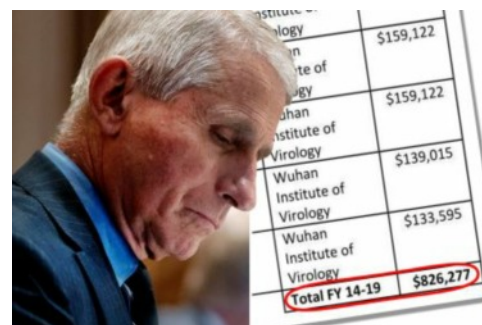
- The following is excerpted from "The Covid mask controversy could have been answered two and a half years ago," *Fox News*, Mar. 5, 2023: "A major controversy throughout the pandemic was surrounding the efficacy of face masks against the spread of COVID-19. However, a recent study supports that masks may have done little, if anything at all, to stop the spread of the virus. The study published by Cochrane Library, 'Physical interventions to interrupt or reduce the spread of respiratory viruses,' where esteemed researchers dug into the impact of physical interventions, like masks and hand washing, on the spread of COVID. Dr. Marty Makary joined *Sunday Night in America* to address this recent study and the vacillation on the effectiveness of masks since the start of the pandemic. ... 'What public health officials did is they hedged on the wrong side of the issue. They had the wrong

hypothesis. And when overwhelmingly strong evidence came out time after time, 65 studies on masks, 160 studies on natural immunity. Study after study, they didn't evolve their position. They dug in,' Makary said, who went on to say that **these health officials were 'intellectually dishonest' and 'at that point you're basically putting out misinformation,'** explaining how the studies coming out of Sweden of schools that were masked vs. unmasked had 'no difference' in transmission. 'If Dr. Fauci and all of those who pushed masks so fervently would have simply done their own randomized control study with good methodology, they could have answered the controversy two and a half years ago, but they chose to rule by dogma rather than scientific data,' he added."

U.S. SENATE PASSES BILL REQUIRING DECLASSIFICATION OF WUHAN LAB LEAK INTELLIGENCE

(Friday Church News Notes, March 10, 2023, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The following is excerpted from "Entire Senate Passes Bill," *PJMedia*, Mar. 2, 2023: "The Senate voted unanimously--at the behest of Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio)--to pass a bill known as the COVID-19 Origin Act of 2023. ... Sens. Josh Hawley (R-Mo.) and Mike Braun (R-Ind.) reintroduced the bill on Monday **after the Department of Energy (DOE) as well as the FBI admitted that COVID 'likely' originated in a laboratory, not a 'wet market' as the Chinese first claimed.** Hawley released a statement that included: **'For nearly three years, anyone asking whether COVID-19 originated as a lab leak**



outbreak was silenced and branded as a conspiracy theorist. Now, these prudent skeptics stand vindicated.

The Biden administration must immediately declassify all intelligence reports pertaining to the origins of COVID-19 and the Wuhan Institute of Virology. The American people deserve to know the truth.' Mike Braun tweeted, 'The American people deserve transparency, free from government censors or media spin.'"

THE STRANGER THAT ISN'T A STRANGER

(Friday Church News Notes, March 10, 2023, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The following is from CreationMoments.com, Feb. 10, 2023: "Social insects seldom, if ever, tolerate other species within their communities. Strangers are generally identified by their smell, rather than by their appearance, since those insects that aren't actually blind have very poor eyesight. It is common for social insects to unite to destroy even one stranger who invades their nest. Like most social insects, termites



don't tolerate strangers. However, the *Trichopsenius frosti* beetle likes to make its living within the nest of just one species of termite. These termites produce a very specific mixture of 21 compounds that are mixed into a unique scent by which they identify nest mates. The unique scent includes a compound that is a third of the total mix while other compounds are included as less than one percent of the mix. As unlikely as it sounds, the *Trichopsenius* is able to make the same mix of compounds so perfectly that its presence in the termite nest goes unquestioned. Notes: 'Bombardier Beetles and Fever Trees,' p. 46."



ANOTHER U.S. STATE ENACTS UNIVERSAL SCHOOL CHOICE (Friday Church News Notes, March 17, 2023, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - School choice is the only program that can have a significant impact in reducing the power of America's mainstream public school system, and school choice is growing. At the same time, the government remains in ultimate control of the money in these schemes, which always spells danger at some point. The best thing Bible-believing parents can do, in our estimation, is to home school or church school and don't take a dime from the government. God has promised to take care of those who trust Him. At the same time, the

school choice movement is an encouraging sign in these times. The following is excerpted from "States pass universal school choice amid parental rights movement," *Fox News*, Mar. 8, 2023: "Red-state governors across the country have passed universal school choice legislation, igniting what experts call a 'revolution.' 'We're seeing a universal school choice revolution that has ignited all across the country. And it started with Arizona, but it really started because the teachers unions overplayed their hand and awakened a sleeping giant, which happens to be parents who want more of a say in their kid's education,' American Federation For Children Senior Fellow Corey DeAngelis told *Fox News Digital*. ... Republican governors made significant inroads in pushing universal school choice legislation, which did not exist anywhere in the country a year ago. As of now, five states passed universal school choice. Most recently, universal school choice legislation passed in the Republican-held Arkansas Senate on Tuesday. ... DeAngelis told *Fox News Digital* that 'over 25 states have had legislators in 2023 introduce bills to fund students as opposed to systems.'" Other states that have passed universal school choice are Arizona, Iowa, Utah and West Virginia. The following states are moving toward universal school choice: Florida, Indiana, Nebraska, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Texas, and Wyoming.

GRETA THUNBERG JOINS LONG LINE OF CLIMATE CHANGE FALSE PROPHETS (Friday Church News Notes, March 17, 2023, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from



"Greta Thunberg's 2018 Prediction," *PJMedia*, Mar. 12, 2023: "Being the international spokesperson for a fake crisis can be tough, as the child actor who acts as the mouthpiece for the climate change industry has just been reminded. On Saturday, *Human Events* senior editor Jack Posobiec tweeted at pint-sized climate scold Greta Thunberg, 'Hi @GretaThunberg! Why did you delete this?' The deleted tweet in question had Greta quoting this: 'A climate scientist is warning that climate change will wipe out all of humanity unless we stop using fossil fuels over the next five years.' The date on Greta's tweet? June 21, 2018. Either we have just over three months to live, or Greta's tweet was juuuuust a trifle hysterical. Her deletion of the tweet suggests that even Greta knows that the sun is likely to rise on June 22, 2023. ... The climate change hysterics have been trying to frighten the public with false apocalyptic scenarios and predictions of imminent destruction for far longer than most people realize. Back in September 1958, future feminist heroine Betty Friedan published an article in *Harper's Magazine* entitled 'The Coming Ice Age.' Friedan purported to explain 'how a rising of the ocean waters may

flood most of our port cities within the foreseeable future--and why it will be followed by the growth of a vast glacier which may eventually cover much of Europe and North America.' ... In April 1970, Paul Erlich, author of the bestseller *The Population Bomb*, warned that 'population will inevitably and completely outstrip whatever small increases in food supplies we make. The death rate will increase until at least 100-200 million people per year will be starving to death during the next ten years.' ... A professor named Peter Gunter wrote in 1970, 'Demographers agree almost unanimously on the following grim timetable: ... By the year 2000, thirty years from now, the entire world, with the exception of Western Europe, North America, and Australia, will be in famine.' ... On June 29, 1989, the Associated Press (AP) ... published an article stating, 'A senior U.N. environmental official says entire nations could be wiped off the face of the Earth by rising sea levels if the global warming trend is not reversed by the year 2000.'"

HILLSONG LEADERS' SHOPPING "WOULD EMBARRASS A KARDASHIAN" (Friday Church News Notes, March 17, 2023, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)



Brian & Bobbie Houston

fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - It would not be surprising if the Hillsong church empire goes bankrupt. It will be their own heretical, worldly fault, but it is a shame, because the world doesn't know the difference between true and false Christianity. The following is excerpted from "The kind of shopping that would embarrass a Kardashian," *Premier Christian News*, Mar. 10, 2023: "Hillsong Church has been accused of tax evasion and money laundering by an Australian MP, saying that their spending would 'embarrass a Kardashian'. ... Speaking to the parliament in Canberra, he claimed to have seen leaked documents ... The breadth of his allegations concern a whole spectrum of leaders within the Sydney-based megachurch. He accuses former senior global pastor Brian Houston--who stepped down from his role over allegations of inappropriate conduct with two women--of using 'private jets like Ubers,' saying he took five trips amounting to a total of almost £200,000 within a three-month period. He accuses other members of the Houston family of spending \$150,000 of church money on watches, luggage sets, designer clothes and skateboards, amongst other luxury items."

PASTOR WRONGLY DECLARED BRAIN DEAD, NEARLY BECOMES ORGAN DONOR (Friday Church News Notes, March 17, 2023, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - In early March 2023, Pastor Ryan Marlow, Grace Baptist Church, Wilkesboro, NC, was released from the hospital after being wrongly declared dead and nearly becoming an organ donor. In August 2022,



Pastor Marlow was hospitalized with a bacterial infection (listeria) that entered his brain. Later that month, the doctors told his wife, Marlow, that Ryan was clinically deceased. The following is from "Family, Congregation Welcome Home Pastor," *Christian Headlines*, Mar. 7, 2023: "Marlow says, 'They put the time of his death on his chart. That was it. I was called into a room and told that my husband was an organ donor and that we were gonna begin the process of finding matches for his organs. So that process began, he was on life support, and they told me he would remain on life support until they found all of the donors.' ... The following day, doctors had scheduled the harvesting of his organs, but when Meghan visited him and showed him videos of his three children singing, Marlow moved his feet. 'I told Ryan all the things that I wanted to tell him,' she said. 'That I loved him, people were taking care of me, that God was gonna make sure our babies were taken care of, and it was gonna be alright. And at the very end, I tell him, If you're inside of there and you can hear me, I need you to fight. I need you to fight like crazy ... Long story short, he's not brain dead, my friends. The doctor would not even do the brain death test because they said that there is brain activity.'"

THE HOOPOE

The hoopoe (pronounced hoo-pō) is Israel's national bird. It was chosen in 2008 by a survey of 155,000 citizens. The bird gets its name from its mating call (oop-oop-oop or hoo-hoo-hoo or pu-pu-put).

The Hebrew name for the hoopoe is the *duchifat*. The French name is *huppee*, meaning crested.

It is beautiful bird with a tiger stripe pattern on its wings and long tail, a pinkish-brown or beige neck and belly, and a distinct crown of pinkish-brown feathers tipped with black and white. The crown normally lies flat, but is raised from time to time. In flight, the hoopoe is a dazzling blur of color. Its wings only close part way and "wave in a pattern similar to a butterfly." When feeding its chicks, it can hover something like a hummingbird.

Its short legs and long, curved, pointed bill are perfect equipment for its habit of feeding on insects on the ground or under the surface. It probes the earth in search of larvae. "A strengthened musculature of the head allows the bill to be opened when probing the soil."

The hoopoe nests in a hole in a tree, wall, crag, barn, rooftop, wood pile, etc. The female incubates the eggs, and the male feeds her.

It is found across Africa, Asia, and Europe. Scientists divide the hoopoe into two major groups (Upupa



epops - Europe, and Upupa Africana), and subgroups, but the differences are slight and until recently they were grouped into one species. I have seen this bird in Kathmandu, Nepal, and it was sighted flying at 21,000 feet over the Himalayas (*Compact Handbook of the Birds of India and Pakistan*, Oxford University Press).

It is known as a stinky bird because the nesting female produces a foul-smelling liquid with its uropygial gland (preen or oil gland) that deters predators and possibly acts as an antibacterial agent for the chicks. The foul liquid that she spreads on the eggs and nest seems to work well in deterring predators like birds, cats, and snakes.

The hoopoe gets most of its water from its food.

Not very shy, the hoopoe can be photographed fairly easily.

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- Exalting the Lord Jesus Christ; His eternal perfect, and preserved Word; and the Gospel of his Grace. (2 Peter 3:1-2, 18)
- Standing for the whole counsel of God. (Acts 20:27; Jude 3)
- Challenging Christian workers to uphold the truth and resist the apostasy of our times. (1 Timothy 6:20-21)
- Exposing the spirit of error and compromise within Christendom (Hosea 4:6a; 2 Tim. 3)
- Upholding the New Testament Church (1 Tim. 6:13-14). O Timothy is a ministry of Bethel Baptist Church of London, Ontario.
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