

# O Timothy

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

A Monthly Newsletter for Spiritual Protection and Edification

Volume 40 - Issue 7 - July 2023



*"When considering the spiritual condition of a preacher and a church, it is important to listen to the silence. Listen to what is not being preached as well as to what is being preached, what is not being emphasized as well as what is being emphasized. Look at the sermon titles ... Are there any clear warnings of the issues that are weakening and destroying fundamental Baptists everywhere?" Page 13.*

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



## THE HISTORY OF HOW EVANGELISM WAS CORRUPTED AMONG INDEPENDENT BAPTISTS ~ By David Cloud

The following is excerpted from [THE DISCIPLING CHURCH: THE CHURCH THAT WILL STAND UNTIL CHRIST COMES](https://www.wayoflife.org/publications/books/the_discipling_church.php).

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Prior to the 1970s, Independent Baptist churches in general were spiritually stronger than today (though never strong enough, in our estimation), and one reason was that they were more careful about salvation.

Consider some prominent examples:

**John R. Rice, 1940** - "To repent literally means to have a change of mind or spirit toward God and toward sin. It means to turn from your sins, earnestly, with all your heart, and trust in Jesus Christ to save you" (*What Must I Do to Be Saved?* 1940).



**Baptist Bible Fellowship International, 1950** - "We believe that Repentance and Faith are solemn obligations, and also inseparable graces, wrought in our souls by the quickening Spirit of God; thereby, being deeply convicted of our guilt, danger and helplessness, and of the way of

salvation by Christ, we turn to God with unfeigned contrition, confession and supplication for mercy at the same time heartily receiving the Lord Jesus Christ and openly confessing Him as our only and all-sufficient Saviour” (Baptist Bible Fellowship, Articles of Faith, 1950).

**Harold Sightler, 1963** - “To think of repentance that does not cause the sinner to turn gladly from his sins is impossible” (*Chastening and Repentance*, 1963).

**B.R. Lakin, 1964** - “Repentance toward God--that’s turning away from all your sin and everything you know to be wrong, and turning right about face, then trusting Jesus Christ as your complete Redeemer” (*Prepare to Meet Thy God*, 1964).

**Lester Roloff, 1965** - “Repentance is a godly sorrow for sin. Repentance is a forsaking of sin. Real repentance is putting your trust in Jesus Christ so you will not live like that anymore. Repentance is permanent. ... Repentance is something a lot bigger than a lot of people think. It is absolutely essential if you go to heaven” (*Repent or Perish*, 1965).

**Highland Park Baptist Church c. 1965** - “Here are some things the sinner must do to be saved. He must want to be saved (Isa. 1:18-19). He must be willing for God to save him (Rev 22:18). He must acknowledge himself a sinner (Ps. 51:3; Lu. 15:17). He must repent - turn his

back on sin and turn to God (Acts 20:21; Lu. 13:2). He must believe on Christ and His finished work of Redemption (Act 16:31; Joh. 1:12; Ro. 10:10; Joh. 3:16)” (*Handbook for Our Members*, Highland Park Baptist Church, Chattanooga, Tennessee, p. 32).

**Leon Maurer, 1970** - “A rotely memorized prayer or some repeated statement without true repentance and faith never saves anyone” (*Soul Winning: The Challenge of the Hour*, The Sword of the Lord, 1970).

When these men talked of turning from sin, everyone in those days knew what they meant. They weren’t talking about reformation or a works salvation. They were talking about something that occurred in the heart. They were talking about a radical change of mind that put the individual on a new path.

## INDEPENDENT BAPTISTS AFTER THE 1970s

Soul winning changed dramatically in the 1970s.

There was a frenzy for bigness, and this was the motivation for a change in soul winning doctrine and methodology.

*The Sword of the Lord* promoted the “biggest” and “the fastest growing” concept. This is the way that preachers were often introduced at Highland Park Baptist Church, Chattanooga, Tennessee, in the 1970s. I was there. I heard the introductions.

A new evangelistic program was introduced and spread rapidly. I experienced this program at Highland Park as a student at Tennessee Temple from 1974-1977.

Jack Hyles was by far the most influential teacher of the new soul winning and church planting methods, but it was *The Sword of the Lord* that gave his teaching a very wide promotion. In the 1960s, *The Sword of the Lord* published Hyles’ *Let’s Go Soul Winning* and *Let’s Build an Evangelistic Church*. The influence of these books exploded in the 1970s.

Second in influence, beginning in the late 1970s, was Curtis Hutson, who became the editor of *The Sword of the Lord* upon the death of John R. Rice in 1980. Hutson’s book *Winning Souls and Getting Them Down the Aisle* (*Sword of the Lord*, 1978) was very influential. Hutson’s mentor was Jack Hyles.

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Jack Hyles taught that every church problem could be solved by his soul winning program:

“Soul winning is the basic secret of every other problem in the church. For example, here a church is having cold services. There is no warmth. There. The Lord does not meet with them. Now how do you overcome it? Get to winning souls. If somebody walks down the aisle every Sunday and professes their faith in Christ, that will warm the service up a great deal. Here is a church having trouble with its business. It doesn’t have enough folks who know business. It is having trouble handling its legal affairs. It doesn’t have enough wisdom. The Bible says, ‘He that winneth souls is wise.’ So God gives extra wisdom to those who win souls” (Hyles, *Let’s Build an Evangelistic Church*, p. 34).

This soul winning program, which I call “Quick Prayerism,” has the following characteristics:

### 1. An emphasis on “going to heaven when you die”

One of the things that happened in the 1970s to corrupt the practice of evangelism was that the emphasis changed to “going to heaven when you die.”

This was the heart and soul of Jack Hyles’ soul winning program.

“It may be done thusly. ‘Now, Mr. Doe, let me ask you a question: Do you know that if you died this minute you would go to Heaven?’

“No, I don’t believe I do.’

“Let me ask you this: Would you like to know? Don’t you think it would be fine if you could know that if you died you would go to Heaven?’

“Yes.’

“Well, let me ask you this: If I could take the Bible and explain to you how you could know beyond any shadow of a doubt, that you could know right now, and you could see it and you could understand it, would you believe it? Would you do what the Bible says?’

“Do you see what I’m trying to say? It is good to get him committed that he will do it; then you have gone a long way toward getting him saved before you ever present the plan. So these three questions: (1) ‘Do you know that if you died today you would go to Heaven?’ (2) ‘Would you like to know?’ (3) ‘If I could show you

how you could know, would you do it?’” (Hyles, *Let’s Go Soul Winning*, Sword of the Lord Publishers).

The most atrocious example of this we have seen is My John 3:16 Book: Lola Mazola’s Happyland Adventure. The cover depicts a gleeful child on a roller coaster holding a Bible. Children are taught that heaven is an exciting place, sort of like an eternal Disneyland, and they can go there “when they die” by saying a sinner’s prayer. It includes a “commemorative certificate” that is signed and dated to proclaim the child’s eternal security. The cover says, “Best-selling author Robert J. Morgan has told this story to children for years and personally witnessed hundreds of them in turn express faith in Jesus.”

Not once in the book of Acts do we find a preacher saying, “Do you want to go to heaven when you die? If so, you need to do this...” There is not a hint of that type of thing in Scripture.

Preachers in the New Testament promised eternal life through Jesus Christ, but they never used the “do you want to go to heaven” approach in evangelism. The emphasis, rather, is on knowing and serving Christ in this present life. The emphasis is on discipleship in the here and now rather than obtaining a ticket to heaven. It is on doing works meet for repentance (Ac. 26:20). It is on being ordained to walk in good works (Eph. 2:10). It is on living soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world (Tit. 2:12).

### 2. The “sinner’s prayer” became the focus of soul winning.

Another thing that happened in the 1970s to corrupt the practice of evangelism was that the sinner’s prayer became the focus.

An example of a sinner’s prayer is the following from the gospel tract *God’s Simple Plan of Salvation*:

“Dear Jesus, I know I am a sinner; I know I deserve hell for my sins. I believe You died for me, and I am trusting You to save me from hell and give me the gift of eternal life. Thank you Jesus for saving me. Amen.”

The sinner’s prayer can be traced to about the middle of the 20th century. The American Tract Society was founded in 1825 during the Second Great Awakening, but it was not until 1955 that it published its first tract containing a sinner’s prayer.

Billy Graham popularized the sinner's prayer in his gospel tracts, beginning in the 1950s with Steps to Peace with God.

The sinner's prayer was also popularized by Bill Bright and Campus Crusade for Christ.

It was Jack Hyles who popularized sinner's prayer soul winning among Independent Baptists. This was the emphasis of his soul winning books and annual Pastor's Schools. He said, "You must try to get them to pray."

At a Bible conference a few years ago, some men challenged me, saying, "What about the sinner's prayer? Do you believe in using the sinner's prayer?"

My reply is simple: "Show me the sinner's prayer in the New Testament."

Jesus Christ never led an individual in a sinner's prayer, and Paul never led anyone in a sinner's prayer.

In our evangelism course *Sowing and Reaping*, we urge people to do their own studies of the following passages to learn how to deal with people in a biblical way. Study these passages and write down every lesson you can find about evangelism.

- Nicodemus - John 3:1-16
- The Woman at the Well - John 4:1-43
- The Rich Young Ruler - Mark 10:17-27
- Zacchaeus - Luke 19:1-10
- The Ethiopian Eunuch - Acts 8:26-39
- Lydia - Acts 16:14-15
- The Philippian Jailer - Acts 16:23-40
- The Athenians - Acts 17:14-34

In these passages of Scripture, you will find biblical "soul winning." Instead of focusing on a sinner's prayer, it has the following characteristics:

***Biblical evangelism presents the gospel*** (Mark 16:15-16; Ro. 1:16). The job the Lord has given His people as ambassadors of Christ is to preach the gospel to every person on earth. The gospel is defined in a nutshell in 1 Corinthians 15:1-4. This is the message that must be proclaimed and explained. A sinner does not have to become a theologian to be saved, but he does have to understand and receive the gospel. To understand the gospel, the individual must come to understand the character of God as a holy judge. He must understand

that he is a sinner according to the Bible's definition, meaning that he is not good and has no righteousness that is acceptable to God. He must understand who Jesus Christ is and the significance of Christ's death as an atoning sacrifice. He must understand that Christ rose from the dead. He must understand what it means that Christ died and rose "according to the Scriptures."

The soul winner's job is to explain the gospel. How long this takes depends on the listener's religious background, receptivity, and other factors.

***Biblical evangelism is bringing sinners to wholehearted faith in Jesus Christ*** (Ac. 8:36-37). Salvation is not a prayer; it is a personal relationship with God in Christ. "And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent" (Joh. 17:3).

***Biblical evangelism urges sinners to call on Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour.***

"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed. For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved" (Ro. 10:9-13).

Here salvation is described as confessing the Lord Jesus with the mouth, believing from the heart that God has raised Him from the dead, and calling on Him.

The word "Lord" is mentioned three times in this key passage. To say that a person can receive Christ as Saviour and not as Lord has no biblical support. Jesus is Lord, and every soul will bow to Him as Lord, either in salvation or in judgment.

To believe on Christ savingly after the fashion of this passage (to confess Him, to believe unto righteousness, to call upon Him) requires that the individual understand and believe the gospel that Paul preached in Romans 1-3: man's totally condemned condition before a holy God and his inability to save himself by good works and law keeping (Ro. 1:18 - 3:20) and Christ's work of atonement for man's behalf on the cross (Ro. 3:21-29).



To call on the Lord in the sense of Romans 10:13 is not a “sinner’s prayer” in the way that sinner’s prayer evangelism has been taught. It is simply a personal receiving of Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour.

A sinner’s prayer might be helpful to some people who don’t know what to say to the Lord in calling on Him for salvation. My wife was helped by a sinner’s prayer when she got saved as a teenager. But a sinner’s prayer is not the goal of evangelism. To get the sinner to receive the living Christ is the goal. If a sinner’s prayer is used at all, it must be used very carefully and wisely at the right time and with the right person.

And if a sinner’s prayer is used, it must be a good sinner’s prayer that helps the individual express biblical repentance and faith. Most of the sinner’s prayers that we have seen neglect repentance.

### **3. Plowing the soil was traded for a quick salesmanship program**

Another thing that happened in the 1970s to corrupt the practice of evangelism was that the biblical concept of plowing the soil of the sinner’s heart with the law to prepare it for salvation for a quick salesmanship program.

When we refer to plowing the soil, we refer to sowing the seed of the gospel, carefully explaining it, using the law to show the sinner his plight, praying over it, and patiently waiting for the fruit that comes only by God’s Spirit.

The law of Moses was given to show man his fallen condition and to lead him to the Saviour (Ga. 3:24-25).

In Romans 1-3, we see Paul’s use of the law in this manner. He spends nearly two full chapters exposing man’s fallen condition and God’s righteous judgment upon all men before he mentions anything about the grace of God in Christ’s atonement.

This is the true “Romans Road”! It is careful to get the sinner totally and thoroughly lost before it tries to get him saved.

We think of those who were saved on the day of Pentecost. Three thousand were saved that day, but they were Jews who were steeped in the law of God! They knew about the one holy Creator God; they knew about

the fall, about sin and righteousness; they knew about the necessity of an atonement; they knew the prophecies. The law had prepared them to understand the gospel.

The “old” Baptists believed in plowing the soil with the law to cause the sinner to see himself as exceedingly sinful and undone. We have seen how that J. Frank Norris preached a full week on hell before giving a salvation invitation and Harold Sichter preached 25 messages in a row on the wrath of God. But this careful, patient preparation is done away with in the “Quick Prayerism” program.

Jack Hyles taught dozens of psychological tricks. Consider how he used prayer to manipulate individuals:

“There are several ways to do this, but you must try to get them to pray. If he is really ready, say, ‘Could I pray for you, and while I pray, would you pray and ask God to save you today?’ Maybe he is not quite that ready. Maybe you don’t know. You could say, ‘Could I pray that you will get saved?’ Maybe you don’t think he will let you pray for him to get saved. Then you say, Could I have a word of prayer with you before I go?”

“Anyway, to get your head bowed is good. If you are talking to him, he might interrupt, but if you are talking to the Lord, he won’t. You can preach him a little sermon in the prayer. If you can’t win a fellow to Christ, and if he won’t let you present the plan to him, the best way to tell him how to be saved is to tell the Lord and let the sinner hear you.

“I go into a home and say, ‘Sir, would you like to know how to be saved?’

“‘No, don’t have time for it. The wife’s sick and I’m busy.’

“‘Could I have a prayer for your wife before we go, that she will get well?’”

“‘With his wife lying there sick, a man would be a fool not to let the preacher pray for her. He says, ‘Well, O.K.’

“‘I pray, ‘Dear Lord, bless this wife and make her well, and help this man to know that Romans 3:10 says, ‘As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one.’ And if people die in their sins, according to Romans 6:23 ‘the wages of sin is death.’ O dear Lord, show him that Romans 5:8 is true when it says that ‘God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners...’

“‘Pray him the plan. He won’t interrupt you. You can get by with a lot of things talking to the Lord that you wouldn’t talking to him. ...

“I stop abruptly in my prayer. I pray a simple prayer. Never pray a big prayer. You must pray a prayer so simple that he won’t mind his prayer following yours.

“But you can pray this, ‘Dear Lord, here is a fellow who needs to get converted. I pray You will help him get saved. May he receive Christ. You love him, dear Lord...’ ‘Now fellow, will you pray?’ You pray like that, and he can pray his little prayer in a minute.

“I always stop in the middle of my prayer. I say, ‘Dear Lord, lead this man to be saved. You led me here and I pray that he will be saved today. May his wife have a Christian husband and the little children a Christian daddy. May this be the day of his salvation.’ Now while our heads are bowed in prayer, ‘Mr. Doe, would you be willing today to ask God to forgive you and tell Him you want to get saved?’

“See, you stop in the middle of your prayer and lead him to pray. Let me say this: Fifty per cent of the time when you get this far the lost person is going to pray” (Hyles, *Let’s Go Soul Winning*).

That is cheap psychological manipulation. It is tricky. It is dishonest. If you tell a man that you want to pray for him, but your goal actually is to preach to him and get him to pray a sinner’s prayer, that is deception. We see no hint of this in the Gospels or Acts.

Consider the following example of this methodology. Carl Hatch was called “the world’s greatest soul winner” by The Sword of the Lord editor Curtis Hutson and by Jack Hyles:

### *The Carl Hatch Squeeze*

I don’t ask anybody if they want to be saved. If you want a positive answer you must ask a positive question. If you want a no answer ask a no question. If you want a yes answer ask a yes question. **Soul winning is positive. And in soul winning you use a lot of psychology.**

For instance, if you are lost and I say, “Mr. Smith, let me ask you a question. You don’t want to go to hell, do you?”

He will answer, No.

I say, “Wonderful, you want to go to heaven, don’t you?” He will say, Yes. I will reply, “Sure you do. Sure you do. Sure you do. I thank God for a man that doesn’t want to go to hell.”

**Did you get that? I am reinforcing the fact that he wants to go to heaven. I’m keeping everything positive.**

I don’t say, “Can I show this to you?” or “Do you mind if I read the Bible to you?” That’s negative and you will probably get a negative answer. I just say, “I’m so glad you don’t want to go to hell and I will just take a minute here to show you some verses. I don’t have long and I know you don’t, either. There’s three things that you need to know. First, Jesus died for you. Isn’t that wonderful? Two, Jesus loves you. Isn’t that wonderful? Three, Jesus wants you to go to heaven. Isn’t that wonderful? And I’m so glad that you want to.”

### **See, I am being positive.**

He may say he has a lot of questions, but unsaved people don’t have questions. **Don’t get on unsaved people’s questions. Tell them that you will answer their questions later**, but first you want to read a few verses of Scripture. Unsaved people don’t have questions. If you get them saved, that answers all of them.

Let me tell you how to deal with someone who has a dumb spirit who bucks getting saved. You share the gospel and get them to the point of praying the sinner’s prayer, but they stop. How do you get that type of person saved? Now, this will work in most cases. If he is a man, put your hand on his shoulder and say, “Mr. Jones, I want to have prayer for you. I’m thrilled you want to go to heaven. God has been good to you. Bow your head with me. Then I pray, “Lord, I’m so thankful for this man that doesn’t want to burn in hell. I’m so thrilled he wants to go to heaven and not take his kids to hell. I thank you for this man. And I pray you will help him to see that need.”

While our heads are still bowed, I say, “Mr. Jones, if you want heaven as your home and Christ as your Saviour, pray this prayer. Lord Jesus.” And **if he doesn’t repeat that and tries not to pray, I squeeze his shoulder**. I use this technique. If I am dealing with the president of the bank, I take his hand and when it comes time for him to pray, I squeeze his hand. We’ve titled that the Carl Hatch squeeze. **It works**. If I am dealing with a woman, I ask her to put her hand on the Bible, and when it comes time to pray I just tap her hand gently. **It works; it works!**

(This is from a Carl Hatch soul winning seminar at Texas Baptist University. Hatch was called the world’s greatest soul winner by *Sword of the Lord* editor Curtis Hutson and by Jack Hyles.)

This is nothing more than cheap salesmanship. It might be a good way to sell a used car, but it is a bad way to win souls to Christ. There is not a hint of such a thing in Scripture.

We can't imagine the Lord Jesus or the apostles doing such a thing. When Jesus dealt with the woman at the well, He didn't ask a bunch of leading questions to keep the subject positive. He is the one who brought up the woman's immoral lifestyle. When Christ dealt with Nicodemus, He confronted the man with his need of the new birth, which Nicodemus didn't find positive at all. Christ told the rich young ruler to sell everything he had and follow Him. He told people if they didn't repent they would perish, which is a very negative approach (Lu. 13:1-5). He told the people that only those who continue in His Word are true disciples (Joh. 8:30-31).

The Carl Hatch Squeeze is a damnable practice that turns biblical evangelism into cheap salesmanship. Hatch didn't take the time to deal carefully and clearly with any part of the gospel. Who and what was Christ? What is sin? What does it mean that Christ died for my sins? What does it mean that He died according to the Scriptures? What does it mean that He rose from the dead? And Hatch didn't even hint at repentance.

Jesus and the evangelists in the early churches knew absolutely nothing of the "Carl Hatch Squeeze."

#### 4. A quick program

Another thing that happened in the 1970s to corrupt the practice of evangelism was to develop a quick program.

Jack Hyles' soul winning books encouraged evangelists to try to lead a complete stranger in a sinner's prayer after just a few minutes. Many times he told of leading people in a sinner's prayer in 10 or 15 minutes.

One afternoon I went soul winning with a pastor who was trained in this method. He is a man of God, but he has unthinkingly adopted the methodology he was taught. At each door he would go through Hyles' plan. He would ask the individual if he or she would like to go to heaven when he died and if he would listen while he told him how to do that. None of them even let us into the house, as I remember, and they showed zero interest in Jesus Christ. But when they didn't actually close the door, the pastor would quickly go through the most basic points of the "Romans Road" (e.g., you are a sinner, the wages of sin is death, the gift of God in Christ is eternal life). After that presentation, which took only a few minutes, he said, "Do you have any questions?" None did. And then he asked, "Would you like to pray now to receive Christ as

your Saviour?" None of the people were interested enough even to let us into their houses and they had no questions, but he was ready to lead them in a sinner's prayer in such a circumstance. That is Quick Prayerism. And these were mostly university students who were steeped in evolution and humanism. Later I asked the pastor why he didn't even hint at repentance in his presentation, and he said that he hadn't thought about it.

Following is the full content of Jack Hyles' Romans' Road:

I always use the following: "Now, Mr. Doe, there are only four things you must know to be saved. First, you must know that you are a sinner. For example, Romans 3:10 says, 'As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one.' Let me illustrate. If there is none righteous, that means I'm not righteous, doesn't it? (Notice, I didn't get him unrighteous first; I got me unrighteous. Never put the sinner below you. You always let him know that but for the grace of God you would be in the fix he is in. You get yourself lost first.) So if there is none righteous, I'm not righteous. If there is none righteous, then Mr. Doe, you are not righteous. Also, it says, 'For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.' Now if all have sinned, that means I've sinned-- right? That means your wife has sinned, and that means you have sinned."

If he still acts like he is not a sinner, you just list a few sins and you will catch him. A lot of times I say this: "You do realize that you are a sinner? For example, the Bible mentions some sins such as evil thinking, bad literature, ugly disposition, etc." Somewhere along that line there will be something that he does. Show him that he is a sinner.

Second, show him the price on sin. Romans 5:12: "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin..." What kind of death? All death, both spiritual and physical death, the sum total of death. "... and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned." And Romans 6:23, "For the wages of sin is death..." So there is a price on sin. What is that price? Death. What kind of death? That includes the second death of Revelation 20:14, and that second death is the Lake of Fire. So ultimately a person who is a sinner must pay for it by going to Hell. That is the basic price on sin.

Third, the next thing we must do is show that Jesus paid the price. So I say this: "Mr. Doe, God looked down from Heaven and saw that you were a sinner. He saw that you were in debt. He saw that you and I deserved to go to Hell. He wanted to save us and made

a plan to do it. He came to the world Himself. His name was Jesus. He was God in a human body. For thirty-three years He lived here in this world. He did not commit one single sin. This is important. Mr. Doe, suppose that Jesus Christ had sinned one time only. The price on sin being death or Hell, where would Jesus have had to go when He died? The answer is Hell, but He did not sin. He did not commit one sin, but He went to the cross, and on the cross He suffered spiritual death when He said, ‘My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?’ He suffered the same thing that a lost person will have to suffer in Hell. I’ll go farther than that. I believe that He suffered as much in that moment on Calvary as the sum total eternal suffering of all the lost people who will ever go to Hell to stay forever. Actually He was paying our price for our sins. He was becoming our substitute.”

Fourth, “If we will receive that price as our hope for Heaven and receive Him as our Saviour from sin, He will make us His children and take us to Heaven when we die” (Hyles *Let’s Go Soul Winning*).

This is not even the complete gospel, because Hyles says nothing about Christ’s resurrection.

“For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures” (1 Co. 15:3-4).

But even if the Hyles plan included the resurrection, it is an extremely shallow presentation of the gospel. It might be enough for someone who has grown up in a Bible-believing church in the Bible Belt of America and has been taught the principles of the Bible all his life. But it isn’t enough for an individual who has never heard the gospel. It isn’t enough for an atheistic Humanist, a Hindu, a Buddhist, or a Muslim. It’s too shallow, too basic, too quick.

Consider the fact that man is a sinner. No one can be saved if he does not believe and acknowledge that he is a sinner, and that he is *such a sinner* that he absolutely *deserves* eternal hell.

When asked if they believe they are a sinner, many people will answer in the affirmative simply because they know that they are not perfect, but at the same time, they do not believe that they are so wicked as to deserve God’s wrath. Most people will admit that they aren’t perfect, but they also think of themselves as basically good or at least that their good can outweigh the bad. They know they have

done wrong, but they don’t think of themselves as deserving of hell. In their minds, they redefine “sin” to be a lack of perfection or a lack self-esteem or (if Catholics) they divide sin into “categories” of mortal and venial, or some such thing.

They do not believe that they are sinners from conception by nature (Psalm 51:5) and that even their very righteousness is as filthy rags before a holy God (Isaiah 64:6).

An example of *not* plowing the ground sufficiently was told to me by a pastor friend who had the following experience at Lancaster Baptist Church in Lancaster, California:

“We went out with their staff on Saturday morning for soul winning. We were immediately partnered up with some of the veterans. The first door we went to, we spoke to a friendly Catholic guy and to my surprise, the guy got ‘saved’ before my very eyes as ----- took him from a few scripture passages to the sinner’s prayer so smoothly that I was caught off guard. I caught myself and while ----- was recording this man’s contact details and writing it down, I asked the man whether (1) he believed that he was a good person and (2) that it is possible to go to heaven by being a good person. This man who had just got ‘saved’ told me ‘YES.’ I looked around and the other two men beside me said nothing and did nothing. We went to a few more places and eventually reached a home with a Roman Catholic young lady who came to the door. She said she was a professing Christian. Even though she said that all churches were the same ----- gave her assurance of salvation by quoting 1 John 5:13.”

It is unconscionable to deal with people in such a shallow way. The “Catholic guy” acknowledged that he is a “sinner,” but he didn’t mean by that that he was deserving of hell. He didn’t mean what the Bible means. He still thought of himself as basically a good person deserving of heaven because of his “good deeds”! Obviously he wasn’t ready to get saved and should not have been led in a sinner’s prayer. It was all too hasty and shallow.

One time I was on visitation with a man in Oklahoma City when a woman invited us into her house. Her teenage children were in the living room, so we accepted the invitation and my partner began to talk to her. Though it was soon evident that her language was Portuguese and her English was very rudimentary, he proceeded to give her the Romans Road and try to lead her in a sinner’s prayer. I stopped him and suggested that we should obtain



a Portuguese Bible and find someone who speaks her language.

Jack Hyles told of a man in Texas who supposedly led a hitchhiker to Christ even though the man was deaf and dumb and couldn't read!

"He picked up a hitchhiker and tried to witness to him. The hitchhiker shook his head. He then talked real loud, but the hitchhiker pointed to his ears and shook his head. So this new convert started writing the Gospel out and the hitchhiker pointed down and shook his head. He couldn't read, he couldn't hear, he couldn't talk. So this soul winner, who went to the third grade and couldn't even spell Jesus, stopped the car and got out, took his Bible, pointed to the Bible, pointed to his heart, pointed to Heaven, made a motion to open your heart and let Him come in, got on his knees and began to pray. The deaf and dumb fellow got on his knees and mumbled a bit, got up with a smile of Heaven on his face, pointed to the Bible, pointed to Heaven and pointed to his heart" (*Let's Build an Evangelistic Church*).

This isn't biblical evangelism; it is blind mysticism.

This evangelistic methodology is so brief and quick that it is expected to produce salvation during the few minutes of a gospel invitation in a church service or an evangelistic meeting. I recall the practice of Highland Park Baptist Church in Chattanooga, Tennessee. Every Sunday morning people would come forward for "salvation," be dealt with in the front of the auditorium, be led in a sinner's prayer, and then be baptized after answering a few simple questions in the affirmative, all in the space of a few minutes.

I have always thought that this program is unscriptural and even ridiculous. At the very least, seekers should be taken to another room and dealt with carefully, for as long as it takes, and there should be no pressure whatsoever.

## 5. Not looking for evidence

Another thing that happened in the 1970s to corrupt the practice of evangelism was to stop looking for evidence.

I was discussing the doctrine of repentance with a missionary some years ago in England. He had told me that many people were being saved through their soul winning outreach, but when I asked about the church services, he said that they had a small number of people

in the services and admitted that most of the people being "saved" were not interested enough even to attend the services.

I challenged him about the claim that the people were actually being saved. I asked, "How can you say they are saved when there is no evidence of it in their lives?" He became agitated and strongly countered that I had no right to judge the salvation of people who were making professions through his ministry. He said, "You cannot know who is saved." This man had recently attended Hyles Pastor's School, and he said the featured topic that year was repentance!

The idea that you cannot tell if someone is saved is heresy. It is possible, of course, for a person to show false signs of salvation and to deceive people, as Judas did. And we are not saying that a genuinely saved person will suddenly be sinlessly perfect or that every true believer is equally zealous to serve Christ or that a saved person immediately makes "Jesus Lord of his entire life." But the Bible is clear that if someone is genuinely saved, there will definitely be evidence in his or her life. I don't know of one example of conversion in the New Testament that did not result in a dramatically changed life. Do you?

For several weeks in 1977, my wife and I followed up on a Phoster Club soul-winning program in a fundamental Baptist church. Though the Phoster Club ladies reported many salvations and had a stack of cards representing "decisions for Christ," we did not find even one person who demonstrated biblical evidence. In fact, most of the people we tried to follow up on didn't even invite us into the house for a talk.

Churches reported thousands of souls saved annually, though these numbers were not reflected in the active membership. Jack Hyles claimed that his church saw more people saved on May 3, 1998, than were saved and baptized on the day of Pentecost. He estimated that around 15,000 people were saved and 5,112 were baptized on that one day. But the Wednesday night crowd, which is the truest indication of the real church, was not more than several hundred, and that included Hyles-Anderson college students.

First Baptist Church's Spanish department reported 35,000 professions from 1977-1987, but the average attendance was never more than 1,400 ([www.firesofevangelism.org/Origin.html](http://www.firesofevangelism.org/Origin.html)).

Longview Baptist Temple in Longview, Texas, claims that more than one million people were won to Christ in 25 years, which is an average of 40,000 a year ([www.lbtministries.com/Pastor/Meet\\_Our\\_Pastor.htm](http://www.lbtministries.com/Pastor/Meet_Our_Pastor.htm)).

Yet on an average mid-week service, which is the truest reflection of an American church's active membership, you will find only a few hundred people in attendance.

When we were given the "decision" cards to follow up a county fair ministry in Oklahoma in the late 1990s, of the hundreds of professions that were recorded we could not find *even one* person who gave any evidence of salvation or was even interested in attending church.

A pastor friend followed up on the more than 100 "salvation decisions" that were made at a county fair ministry in Kentucky in 2011, and he *did not find one soul* who was even interested enough in Christ to attend church.

Quick Prayerism with its empty statistics is not something that is practiced only by Independent Baptists.

In the 1990s, the Assemblies of God had an evangelistic outreach called "Decade of Harvest," and of the 3.5 million professions only five out of 100 actually joined a church, and much fewer than that proved to be true disciples of Christ.

The same is true for the Southern Baptist Convention. SBC Evangelist Jim Elliff says, "Our largest pizza supper may bring in a hundred new 'converts,' but we will likely get only a few of those on the roll. [And even the vast majority of these will not become faithful church members.] In other words, if you compare all who we say have become Christians through our evangelistic efforts, to those who actually show signs of being regenerate, we should be red-faced" ("Southern Baptists, An Unregenerate Denomination," [ccwtoday.org](http://ccwtoday.org)).

## 6. Repentance was redefined

Another thing that happened in the 1970s to corrupt the practice of evangelism was the redefinition of the doctrine of repentance.

We have seen that Independent Baptist preachers formerly taught a clear doctrine of repentance as a turning, a surrender, a change of mind that results in a change of life, but this changed.

Instead of repentance and faith as two different things, as Paul taught (Acts 20:21), repentance and faith became one thing. Repentance became faith. Instead of a turning to God from sin and false religion, repentance became a *turning from unbelief to belief*.

Instead of repentance as something that always produces evidence (Acts 26:20), repentance became something that *might not be seen*.

Consider some examples:

**Curtis Hutson** - "The problem and confusion is not preaching repentance but attaching the wrong definition to the word. For instance, to say that repentance means to turn from sin, or to say that repentance is a change of mind that leads to a change of action, is to give a wrong definition to the word" (*Repentance: What Does the Bible Teach?* Sword of the Lord, 1986, p. 16).

**Jack Hyles** - "So, yes, there is a repentance from unbelief in order to believe. ... With your will you believe and rely upon Christ to save you. In order to believe, you have to repent of unbelief. That which makes a man lost must be corrected" (*Enemies of Soulwinning*, 1993). Hyles taught that repentance *does not* mean "to turn from sin."

**Bob Gray** - "10,446 professions of faith in 1995. ... Repentance is not a doctrine. The word 'repent' is not even found in the book of John. It is obviously assumed by God that 'repentance' is a part of 'believing.' ... Repentance is not turning from your sins. ... Repentance is to change one's mind from unbelief to belief in Christ" ("A Message from the Pastor," *The Soulwinner*, January 1996, Longview Baptist Temple, Longview, Texas).

**Brent Neal** - "The emphasis upon repentance has created confusion among preachers young and old. It has been a source of discouragement to soulwinners. ... I have two choices. I can follow those who wear their soulwinning pins and carry New Testaments, or I can follow those who are critical of leading people to Christ. May the critics repent and may the soulwinners realize that we are on the same team" ("Is Repentance an Attack on Soulwinning?" *The Baptist Contender*, June 1996).

**Fred Afman of Tennessee Temple** - "The many false conditions of salvation [include] water baptism and

repentance” (“The Way of Salvation,” Sunday School class, Highland Park Baptist Church, Chattanooga, Tennessee, May 1996; quoted from Chris McNeilly, *The Great Omission*, pp. 25, 26).

**Tolbert Moore** - “If someone says: repent for sins and you are not saved, what do they mean by that? ... repentance in the true sense of the word really means to turn from being an unbeliever and to become a believer” (“Repentance and Lordship Salvation,” *The Gospel Preacher*, September 1996).

In the 1980s, during Curtis Hutson’s tenure, The Sword of the Lord stopped publishing Leon Maurer’s *Soul Winning: The Challenge of the Hour*, which said, “A rotely memorized prayer or some repeated statement without true repentance and faith never saves anyone.”

The Sword also stopped publishing John Rice’s *Here Are More Questions*, in which Rice said, “People ought to be taught to turn from sin in genuine repentance” (Vol. II, p. 425).

Further, *The Sword Hymnal* was purged of many references to repentance.

By changing the doctrine of repentance and by calling the old doctrine of repentance the “enemy of soul winning,” Jack Hyles was saying that a biblical understanding of repentance got in the way of his program.

The old doctrine of repentance is not the enemy of biblical soul winning; it is the enemy of the Jack Hyles-type soul winning.

A traditional biblical understanding of repentance does not allow a man to claim that thousands of sinners are being saved when most of them show no evidence of regeneration. A traditional biblical understanding of repentance does not allow a man to count a mere sinner’s prayer as salvation. It is one thing to say that 100 or 1,000 people prayed a prayer; it is another thing to say that those people are saved and to give them assurance of salvation.

If they are saved, there will be a change.

“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new” (2 Corinthians 5:17).

“Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity” (2 Timothy 2:19).

“But, beloved, we are persuaded better things of you, and things that accompany salvation, though we thus speak” (Hebrews 6:9).

“He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him” (1 John 2:4).

The Bible warns that profession of salvation is not the same as possession.

“They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate” (Titus 1:16).

## 7. The doctrine of eternal security was corrupted

Another thing that happened in the 1970s to corrupt the practice of evangelism is that the biblical doctrine of eternal security was divorced from a life-changing salvation experience.

Consider the following passages carefully:

“My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father’s hand. I and my Father are one” (Joh. 10:27-30).

Christ’s promise of eternal life is not for everyone who prays a sinner’s prayer; it is for those who hear his voice and follow Him. That is evidence, and eternal security is never divorced from a life-changing born again experience.

“Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure” (1 Jo. 3:2-3).

Verse 2 describes eternal security, and verse 3 describes the evidence of the born again child of God who has eternal security.

See also 1 Co. 15:1-2; Col. 1:21-23; 2 Ti. 2:19; Heb. 6:8-11; 10:38-39.

But in the 1970s, eternal security was divorced from a change of life and the evidence of an obedient walk. The typical soul winning program aimed to lead someone in a sinner's prayer and then give him "assurance of salvation" immediately, even if there was no evidence that the person was even sincere in the prayer, even if the person would not so much as invite the soul winner into his house.

Once my wife was taken on "soul winning visitation" by a supposed expert who led a man in a sinner's prayer. While the expert was writing down the man's information, the man told my wife, "I don't really believe that stuff." Yet he was given "assurance" and reported as a convert.

Granting assurance of salvation is the work of the Spirit of God (Ro. 8:16; Ga. 4:6; 1 Jo. 5:10). We can show the individual where assurance is found, which is in God's Word, but we can't give the assurance. The Lord knows those that are His, and the believer's part is to demonstrate his salvation by departing from iniquity (2 Ti. 2:19).

### 8. A focus on "child evangelism"

Another thing that happened in the 1970s to corrupt the practice of evangelism was a focus on child evangelism.

A huge emphasis was placed on winning little children to Christ and baptizing them.

The Vacation Bible School program was geared toward this. It was at a VBS that I made an empty profession of Christ and was baptized when I was 10-11 years old.

In the Southern Baptist Convention, there was a 96% growth rate from 1970 to 2010 *in baptisms of pre-schoolers*. Consider the statistics for 2013: A full 60% of SBC churches baptized zero youth between ages of 12-17 and 80% baptized zero or just one young adult ages 18-29. But there was an explosion in the baptisms of "five and under" (*Annual Church Profile*, 2013).

That is Baptist infant baptism!

A child can believe on Jesus Christ savingly, but it is doubtful that a pre-schooler can do this.

We know that there were no small children baptized on the day of Pentecost, because all of the 3,000 who were baptized "continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers" (Acts 2:42). That is not the description of a five-year-old child.

I grew up under this type of ministry and philosophy, and the fruit was wretched. It plays a major role in building mixed multitude churches, meaning churches whose membership has a large percentage of unregenerate Christians. The vast majority

of the children that got "saved" at a young age either fell away to the world in adolescence or stayed in the church as lukewarm, worldly Christians.

In the 1970s and 1980s, some church planters actually tried to build churches on child evangelism, driven by bus ministries and gimmicks, which is not what we see in Acts 13-14, and this is a passage of Scripture specifically given as the preeminent example of missionary church planting for the entire age.

### CONCLUSION

Shallow, unscriptural soul winning and neglect of repentance have produced incredibly weak churches. It has produced churches that are mixed multitudes instead of churches of disciples.

If professing Christians are rebels against God's Word and refuse to obey the preaching, refuse to be faithful, refuse to separate from the world, are insubordinate to pastoral authority, it is probably because they aren't saved. As we have seen, the Bible is very clear on this point. See, for example, John 8:47; 10:27; Titus 1:16; 1 John 2:3-4.

Most churches are far too careless about salvation. They pronounce people, including children, saved on a mere profession with no regard for biblical evidence. Long ago I rejected this tradition. My sole authority for faith and practice is the Bible, and in the Bible we see an emphasis on *genuine spiritual conversion with evidence*.

One of my first books was *Does Salvation Make a Difference?* For more than 40 years I have warned about the carelessness I have witnessed both in Southern Baptist and Independent Baptist churches. We want to follow the Bible, not human tradition, and the biblical example is Acts 2:41-42. This is a description of a church of born again disciples.

"Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls. And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers."

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The following is excerpted from [\*The History and Heritage of Fundamentalism and Fundamental Baptists\*](#).

When considering the spiritual condition of a preacher and a church, it is important to listen to the silence. Listen to what is *not* being preached as well as to what *is* being preached, what is not being emphasized as well as what is being emphasized.

Look at the sermon titles. Look at the Bible conference themes. Are there any clear warnings of the issues that are weakening and destroying fundamental Baptists everywhere? Any sermons on separation, and I mean plain sermons that name names and give facts and get right down to where we live? Any sermons on the dangers of and misuse of social media? Any sermons about how that a huge percentage of professing Christians are entertaining themselves to death? Any sermons about cleansing ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit? Any sermons on modesty, and I mean really practical sermons? (There should be *plenty* of these in this immodest day and age.) Any sermons on contemporary music? (There should be *many* sermons here, and they should contain real practical education on the subject.) Any practical sermons on rock/hip hop music, video games, and other things that are devouring the youth? Any sermons on compromising fundamental Baptists? Any sermons on Reformed theology? Any sermons on the imminent return of Christ and its importance as a doctrine? (This should be mentioned in practically every sermon.) Any sermons on a regenerate church membership? Any sermons identifying and warning about New Evangelicalism and contemporary evangelicalism? Any sermons about Southern Baptist or denominational Baptist compromise and apostasy? Any sermons warning about compromised fundamental Baptist schools, giving the plain facts, exposing what is happening? Any sermons about shallow evangelism that

produces professions without possessions? Any sermons about fathers being the spiritual leaders of the home? Any sermons about mothers being the keepers of the home?

New Evangelicalism is first characterized not by the error that is preached, but by the truth that is neglected.

This is evident in the few remaining fundamental Bible churches, as we have seen, and the same thing is happening among fundamental Baptists.

It is described as follows by Pastor Simeon Western in Australia:

"I am mainly familiar with Australian Independent Baptists so will base my comments on the scene here, but I suspect it is similar in the USA. Obviously I am not familiar with every IFB church in Australia, but out of the ones I know, there are only around 10-12 I could recommend with any confidence. My understanding is that there are approximately 200 Independent Baptist Churches in Australia.

**"On paper, most IFB churches in Australia are orthodox and sound in doctrine. But sadly, from my observation, the subtle seeds of compromise and apostasy have taken root which will soon yield bitter fruit.** It is true that some of the existing pastors, many of whom are aging, may only take their compromise so far, but they have set the wheels of compromise in motion that will gain rapid speed once they leave their posts and the younger generation takes over. They have taken the first steps down the slippery slope and the downgrade has begun!

**"Broadly speaking, Independent Baptists seem to have lost their appetite for the whole counsel of God and there is a definite resistance in large sections of the IFB [Independent Fundamental Baptist] movement in Australia against strong**

**warnings on key issues of the hour.** Many preachers are happy to raise a loud voice on issues where all are in agreement and where they are pretty well guaranteed a slap on the back and a hearty ‘Amen’ from their preacher friends (e.g. standing for the KJV). They are good at sounding the trumpet on the parts of the wall where the enemy is not attacking right now! But let a preacher dare to plunge the sword of the Spirit into some of the more subtle corruption beneath the surface in our churches (e.g. the inroads the devil is making through social media, contemporary Christian music, immodesty etc.) and he can pretty well expect either a hostile response on the one hand or an apathetic/indifferent, ‘couldn’t care less’ response on the other!

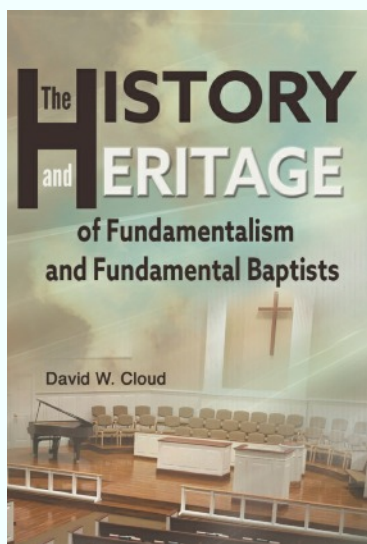
“I can now speak with some personal experience. Last year I warned about dangers creeping into the NBF (National Baptist Fellowship) here in Australia, and, sadly, **my warning was largely met with a wall of silence.** Words of support only came from a very small remnant of churches who are not enslaved by IBF politics. Men who in days gone by would have been willing to make a strong stand on such things, stood by in silence and failed to declare themselves on the side of God’s truth. I received a couple of hostile responses, but **what was most alarming to me was that the majority response was one of silence, indifference and apathy.**

“It revealed to me that only a small remnant REAL-  
LY care about such things anymore. Of course many preachers will still say they stand for such things in theory, but very few seem prepared to carry that over into the realm of practice in taking an actual stand on a key issue.

“I have also observed that the IFB movement in our country is full of politics! I used to think Independent Baptists were pretty well free of politics but the more time goes on, the more I realize that the opposite is true. The pressure of politics is very real in our churches and this is one of the main reasons men won’t speak up, I believe. The unwritten laws of the Baptist club prevail far too often!

“Another thing that concerns me is **the lack of older men willing to take a stand.** Much of the blame for the downgrade in our churches has been laid at the feet of the younger generation and that is not without warrant. Young men often are the ones leading the way into compromise and I will be the first to acknowledge that. However, I have observed that increasingly there are also many ‘old prophets’ who will oppose a young man trying to take a good stand for the Lord. (Read 1 Kings 13.) For years growing up, we would hear strong, challenging preaching to the younger men to stand up and ‘walk the old paths’ and take a firm stand for the Word of God. Now there are a few young men like myself who DO want to walk the old paths, take a strong stand for the truth, and herald the whole counsel of God, but now some of the same older men are slamming us for taking such a stand! **Or if they don’t outright oppose, the silence is deafening.**

“I thank God there are still some older men not in that category who seek to come alongside us younger warriors for the truth and strengthen our hands in the battle, but I am finding they are rare. For me personally, this has been a source of discouragement at times” (Simeon Western, email, May 22, 2020).



## The History & Heritage of Fundamentalism & Fundamental Baptists

By David Cloud

The chief purpose of this book is to understand the past so that we can properly evaluate the present and be stronger for the future. It has been said that those who do not learn from the mistakes of the past are destined to repeat them. God has given His people the right and responsibility to “prove all things; hold fast that which is good” (1 Th. 5:21), and that is what we want to do. We aren’t critical-minded; we are biblical provers. Our chief goal is not to find things that are wrong, but to find things that are good to which we can hold fast for the glory of God.

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## 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?



**RICK WARREN, NEW CHANCELLOR OF SPURGEON COLLEGE** (Friday Church News Notes, May 26, 2023, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143) - Rick Warren of Purpose Driven Church infamy was installed on May 15 as chancellor of Spurgeon's College in London. Warren will teach online guest lectures and act as an ambassador for the college. When Warren retired from Saddleback Church last year, he was replaced with a husband-wife pastor team. The church was subsequently evicted from the Southern Baptist Convention for its promotion of female pastors, but the practice began under Warren's pastorate. In 2021, he ordained three women as pastors at Saddleback. Upon accepting the chancellorship, Warren stated, "[M]y understanding of the meaning of ordination and conviction from Scripture on ministry leadership are identical to Charles Spurgeon's published views" ("Rick Warren named," *Baptist News Global*, May 16, 2023). That is a ridiculous statement! Consider just a few major differences: Warren preaches an incredibly shallow, unscriptural gospel with no hint of repentance, whereas Spurgeon preached repentance and a full-bore regenerating gospel. Warren's shallow gospel bloated his church's membership with the unregenerate religious, whereas Spurgeon made a

great effort to maintain a regenerate-only membership. Warren's ecumenical principle embraces theological liberals and Roman Catholic priests, whereas Spurgeon renounced such a practice. Warren practices friendship with the world, whereas Spurgeon practiced separation from the world. Warren ordains women to the pastorate, where Spurgeon renounced this. Charles Spurgeon would have nothing to do with the college that bears his name today. When the Pastor's College was renamed Spurgeon's College in 1923, it was no longer associated with the Metropolitan Tabernacle and had loosed itself from Spurgeon's doctrinal position. From 1961-1977, the college was led by George Beasley-Murray, who claimed that Jesus was wrong about the timing of the Second Coming, that John's Gospel was not written by John but by a community of John's followers, and that salvation is not complete without baptism. Beasley-Murray participated in the apostate World Council of Churches and praised its "general theology" and "deep spirituality" ("The Rise and Fall of Spurgeon's College," *Standing on Shoulders*, Jan. 19, 2010). The theology of the WCC includes every type of heresy and blasphemy, including universalism, and its "spirituality" embraces idolatrous Hindu dances, mindless Buddhist chants, and North American Indian spirit sacrifices. By joining hands with today's Spurgeon's College, Rick Warren is in likeminded company. See the free eBook *Purpose Driven or Scripture Driven*, [https://www.wayoflife.org/free\\_ebooks/purpose\\_driven.php](https://www.wayoflife.org/free_ebooks/purpose_driven.php)

**OLDEST HEBREW BIBLE SELLS FOR \$38 MILLION** (Friday





Church News Notes, May 26, 2023, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143) - Codex Sasson 1053 (S1), the oldest existing complete Hebrew Bible, sold for \$38 million on May 17 at Sotheby's in New York. The annotated Masoretic codex with vowel markings has been dated to about AD 900. It was purchased by the American Friends of the ANU Museum of the Jewish People in Tel Aviv and will be on display at the museum. The manuscript is about the same age as the Aleppo Codex but is more complete, containing all 24 books of the Hebrew canon. While the Aleppo Codex is missing 40% of its leaves (including the majority of the Torah or Pentateuch), the Sasson Codex is missing 12 complete leaves and parts of others, a total of about 15 chapters, mostly from Genesis. The Sasson is textually less valuable than the Aleppo because of the carelessness of its scribes. The manuscript is said to be the "least carefully written" of the tenth-century texts (Ellis Brotzman, *Old Testament Textual Criticism*). The Masoretic accent marks preserve the vowels of the ancient Hebrew Scriptures, assuring correct pronunciation of each word. "The accent marks almost miraculously serve three disparate functions: a) they are notes for cantillation of the word; b) they show the part of the word that should be stressed or accented; c) they serve as marks for phrasing and punctuation"

("The Leningrad Codex," *Jewish Virtual Library*). (The 72,000 square foot ANU Museum is "the largest and most comprehensive Jewish museum in the world," featuring the story of the Jews from Abraham to the present.)

### **MORE EVIDENCE OF RACISM IN AMERICA**

(Friday Church News Notes, May 26, 2023, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143) - In yet another clear example of rampant racism in America, a black man won the recent Republican governor's primary for Kentucky, easily besting a slate of white candidates. In 2020, the same black man, Daniel Cameron, was elected Attorney General of Kentucky with 57% of the vote, besting the white Democratic nominee by 5,000 votes. Obviously, racism is irrevocably deep-seated in the American South.

### **3,000 CHURCHES LEAVE THE UNITED METHODISTS OVER THE HOMOSEXUALITY ISSUE**

(Friday Church News Notes, May 26, 2023, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from "141 Pennsylvania Churches Leave," *The Christian Post*, May 19, 2023: "One hundred forty-one congregations in Pennsylvania have officially left the United Methodist Church, largely because of the ongoing debate over sexual ethics in the mainline Protestant denomination. At a special session of the UMC, Susquehanna Annual Conference held Wednesday at the Community Arts Center in Williamsport, the disaffiliations of 141 churches were approved. This leaves 665 congregations in the regional body. ... Over the past couple of years, more than 3,000



congregations have officially left the UMC, driven in large part by the denomination's ongoing debate over whether to change its official stance on LGBT issues."

### **STEEP DECLINE IN U.K. OF BELIEF IN GOD, HEAVEN, AND HELL**

(Friday Church News Notes, May 26, 2023, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from "Survey finds UK has fewer believers," *Premier Christian News*, May 19, 2023: "People in the UK are less likely to believe in God than people in almost any other country in the world according to a new survey. The poll of 24 countries by the Policy Institute found that belief in God among UK adults has declined by more than a quarter since 1981. Then, three-quarters of the surveyed UK adults said that they believed in God, compared with just under half (49 per cent) in 2022. The study of more than 3,000 adults in the UK found that only China, Japan, South Korea, Norway and Sweden had fewer people who believe in God. ... The study found that belief in heaven among UK adults fell over the same period, from 57 per cent to 41 per cent. In 2022, about one quarter (26 per cent) said that they believed in hell--a figure largely unchanged."

### **RESCUE MINISTRY WINS SETTLEMENT AGAINST THE STATE OF WYOMING OVER RELIGIOUS LIBERTY**



Church News Notes, May 26, 2023, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from "Christian Ministry Wins Legal Battle," *CBN News*, Nov. 29, 2022: "Just two months after the Wyoming Rescue Mission filed its federal lawsuit against state and federal agencies for threatening to punish the Christian nonprofit for hiring employees who share the ministry's religious beliefs, attorneys with Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF) announced they reached a favorable settlement in the case. As part of the settlement, state officials acknowledged that the rescue mission, as a religious organization, is free to hire like-minded employees who share the ministry's religious beliefs and mission to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ through its homeless shelter, clothing voucher service, faith-based recovery programs, and life-rebuilding assistance to Casper residents. 'The First Amendment protects Wyoming Rescue Mission's freedom to hire those who share its beliefs without being threatened and investigated by the government,' said ADF Legal Counsel Jacob Reed. 'We're pleased to favorably settle this case for the rescue mission so it can continue its critical work of serving some of Casper's most vulnerable citizens and spreading the gospel.' ... As *CBN News* reported, in 2020, the mission decided not to hire a self-proclaimed non-Christian for one of its Rescued

Treasures Thrift Store associate positions. ... The non-Christian applicant then filed a discrimination charge against the mission with Wyoming's Department of Workforce Services and the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) ... The officials determined the mission likely violated the Wyoming Fair Employment Practices Act of 1965 and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 for refusing to hire the non-Christian applicant, ignoring the fact that neither of those laws applies to faith-based organizations' religiously based employment decisions. After ADF attorneys filed suit, the government capitulated and agreed the mission can hire only 'those individuals who agree with and live out the mission's religious beliefs and practices.'"

**THE TROPICAL ARCTIC** (Friday Church News Notes, May 26, 2023, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143) - The following is from CreationMoments.com, May 11, 2023: "Both archaeology and the Bible suggest that the world was once quite different from the world we know today. Each agrees that the earth's climate was once much more uniform than it is today. At one time the tropics may have extended into what are today polar regions. However, the Bible and evolutionary geology don't agree on how long ago that was. Bible-believing geologists, on the other hand, are reporting evidence to support the Bible's story of history. In the last few years scientists have been surprised to discover dinosaur fossils in Alaska. Dinosaurs need warm temperatures--warmer than Alaska was thought to have been. In 1986, on Canada's Axel Heiberg Island, only 600 miles

from the North Pole, scientists found a huge, dense forest. Some of the trees were well over 125 feet tall. They have been snapped off at the stump and are neither fossilized nor petrified, but remain as fresh wood. Even some of the leaves are still intact. The area was filled with spruce, hickory, dawn redwood and cypress trees and was evidently a swamp, since tropical turtle and alligator remains have also been found. Tree rings show that the area was warmer in the recent past, while the size of the rings tell us that there were short, hot summers during which rapid growth occurred, followed by long, dark winters as there are today. The most interesting conclusion reached by the scientific team is that the entire region must have been subjected to a huge flood! This discovery tells us that all of geology must be restructured to present a history that agrees with the Bible's story of the earth's past. REF: 'Search for a Tropical Arctic' (television documentary), 1990, Federal Department of Energy, Mines and Resources, Canada."

**CHATGPT LIES: FAKE GOVERNORS AND FAKE LEGAL BRIEFS** (Friday Church News Notes, June 2, 2023, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from "AI Makes Up," *PowerLineBlog*, May 28, 2023: "This is the most interesting thing I have come across in a very long time. Artificial intelligence (or, at least, the ChatGPT program) makes stuff up. ... Tony Venhuizen, a smart guy from South Dakota, operates a web site where he writes about the history of the governors of that state. He asked ChatGPT, 'Please write a blog post discussing South Dakota's oldest and





youngest governors.’ ChatGPT responded with a competent description of South Dakota’s oldest governor, Nils Boe. It then went on to write five paragraphs about the state’s youngest governor, Crawford H. ‘Chet’ Taylor. ... Remarkably, however, Crawford H. ‘Chet’ Taylor is entirely a figment of ChatGPT’s imagination. Tony Vanhuisen wrote: ‘Crawford H. *Chet* Taylor was never Governor of South Dakota and, in fact, I can find no evidence of such a person, at all.’ ... AI even produced a fake portrait of the fake governor. ... I came across the second instance last night via InstaPundit. Some lawyers in New York relied on AI, in the form of ChatGPT, to help them write a brief opposing a motion to dismiss based on the statute of limitations. ChatGPT *made up cases, complete with quotes and citations*, to support the lawyers’ position. The presiding judge was not amused. ... The lawyers are in deep trouble. I think this is absolutely stunning. ChatGPT ... knows how to write something that reads more or less like a court decision, and to include within that decision citations to cases that on their face seem to support the brief’s argument. But instead of carrying out these functions with greater or lesser skill, as one would expect, the program *makes stuff up* ... The most obvious explanation is that ChatGPT

fabricates information in response to queries just for fun, or out of a sense of perversity.”

**CHATGPT SLANDERS** (Friday Church News Notes, June 2, 2023, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbs@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbs@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from “ChatGPT Invented,” *Washington Post*, April 5, 2023: “One night last week, the law professor Jonathan Turley got a troubling email. As part of a research study, a fellow lawyer in California had asked the AI chatbot ChatGPT to generate a list of legal scholars who had sexually harassed someone. Turley’s name was on the list. The chatbot, created by OpenAI, said Turley had made sexually suggestive comments and attempted to touch a student while on a class trip to Alaska, citing a March 2018 article in *The Washington Post* as the source of the information. The problem: No such article existed. There had never been a class trip to Alaska. And Turley said he’d never been accused of harassing a student. A regular commentator in the media, Turley had sometimes asked for corrections in news stories. But this time, there was no journalist or editor to call--and no way to correct the record. ... As largely unregulated artificial intelligence software such as ChatGPT, Microsoft’s Bing and

Google’s Bard begins to be incorporated across the web, its propensity to generate potentially damaging falsehoods raises concerns about the spread of misinformation--and novel questions about who’s responsible when chatbots mislead. ... On Wednesday, Reuters reported that Brian Hood, regional mayor of Hepburn Shire in Australia, is threatening to file the first defamation lawsuit against OpenAI unless it corrects false claims that he had served time in prison for bribery.”

**TEN FUNDAMENTAL THINGS MOST RIGHT WING CONSERVATIVES DO NOT KNOW** (Friday Church News Notes, June 2, 2023, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbs@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbs@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143) - Following are some of the fundamental biblical truths that the vast majority of contributors to the most popular conservative news sites do not know and do not take into account in their thinking. This includes Breitbart, Fox News, Right Wing News, Liberty Nation, Blaze, Frontpagemag, etc. **FIRST**, the world was made in six days by an almighty Creator who is eternal, omniscient, holy, just, merciful, compassionate, who is King over all and works all things after his own will according to His eternal plan. **SECOND**, man was made in the image of God and His created purpose is to love God and glorify Him, and every man is accountable to Him. **THIRD**, all men are sinners against God’s holy laws and are under His judgment. **FOURTH**, the ultimate conspiracy is the program of the dark powers that control the present world system led by Satan, a fallen angel who rebelled against God. Those dark powers are working out a program called “the mystery of iniquity,” the objective of which is to put a man who is evil

incarnate on the world's throne. **FIFTH**, at the same time, God is working out His program of global gospel preaching to invite all men to His free salvation in Jesus Christ. This program began with the resurrection and ascension of Christ. The book of Acts is the record of the beginning of this program, and it remains God's main business in this world. **SIXTH**, Christ and His apostles prophesied that false churches will multiply. This is called the *apostasy* (to turn from the faith). It will increase throughout the age until the vast majority of churches will be corrupted. This is what we see in church history and this is what we see in the world today. **SEVENTH**, the present church age will end whenever God determines and the true believers in Christ will be removed to heaven. This event is called the catching away or Rapture. It is imminent, meaning it can happen any time and will be unexpected by the world. **EIGHTH**, immediately thereafter, Satan's man will come on the scene. He is called the *Antichrist* and the *Man of Sin*. At first he will pretend to be a great peacemaker and global problem solver. He will make a covenant with Israel that will allow the third temple to be built. The world will cry, "Peace, peace," thinking that a new age of peace and prosperity has begun. After three and a half years, the Antichrist will show his true character and will cause all men to worship him on pain of death. **NINTH**, at that time, the world will experience trouble greater than it has ever experienced. God will pour out judgments on all nations for their sin. Billions will perish. **TENTH**, three and a half years after the Antichrist sets himself up as God, the true Christ will return from heaven in power and glory to establish His kingdom on earth as He promised.



### CHRISTIAN POLITICIAN WINS LARGE PAY-OUT OVER FIRING BY EMPLOYER FOR HER VIEWS ON MARRIAGE

(Friday Church News Notes, June 2, 2023, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143)

- The following is excerpted from "Victory pay-out," *Premier Christian News*, May 2, 2023: "A Christian politician has won a substantial pay-out after she was fired by her employer for expressing her religious views on marriage online and in her electoral manifesto. Maureen Martin-mayoral candidate for Lewisham in 2022--was sacked by London & Quadrant Housing Trust (L&Q) for gross misconduct following three complaints of 'hate speech'. The ordained minister was hounded on social media in April 2022, after stating as part of her manifesto that 'natural marriage between a man and a woman is the fundamental building block for a successful society, and the safest environment for raising children,' ahead of local elections last year. ... Speaking on Premier's *News Hour* Martin explains that: 'it was the people that were unhappy with my statement that put it on Twitter, and they sort of started to troll me as it were, and make really horrible comments about me. So they made the complaint. And my employer then saw it fit to accuse me of being homophobic, and of discrimination against the LGBTQ+ community. ...

They fired me, I knew they would ... I've always determined that from the very outset, I would not apologise, because as far as I'm concerned, I've been discriminated against because of my Christian faith. Not because I was a politician. ... With the support of the Christian Legal Centre (CLC), Martin launched legal action against L&Q arguing that her dismissal was discriminatory and in breach of her right to political speech. ... Martin said, 'It does highlight the fact you have to challenge these views, you have to challenge the judgement, you have to challenge what has happened to you, you can't just walk away. If you don't challenge, nothing's going to happen--you have to put them in a position where they have to now make a decision. You can fire me but you can't silence me. Quite frankly, I'm now free from the shackles of 'woke' employers, of the danger of being persecuted by an employer threatening to take my livelihood because they don't like what I say.'"

### GROUNDBREAKING RESEARCH PROVES PLANTS TALK

(Friday Church News Notes, June 2, 2023, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143)

- The following is excerpted from "Pop! Snap!" *NoCamels*, May 24, 2023: "For the first time ever, Israeli researchers have been able to prove that plants do indeed make noise. They picked up the popcorn-like popping sounds--which are normally beyond the hearing range of the





human ear--using ultrasonic microphones. This discovery changes our understanding of the natural world, and there is much the researchers from Tel Aviv University have yet to understand. Specifically, who or what is listening to these noises, and why. And with this discovery, there is the potential to monitor whether a plant is struggling against an unseen pathogen and prevent it from spreading to an entire field, without intrusive action. Farmers may also be able to more effectively water their crops and apply insecticides. ... The sounds the plants make vary from species to species, and are different in noise and frequency depending on the kind of stress they are under--for example when they are dehydrated, have been cut, or are infected with a virus. ... The plants emit sounds ranging between 40 and 80 kilohertz--completely out of the human hearing, which is up to 16 kilohertz. ... Expensive and sensitive recording equipment was used to capture the sounds for the first time. ... The study mainly focused on tomato and tobacco plants, but wheat, corn, cactus, and henbit (a close cousin of purple dead nettles) were also recorded. ... What Prof. Lilach Hadany, of the School of Plant Sciences and Food Security now wants to figure out who or what is using the information contained within the sounds, and who or what is benefiting from it. ... 'One group could be animals, like a moth laying eggs,' she says. 'It could choose between a plant emitting sounds and a plant that does not. 'The second [direction of our research] is possibly that plants may be responding to these sounds too, and preparing themselves for stress by using water more efficiently, closing their stomata [pores], and putting up a

global defense against pathogens,' she says."

## MOVES AGAINST "TRANSGENDER" MEN

**COMPETING IN WOMEN'S SPORTS** (Friday Church News Notes, June 9, 2023, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143)

- Two more moves have been made against the exceedingly weird business of men calling themselves women and competing in women's sports. On May 30, Alabama Gov. Kay Ivey signed legislation that prohibits transgender "women" from participating on female sports teams in college. "The state had previously banned transgender athletes from participating in female youth sports from grades K-12. Under the law, students are prohibited from playing under a different gender identity even after undergoing hormone treatment" ("Alabama bans," *Fox News*, May 30, 2023). On May 26, British Cycling banned transgender "women" from competing in the female category of competitive events to "safeguard the fairness" of the sport. Female races will be "for those whose sex was assigned female at birth" ("British Cycling," *BBC Sport*, May 26, 2023). "Transgender" cyclist Emily Bridges accused British Cycling of "furthering genocide" against trans people. Joan Smith of *Unherd* comments, "The comparison

is nauseating, and could only have been made by someone so self-obsessed that they've lost all sense of perspective. ... **But claiming victim status is a core tactic of the gender cult, which depends on hyperbole to disguise the fact that its aim is to allow a group of entitled men to do whatever they like, including destroying women's sport.** ... Bridges's meltdown is what happens when people who've endlessly been told how brave and stunning they are suddenly discover that they have to obey rules, like everyone else. **Behaving like an angry toddler exposes the childish narcissism at the heart of trans activism, which has always sought to conflate even the mildest opposition with hate speech and genocide**" ("British Cycling's Trans Ruling," *UnHerd*, May 26, 2023).

## MORE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESES FILE FOR BANKRUPTCY OVER CHILD ABUSE LIABILITIES

(Friday Church News Notes, June 9, 2023, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143)

- In the last three months, two Roman Catholic dioceses in California have declared bankruptcy in the face of millions of dollars in liabilities over alleged child sex abuse by priests. The diocese of Santa Rosa was hit with more than 200 lawsuits from alleged victims and has already paid \$35 million in settlements ("California dioceses go bankrupt," *Premier Christian News*, May 31, 2023). The diocese of San Diego was hit with 330 lawsuits. Many other California dioceses are contemplating bankruptcy after more than 3,000 lawsuits were filed when the statute of limitations was temporary raised by the 2019 state legislature. Lawsuits have bankrupted dioceses in many







parts of the country. In 2018, a grand jury concluded that more than 1,000 children were abused by Roman Catholic priests in six Pennsylvania dioceses alone over the last several decades. The report, the product of a two-year investigation, identified 300 abusing priests and lay “brothers” and found evidence of a systematic cover-up by senior church leaders in Pennsylvania and at the Vatican in Rome (“Report Identifies More Than 1,000,” Associated Press, Aug. 14, 2018). At a news conference, Pennsylvania Attorney General Josh Shapiro said, “The cover-up was sophisticated. And all the while, shockingly, church leadership kept records of the abuse and the cover-up. These documents, from the dioceses’ own ‘Secret Archives,’ formed the backbone of this investigation.” The Roman Catholic Church in America has paid over \$2 billion to settle lawsuits against immoral priests. The Bishop Accountability organization said that more than 4,000 priests have been accused of abusing children (“US Church to Pay 12.6 Million,” AFP, Aug. 11, 2008). A conservative Catholic organization documented this wretched business in the fall/winter 2002 issue of the magazine *Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam*, observing: “... the overwhelming majority of sexual abuse cases in the Catholic Church--about 90%--involve homosexual priests preying on teenage boys. The major media and the U.S. culture at large want to deny or spin the homosexual factor out of the scandal.”

**KIRK CAMERON HAVING LARGE SUCCESS IN HIS LIBRARY READINGS** (Friday Church News Notes, June 9, 2023, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143)

- By citing this report, we are not recommending Kirk Cameron and his books doctrinally. Rather, we are glad for his boldness to stand against “the Left” and for his ongoing success. The following is excerpted from “Kirk Cameron’s Book Reading,” *PJMedia*, May 30, 2023: “On Saturday, the Seattle Public Library hosted actor Kirk Cameron for his reading of his latest children’s book, titled *Pride Comes Before the Fall*. The book, centered around Christian teachings, is part of Cameron’s nationwide book tour to provide an alternative to Drag Queen Story Hour events. The event was the latest success of Cameron’s nationwide story-time tour, which includes various cities, including Indianapolis, New York, Savannah, Ga., Los Angeles, Nashville, Tenn., and Charlotte, N.C. In an interview with *PJ Media* last week, **Kirk told me how library leadership in these liberal strongholds claimed their communities would not be interested in his book or his message, yet thousands of people**



from diverse backgrounds have attended his events. The event in Seattle is the latest event to defy the naysayers and show that there is a strong demand for content based on pro-American and biblical values. ‘We’ve had thousands of people come to libraries whose leadership said their communities would not be interested in our values. That’s just not true. That’s just straight-up deception. And coming from Hollywood--the land of make-believe --it’s true perception is often not reality,’ Cameron told me. ‘And when I go to places like Indianapolis and Washington, D.C. and New York and San Francisco and Seattle and Chicago, you find that the leadership that is hijacked public schools and public libraries and the media does not represent the values of the people. And that’s why they show up saying, ‘You are giving voice to our values and to our concerns.’”

**STUDIES PROVE THAT COVID LOCKDOWN POLICIES WERE A DISASTER** (Friday Church News Notes, June 9, 2023, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143)

- The following is excerpted from “How Did the Covid Pandemic Response Harm Society?” by Kevin Bardosh, University of Washington, University of Edinburgh Medical School, *Social Science Research Network*, May 14, 2023: “Early in the Covid pandemic concerns were raised that lockdown and other non-pharmaceutical interventions would cause significant multidimensional harm to society. This paper comprehensively evaluates the global state of knowledge on these adverse social impacts, with an emphasis on their type and magnitude during 2020 and 2021. A harm framework was developed spanning 10 categories:



health, economy, income, food security, education, lifestyle, intimate relationships, community, environment and governance. The analysis synthesizes 600 publications with a focus on meta-analyses, systematic reviews, global reports and multi-country studies. **This cumulative academic research shows that the collateral damage of the pandemic response was substantial, wide-ranging and will leave behind a legacy of harm for hundreds of millions of people in the years ahead. Many original**

**predictions are broadly supported by the research data including: a rise in non-Covid excess mortality, mental health deterioration, child abuse and domestic violence, widening global inequality, food insecurity, lost educational opportunities, unhealthy lifestyle behaviours, social polarization, soaring debt, democratic backsliding and declining human rights.”**

**NOAH WEBSTER’S VIEW OF THE BIBLE** (Friday Church News Notes, June 9, 2023, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143) - Noah Webster (1758-1843) is one of the myriad of men and women of excellent moral character and practical wisdom that America has produced as the result of the Bible’s great influence. For more than 100

years, Webster’s Bible-packed books taught Americans to read, spell, pronounce, and define words. His 1828 *American Dictionary of the English Language* was packed with about 6,000 quotations from the Bible. This was one of the many ways that the American people of that time were steeped in Scripture. Webster wrote, “The Bible is the Chief moral cause of all that is good, and the best corrector of all that is evil, in human society; the best book for regulating the temporal concerns of men, and the only book that can serve as an infallible guide to future felicity. ... **It is extremely important to our nation, in a political as well as religious view, that all possible authority and influence should be given to the Scriptures, for these furnish the best principles of civil liberty, and the most effectual support of republican government.**

**TRUE SUPER GLUE** (Friday Church News Notes, June 13, 2023, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143) - The following is from CreationMoments.com: “Try using superglue in wet conditions, and you’ll find that the glue is not so super. Even epoxy doesn’t work well in water. Scientists finally decided to turn to the lowly mussel to learn how to make better glues for use in wet environments. Mussels manufacture their glue under water, yet the glue can withstand the force of a thousand pounds per square inch. Mussel glue will even stick to Teflon! The mussel begins by making the glue in two parts, each part made by a separate gland. One gland produces proteins that are like resin. The other gland makes the hardeners. When these are mixed, they harden into a strand in only a couple of minutes. The mussel will make many of these strands as it fastens itself to a rock. As more of these strands are made, they begin to cross-link with one another, greatly adding to the strength of the bond. The mussel makes between five and ten different kinds of protein strands, carefully limiting the cross-linking to produce

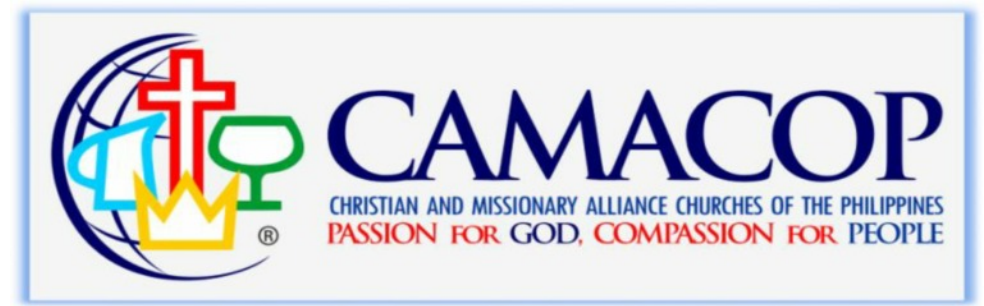


the greatest strength. Without this mix, the bond would be brittle and easily break. God’s creation is marvelously designed. His designs are still teaching us how to do even simple things better. The theory of evolution depends upon random chance events that, even if believable, can teach us nothing. Notes: *Discover*, 2/03, pp. 22-23, Alan Burdick, ‘Cement on the Half Shell.’”

The principles of genuine liberty and of wise laws and administrations, are to be drawn from the Bible and sustained by its authority” (Preface, *Common Version of the Holy Bible*, 1833).

### CHRISTIAN AND MISSIONARY ALLIANCE APPROVES

**FEMALE ORDINATION** (Friday Church News Notes, June 16, 2023, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143) - There should be no debate on the issue of female pastors, as the Bible clearly forbids it. The woman cannot teach nor usurp authority over the man (1 Timothy 2:12) and does not meet the twice-repeated pastoral



standard of “the husband of one wife” (1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:6). The widespread acceptance of female pastors is a mark of end-time apostasy. The following is excerpted from “Christian and Missionary Alliance,” *Christian Headlines*, June 6, 2023: “The Christian and Missionary Alliance denomination is now ordaining women and

allowing them to use the title of ‘pastor.’ More than 60 percent of the delegates of Alliance’s general counsel voted in favor of the change, *Christianity Today reports*. ... The Alliance has about 2,000 churches across the country. Previously, women could be ‘consecrated,’ but not ordained and could not use the title of *pastor*.”

## Aim of O Timothy Magazine

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





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