

O Timothy

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

A Monthly Newsletter for Spiritual Protection and Edification

Volume 40 - Issue 8 - August 2023



"The daily family altar (family devotion) is very important. It is a time when the family can meet regularly and consistently to worship God and study His Word. It is a time to read the Bible and discuss it. It is a time to memorize Scripture. It is a time to pray together ... Families have relegated the teaching of biblical truth to their church and to their Christian schools." Page 13.

Digging in the Walls: A month's worth of news items, republished from Friday Church News Notes. **Page 21.**

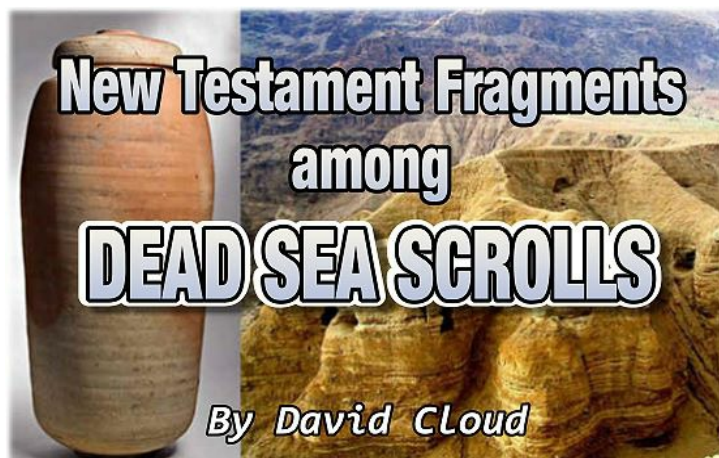


NEW TESTAMENT FRAGMENTS AMONG DEAD SEA SCROLLS ~ By David Cloud

Bill Cooper (1947-2021) was a prolific writer and speaker, with a gift of cutting through the fog of higher and textual criticism to defend the infallible, plenary, verbal inspiration of Scripture, the six-day creation, and the Masoretic Hebrew and Received Greek texts.

He was a council member of the Creation Science Movement and the Tyndale Society and an adjunct professor for the Institute for Creation Research's Master Faculty. His most popular book is *After the Flood* which gives evidence for the historicity of Genesis 10 based on ancient, little known British and European genealogies.

He published a series of books titled "The Authenticity," which included *The Authenticity of the Book of Genesis*, *Joshua*, *Judges*, *Esther*, *Daniel*, *Jonah*, *the Gospels*, *Acts*, *The Epistles*, and *Revelation*. In *The Forging of Codex Sinaiticus*, Cooper provided extensive evidence to support his thesis that Sinaiticus is a forgery.



Cooper was a careful researcher, an independent thinker, and a brave defender of God's eternal truth. He accomplished this in spite of suffering serious illnesses, including leukemia, the last two decades of his life. We can't agree with all of his conclusions, but everything we have read from his pen is well worth considering.

Not all of his books are currently available in print, but all of them are available in Kindle format from Amazon.

I learned of Cooper's work earlier this year and was able to refer to his research into the New Testament Dead Sea fragments on a trip to Israel in March.

The following report is based on a speech Cooper delivered in 2017 based on his book *The Authenticity of the New Testament Fragments of Qumran*. Cooper gives more information about these amazing fragments in *The Authenticity of the New Testament: The Gospels*, Appendix 3, "More on the Fragments from Qumran Cave 7."

The following is excerpted from "Dead Sea Scrolls Vindicate the Received Text of our KJV Authorized Version," *English Churchman*, June 30, 2017. We trust that this brief overview will whet the reader's appetite to study Cooper's book for himself.

This third article concludes our report on the superb lectures given on 13th May in Portsmouth by Dr Bill Cooper.

Having been amazed by what we had heard in the morning regarding the forgery of the Codex Sinaiticus manuscript of the New Testament so much loved by liberal scholars,* how could such a session be followed?

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David W. Cloud, Editor
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Copyright 2011 by D.W.Cloud
Way of Life Literature
PO Box 610368, Port Huron, MI
48061

866-295-4143 (toll free)

fbns@wayoflife.org
<http://www.wayoflife.org>

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

After all, hasn't everything that needs to be said about the Dead Sea Scrolls already been said? Little did those assembled know what a treat was in store. In the afternoon Dr Cooper gave an address that truly captivated the audience. What made it all the more wonderful was how Dr Cooper was able to explain a complicated subject in a way which everyone could easily understand.

Dr Cooper began by noting that the many books written on the Dead Sea Scrolls don't say much about the findings from Qumran Cave Seven. Though discovered in 1955 it was not until 1972 that several small papyrus fragments were first identified as being from the New Testament. Furthermore they resembled most closely the Textus Receptus, not Sinaiticus. It was Jose O'Callaghan, an internationally esteemed papyrologist, who was intrigued by these Greek fragments, held in the Rockefeller museum, Jerusalem. He first thought the fragments were from the Septuagint, the Greek version of the Old Testament, but by a painstaking search he discovered that they did not match but were from the New Testament. Dr Cooper noted that it was a very strange thing to count O'Callaghan, being a Jesuit, as one of his heroes but O'Callaghan was no ordinary Jesuit. Because of his discoveries, O'Callaghan took a tremendous amount of flak from both scholars and from his superiors. Then Dr Carsten Peter Thiede laid his own career and reputation on the line and defended O'Callaghan's work. Thiede was a world class papyrologist, head and shoulders above his peers who savaged him.

There are nineteen fragments. The first three are from the Old Testament so we begin at the fourth, named 7Q4, being the fourth fragment from the seventh Qumran cave. O'Callaghan discovered that this was from First Timothy 3:16-4:3. It is important to understand how this is worked out since the fragment is only a few letters at the end of a few lines! The scholars count the letters which have no spaces except for paragraphs. This line and letter counting is called stichometry. Some scholars tried and failed to prove these fragments were from Enoch.

All these fragments proved to be TR, not critical text. All these fragments are from 68AD at the latest when the caves were sealed against Roman soldiers who were scouring the Qumran area for Jewish rebels. It is thought that in some caves the soldiers smashed some of the pots and threw out most of the manuscripts. The fragments remaining are the very earliest New Testament manuscript evidence.

7Q5 is, by computer analysis, Mark 6:52, 53. This was even checked by Israeli forensics. One mathematician (Albert Dou) calculated that the chances of it belonging to some document other than Mark's Gospel are more than 900,000,000,000 to 1 against!

7Q6 is from Mark 4:28 written in Herculanaeum script, indicating that it predates the Vesuvius eruption of AD79 and also that it was from a different copy than 7Q5. Kurt Aland protested this exceeds all possible bounds of fantasy, but he was a leading higher critic favouring Sinaiticus. Yet this fits TR perfectly.

We know that the epistles were commanded to be copied to other churches, and it looks like many copies were made. "And when this epistle is read among you, cause that it be read also in the church of the Laodiceans; and that ye likewise read the epistle from Laodicea." Colossians 4:16.

7Q6.2 is from Acts 27:38. While 64 million words of Greek are preserved, the word *ekouphizon* translated "lightened" is only found in Acts 27:38, proving the early date of Acts which scholars simply refuse to accept!

7Q7 is from Mark 12:17. Dr Cooper apologised that in his book at this point there is an eta for epsilon, i.e. an incorrect vowel. Dr Cooper has shown in his book that O'Callaghan used an Alexandrian text which did not fit as accurately as the Received Text.

7Q8 is from James 1:23-24. In his book, Cooper argues for a very early date and gives several reasons for James, the brother of John, martyred in AD42, as the author.

7Q9 is from Romans 5:11-12.

7Q10 is from 2 Peter 1:15. This is a very important fragment as critics say that 2 Peter was written over a hundred years later, but here it is before 68AD. This is another fragment that proves the TR rather than the critical text. (Ed: Aland even wanted Peter and the Pastoral Epistles out of the Bible!)

7Q11 to 14 were all by different hands but they were too small to identify.

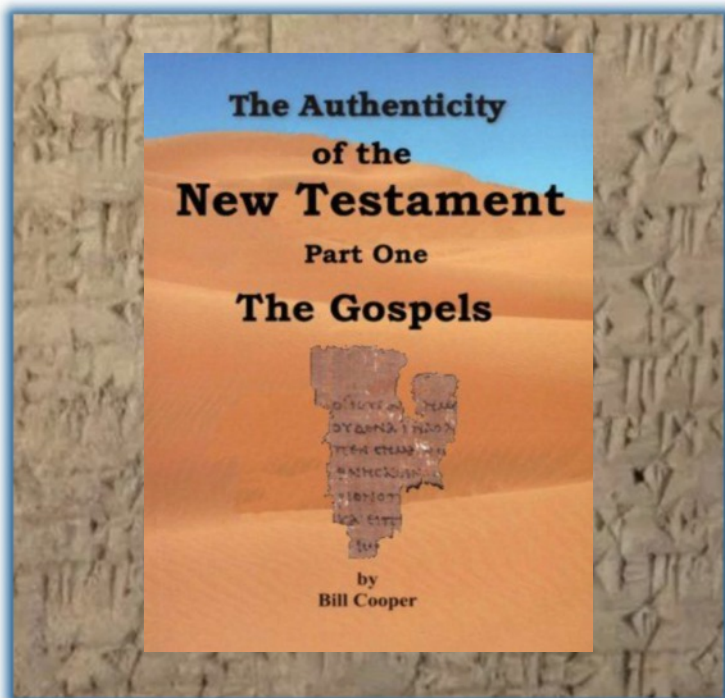
7Q15 is from Mark 6:48.

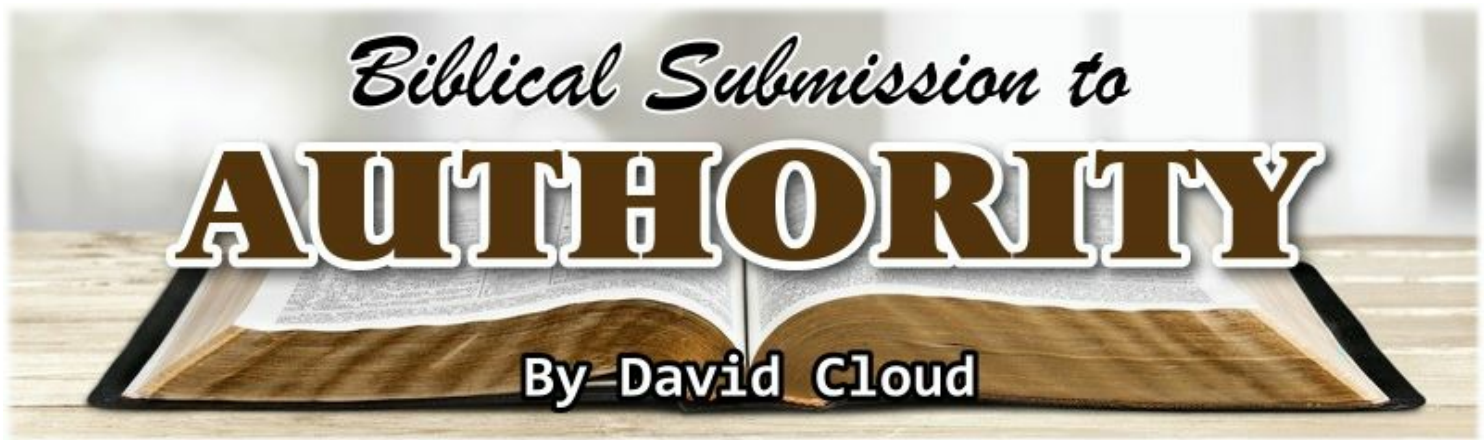
7Q16-18 are too small to identify.

7Q19 is a sliver of mud into which the papyrus fell so the imprint is backward. But these caves are bone dry, so this was possibly made by a soldier urinating in a cave! There are good reasons why 7Q19 appears to be a commentary on Romans. How? In Romans 1:2 Paul adds the word 'Holy' when describing Scripture, but he does not use the word the Jews always used, and that word is also absent in this commentary. Second Peter 3:16 says that Paul writes of things in scripture hard to understand. It appears that someone at Qumran was trying to supply this need.

A very strange matter is that cave seven no longer exists. Plans were made to excavate it but it has gone. Israeli authorities say it eroded, but how can it have done so, as nothing remains. Dr Cooper believed that when O'Callaghan published his findings it angered the critics so much. Nobody will own up. It is well guarded by the antiquities authority. Now the fragments are in the Rockefeller museum in Jerusalem. It now receives more publicity through his book. It supports the TR and predates anything the Gnostics and Alexandrians came up with afterwards. Dr Carsten Peter Thiede studied Magdalen Papyrus P64 and found it to contain parts of the Gospel of Matthew and to be by the same scribe as 7Q5.

Concluding note from Bro. Cloud. This brief overview should whet the reader's appetite to study Cooper's *The Authenticity of the New Testament Fragments of Qumran* for himself.





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“Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right” (Ephesians 6:1).

“Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord” (Colossians 3:18).

“Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of *their* conversation” (Hebrews 13:7).

“Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that *is* unprofitable for you” (Hebrews 13:17).

At the same time, authority in this present world is not to be followed blindly and unquestionably. It is to be followed so long as it does not contradict the highest authority, which is God’s Word. Human authority is always to be tested by God’s Word.

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The wife is to submit to the husband “as it is fit in the Lord” (Col. 3:18). If the husband demands that the wife disobey God’s Word, that certainly would be not fit in the Lord. He is her head, but he is not her God. The same is true for parents. They do not have the authority to demand that their children disobey God.

This is true in regard to pastoral authority.

Consider Hebrews 13:7, 17, and 24. The word for “rule” is *hegeomai*, meaning “to lead the way, to be chief, to preside, govern” (Mounce). It is translated “governor” (2 times, Mt. 2:6; Ac. 7:10) and “chief” (4 times, Lu. 22:26; Ac. 14:12; 15:22, 23).

Pastors have real authority but it is not a lordly authority after a worldly sense; it is a shepherd’s authority. “*Neither as being lords over God’s heritage, but being ensamples to the flock*” (1 Pe. 5:3). We see this in Hebrews 13:17, where the ruler’s role is described in terms of watching for souls. See also Mr. 10:42-45; 1 Co. 3:5-9; 2 Co. 1:24; 3 Jo. 1:9-10.

The pastor’s job is in the spiritual sphere. In contrast, some pastors have attempted to lord it over every aspect of people’s lives, interfering with their every decision,

wanting the people to be dependent on them, forbidding the people to do things that are not forbidden in Scripture, and putting obligations upon them that go beyond the bounds of Scripture.

The word in Hebrews 13:17 translated “obey” (*peitho*) is not the normal Greek word for obey (which is *nupakouo*, Eph. 6:1, 5; Col. 3:20, 22; 2 Th. 3:14; Heb. 5:9; 11:8; 1 Pe. 3:6). *Peitho* is translated “persuade” 22 times. The meaning is “to be persuadable.” It reminds us of the Bereans who “received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so” (Ac. 17:11). They were ready and eager to obey Paul if they could see that he was teaching according to Scripture.

To obey the church leaders properly is a “readiness” kind of obedience. Compare Titus 3:1, “to be ready to every good work.” It is to be ready to obey, eager to obey, cheerful to obey. The Corinthians had this mindset in regard to giving (“a ready mind,” 2 Co. 8:19; 9:2). It is the mindset of submission to God and His Word which makes one eager to obey those He puts over me, so long as they are faithful to God’s Word. It is the opposite of being stubborn and resistant to the man’s teaching and leading. It is the opposite of being a hearer but not a doer.

The *peitho* mindset is the one that brings spiritual growth and blessing. It is the mindset that produces a godly, unified, fruitful church. *Peitho* is also translated “trust” nine times (2 Co. 1:9; 10:7; Php. 2:24; 3:4; Heb. 2:13; 13:18), so it has the idea of submitting in a trusting way. But the trust is not in man; it is in God. When I obey them

that have the rule over me, I am trusting God to lead them and give them wisdom. I am trusting the God who has ordained that the churches be led by certain men who have authority to be rulers.

“Thus, this is not blind obedience to which our teacher refers, but obedience after thoughtful consideration that results in persuasion--all the stronger base for obedience. Those of us who demand obedience without reason, although that is necessary at times of childhood or emergency, are likely to get chameleon Christians who change orientation every time some golden-mouthed authoritarian happens along” (*The Preacher’s Commentary*).

In Hebrews 13:7, we see that “*the word of God*” is the standard. As long as the leaders are speaking the Word of God and leading according to the Word of God, they are to be obeyed.

“They are not to make laws of their own, but to interpret the laws of God; nor is their interpretation to be immediately received without examination, but the people must search the scriptures, and so far as the instructions of their minister are according to that rule they ought to receive them” (Matthew Henry).

When Peter and the apostles were commanded by the religious leaders to stop preaching in Jesus’ name, they answered, “We ought to obey God rather than men” (Acts 5:29).

God is always the highest authority, and His Word is always the highest standard.

“Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God” (Romans 13:1).

WARREN WIERSBE: Take Off The Gloves

By David Cloud



Warren Wiersbe (1929-2019) was an influential Bible teacher and a prolific writer who published 150 books, including the popular “Be” series of commentaries that has sold more than 4 million copies.

But there was poison in the pot due to his commitment to the ecumenical, rock & roll, New Evangelical philosophy.

A chief danger of spending time with New Evangelical authors and ministries is the danger of being influenced by their philosophy of “lighten up, be positive, don’t be so strict, be more tolerant, have a broader tent of associations.” This is very enticing, and it is doing more than any other one thing to build an apostate “church.”

Dr. Wiersbe was a staff evangelist with the extremely ecumenical Youth for Christ (1957-61), which has long partnered with the Roman Catholic Church and has had Catholics on staff. He pastored Calvary Baptist Church of Covington, Kentucky (1961-1971), where he completed his chapter-by-chapter *Expository Outlines*. He pastored Moody Church (1971-78) and was an associate editor of and regular contributor to *Christianity Today* (1978-82). He was a board member of the National Religious Broadcasters, preached at Willow Creek Community Church and at Billy Graham’s “Cove” center in North Carolina, etc.

Dr. Wiersbe made a commitment to the ecumenical philosophy as a young preacher. At his ordination in 1951, he was asked what he “thought about fundamental churches joining with liberal churches in evangelistic meetings.” He replied, “If God could use an unclean raven to feed Elijah, maybe He could even use a liberal” (*Be Myself*, p. 86). He dodged the question and should not have been ordained. The issue is not whether God can use a liberal in some way; the issue is whether it is right

according to God’s Word for a Bible believer to yoke together in ministry with an unbeliever, and the answer is a resounding “no”! When Wiersbe was at Moody, he supported Moody’s policy “to give the speakers a list of things not to do or say” (p. 164). This is the ecumenical principle of limiting the message for the sake of a broader tent of ministry, and there is zero authority in Scripture for such a thing. The command to “preach the Word” is the command to preach all of the Word, and the command to earnestly contend for the faith once delivered unto the saints is the command to contend for all of it. Later Wiersbe said, “I see my convictions, not as walls to isolate me from others, but as bridges to help me reach out to others” (p. 216), and, “I thank God that He has given me a ministry of the Word that leaps over denominational walls and manmade barriers” (p. 322).

Wiersbe’s autobiography ends with a slanderous mischaracterization of biblical separation and *not a word of warning* about the worldliness and apostasy that is spreading everywhere in his world of “evangelicalism” today. He couldn’t say with the apostle Paul, “I have fought a good fight,” because he didn’t believe in the fight.

In the 1980s, when I was a young missionary in South Asia, I wrote to Dr. Wiersbe, who was then an advisory editor of *Christianity Today* and still sometimes spoke at fundamentalist forums. (He had spoken at Tennessee Temple when I was a student there in the 1970s.) In my letter, I asked him how he could be associated with a publication like *Christianity Today* that promoted all sorts of heresies and heretics, including the “evangelical Catholic” error. He wrote back that “some of us need to take off our gloves and pick up a towel. Perhaps if people began to wash one another’s feet, there might be more love and unity.” In other words, he advised me to stop worrying about things like doctrinal purity and be

concerned solely with a positive approach to Christianity. I considered his advice before the Lord and tested it with God's Word and determined that Dr. Wiersbe's counsel was unscriptural and therefore dangerous. The Lord has plainly and emphatically instructed me to stand for doctrinal purity, to rebuke error, and separate from it (e.g., Ro. 16:17; 1 Co. 15:33; 2 Co. 6:14-18; 11:1-4; Ga. 1:6-9; Eph. 5:11; 1 Ti. 1:3; 6:3-5; 2 Ti. 3:5; 4:3-4; 2 Jo. 1:7-11; Jude 1:3; Re. 2:6, etc.), and as a young preacher I determined to obey God in these "hard things" regardless of the counsel of popular evangelical leaders.

As the years passed, Dr. Wiersbe became increasingly weak in spiritual discernment, in fulfillment of 1 Corinthians 15:33, "Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners." In his later years, he even recommended *The Message*, the most corrupt version in existence. He made this amazing statement, "*The Message* is the boldest and most provocative rendering of the New Testament I've ever read." In fact, *The Message* is more like a New Age channeling than a true Bible translation. Eugene Peterson, translator of *The Message*, was a universalist who recommended Rob Bell's book *Love Wins*, which says that hell is in this life and most men will eventually be saved. Peterson was a big pro-

motor of Roman Catholic contemplative mysticism and did not believe that homosexuality is a sin. The church he pastored hired a homosexual minister of music.

Consider a couple of quotes from *The Message* which was so heartily praised by Warren Wiersbe:

Matthew 5:3

KJV "Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

MESSAGE "You're blessed when you're at the end of your rope. With less of you there is more of God and his rule."

Comment: Being poor in spirit means to be at the end of your rope? If that were true, vast numbers of unsaved people are candidates for heaven!

Matthew 5:8

KJV "Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God."

MESSAGE "You're blessed when you get your inside world, your mind and heart, put right. Then you can see God in the outside world."

Comment: This must be transcendental, because it doesn't make any non-transcendental sense.



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Bill Gothard's Mysticism and Umbrella of Authority

HERESY

By David Cloud



The following is excerpted from Don and Joy Veinot, “Bill Gothard,” [MidWestOutreach.org](https://midwestoutreach.org/2023/06/08/bill-gothard-and-the-unpaid-bills-of-the-church/), June 8, 2023, <https://midwestoutreach.org/2023/06/08/bill-gothard-and-the-unpaid-bills-of-the-church/>

If one does not fully understand Bill Gothard’s core foundational teaching, one won’t understand why it has had such a negative impact on his followers. His foundational teaching, which informs everything else, is his **“umbrella of authority” doctrine**. ...

Bill Gothard is a mystic and a religious eclectic. He eschews studying the Bible in its historical-grammatical context and instead claims he memorizes large portions of Scripture and waits for God to give him the rhemas--a purportedly inspired inerrant *meaning of the text*. We can see how much power over people this would give him. A supposedly inspired meaning of a text cannot be checked by anything as mundane as making sure to read the Bible *in its context*. It is a sort of Bibliomancy, an occultic misuse of the scriptures to obtain their meaning by a mystical influx supposedly. Very often, the meaning he derives is not at all connected to the text in its historical-grammatical context but very conveniently seems to support Gothard’s very *unbiblical* ideas.

On the first night of the first basic seminar, Bill Gothard explains that authority is an “umbrella of protection.” Those who stay under their “umbrella of protection,” the dictates of their alleged “authority figure,” will be protected from temptation and life’s troubles, etc., and they will prosper. On the other hand, if they get out from under their umbrella of protection, they are in rebellion, and rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft. To imbue this teaching with supposed biblical authority and scare people into unwarranted submission, Gothard quotes a portion of 1 Samuel 15:23, as you might guess, out of context:

For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft (KJV)

In the context of 1 Samuel 23, Samuel is addressing King Saul for his flagrant disobedience to specific instructions he had received *from the Lord*. Gothard’s tying these together creates what we might call the “authority prosperity gospel.” If you stay under your authority, you will be blessed beyond your expectations. On the other hand, if you get out from under Gothard’s imagined “umbrella of protection,” you are in rebellion, which is as bad as the sin of witchcraft. Your punishment will be personal pain, and your life will lack prosperity.

In an effort to make the umbrella teaching sound biblical to his audience, Bill uses the story of the Roman Centurion in Matthew 8:5-13:

After the centurion asked Jesus to come and heal his servant, it occurred to him that just as his life was structured around a “chain of responsibility,” so the kingdom in which God operates must have a similar structure of authority.”

Here is a multiple-choice quiz for our readers. Is the point of the above passage to teach:

- A) that God’s kingdom is structured around a chain of responsibility/umbrella of protection? OR
- B) to teach Who Jesus is, that He is God and can heal long distance? ...

Another major problem with Gothard’s umbrella teaching – as borrowed from First Century Roman authoritarian practice – is his example of Jesus as a child. Gothard takes the story of the 12-year-old Jesus who remained behind when his family and their caravan left for home. (Luke 2:41-52) When his parents returned frantically looking for Him, according to Gothard, Jesus had to

make the “tough decision” to get back under his parent’s umbrella of protection.

The first time we met with Gothard in his office, we verified each step of his umbrella teaching and his story of Jesus having to make this “tough decision.” We pointed out that if Jesus had to decide to *get back under* his parent’s umbrella of protection, that necessarily implies He had gotten out from under it, to begin with.

If Gothard’s teaching is correct, Jesus was in rebellion against His authority – and rebellion such as this is as the sin of witchcraft, according to Gothard. So, either Gothard’s teaching is wrong, OR Jesus is a sinner. After a few minutes of silence, Gothard simply stated his teaching is correct, and Jesus isn’t a sinner – but he couldn’t explain how that worked.

It doesn’t work – that’s the problem, and it is a major “problem.” Pastor Don Owsley also picked up on this when he heard Bill state, “Don’t be like Jesus when he disobeyed his parents!”

In this setting, the authoritarian leader wields God as a big club to threaten any of his followers who may question or disobey his dictates.

Gothardism is, like the First Century Roman culture, a Patriocentric system in which females are personal property and must obey their male authority without question. To do any less than blindly obey is to get out from under their umbrella of protection and risk God’s wrath.

At the wedding of his daughter, a father transfers his authority over his daughter to his new son-in-law. The husband is now her “leader,” who she must hear and obey unquestioningly. If a father passes away, his authority over his wife and family passes from the father to the eldest son, according to Gothard.

And here is another way a woman can be passed from authority to authority – If she is sent to work at IBLP “Headquarters,” the authority over her passes from her father to Gothard himself. Wow. That type of “ownership authority” is not biblical at all and can and does produce *horrendous* outcomes.

The previous is excerpted from Don and Joy Veinot, “Bill Gothard,” MidWestOutreach.org, June 8, 2023.

CONCLUDING NOTE FROM BRO. CLOUD ABOUT SUBMISSION TO AUTHORITY

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Consider Hebrews 13:7, 17, and 24. The word for “rule” is *hegeomai*, meaning “to lead the way, to be chief, to preside, govern” (Mounce). It is translated “governor” (2 times, Mt. 2:6; Ac. 7:10) and “chief” (4 times, Lu. 22:26; Ac. 14:12; 15:22, 23). Pastors have real authority but it is not a lordly authority after a worldly sense; it is a shepherd’s authority. “*Neither as being lords over God’s heritage, but being ensamples to the flock*” (1 Pe. 5:3). We see this in Hebrews 13:17, where the ruler’s role is described in terms of watching for souls. See also Mr. 10:42-45; 1 Co. 3:5-9; 2 Co. 1:24; 3 Jo. 1:9-10.

The pastor’s job is in the spiritual sphere. In contrast, some pastors have attempted to lord it over every aspect of people’s lives, interfering with their every decision, wanting the people to be dependent on them, forbidding the people to do things that are not forbidden in Scripture, and putting obligations upon them that go beyond the bounds of Scripture.

The word in Hebrews 13:17 translated “obey” (*peitho*) is not the normal Greek word for obey (which is *nupakouo*, Eph. 6:1, 5; Col. 3:20, 22; 2 Th. 3:14; Heb. 5:9; 11:8; 1 Pe. 3:6). *Peitho* is translated “persuade” 22 times. The meaning is “to be persuadable.” It reminds us of the Bereans who “received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so” (Ac. 17:11). They were ready and eager to obey Paul if they could see that he was teaching according to Scripture. To obey the church leaders properly is a “readiness” kind of obedience. Compare Titus 3:1, “to be ready to every good work.” It is to be ready to obey, eager to obey, cheerful to obey. The Corinthians had this mindset in regard to giving (“a ready mind,” 2 Co. 8:19; 9:2). It is the mindset of submission to God and His Word which makes one eager to obey those He puts over me, so long as they are faithful to God’s Word. It is the opposite of being stubborn and resistant to the man’s teaching and leading. It is the opposite of being a hearer but not a doer. The *peitho* mindset is the one that brings spiritual growth and

blessing. It is the mindset that produces a godly, unified, fruitful church. *Peitho* is also translated “trust” nine times (2 Co. 1:9; 10:7; Php. 2:24; 3:4; Heb. 2:13; 13:18), so it has the idea of submitting in a trusting way. But the trust is not in man; it is in God.

When I obey them that have the rule over me, I am trusting God to lead them and give them wisdom. I am trusting the God who has ordained that the churches be led by certain men who have authority to be rulers. “Thus, this is not blind obedience to which our teacher refers, but obedience after thoughtful consideration that results in persuasion--all the stronger base for obedience.

Those of us who demand obedience without reason, although that is necessary at times of childhood or emergency, are likely to get chameleon Christians who change orientation every time some golden-mouthed authoritarian happens along” (*The Preacher’s Commentary*).

In Hebrews 13:7, we see that “*the word of God*” is the standard. As long as the leaders are speaking the Word of God and leading according to the Word of God, they are to be obeyed. “They are not to make laws of their own, but to interpret the laws of God; nor is their interpretation to be immediately received without examination, but the people must search the scriptures, and so far as the instructions of their minister are according to that rule they ought to receive them” (Matthew Henry).

When Peter and the apostles were commanded by the religious leaders to stop preaching in Jesus’ name, they answered, “We ought to obey God rather than men” (Acts 5:29).

God is always the highest authority, and His Word is always the highest standard.





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

This key passage on congregational singing describes a true New Testament church, which is the only kind of church that can sing after the fashion that God has commanded. It is a church in which all of the members are born again and indwelt by the Spirit and in whom the Word of Christ dwells richly in all wisdom. This is not a biblically shallow church. It is not a church in which only a few of the members are serious Bible students. It is not a church that knows the Scripture only intellectually. It is a church that knows the Scripture in all practical wisdom, a church in which the Word of God is transforming the lives of God’s people so that they are lights in a dark world. It is a congregation that exercises the “one another” ministry of teaching and admonishing that is further described in Ephesians 4:11-16. We urge churches to sing the Psalms as God commands and to continually expand their repertoire of songs and hymns to include an ever-increasing number of those of challenging theological depth.

The long meter tune (8.8.8.8.) to Psalm 100 in the Scottish Psalter is called the “Old Hundredth.”

The tune was written by Louis Bourgeois for Psalm 134 in the Geneva Psalter and was adapted by William Kethe for Psalm 100 in the Scottish Psalter of 1561. Kethe was one of the translators of the Geneva Bible. Isaac Watts’ rendition of Psalm 100 is written for long meter and can be sung to this tune. The tune was adapted by Vaughn Williams for the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in 1953. It is used for the Doxology that appears in most Baptist hymnals (“Praise God from whom all blessings flow...”).

Psalm 100 is another psalm of praise in the Messianic kingdom. It is a little jewel of prophecy of infinite value. This is the theme of many psalms.

See Ps. 22:25-31; 33:1-22; 48:10-11; 57:7-11; 66:1-8; 68:3-4, 24-29, 31-35; 71:22-24; 72:17-19; 81:1-3; 87:5-7; Ps. 92-100 and Ps. 145-150. The whole earth will worship Christ as God (Ps. 100:1) and learn of Him (Ps. 100:3). Joy will abound (“a joyful noise ... with gladness” Ps. 100:1-2). The millennial temple will resound with praise by redeemed Israel, and the Church, and international pilgrims (“his gates ... his courts” Ps. 100:4).

“The prevailing thought throughout this psalm is that Jesus is crowned on earth at last. He has been acclaimed the world’s rightful king. We are not merely following the plea of a godly Levite for the reunification of the tribes. This psalm goes far beyond that. Here we have the fulfillment of Isaiah’s vision of a millennial earth, of Jerusalem as the world’s capital, of Israel as head of the nations, of the Hebrew people as administrators of the new covenant, and of the Lord reigning in person as king.

Isaiah envisioned the temple in Jerusalem as ‘a house of prayer for all peoples’ (Isa. 56:7). He foresaw the day when the Lord would ‘gather together all nations and tongues to come and see His glory,’ the day when ‘all flesh shall come in and bow down before Me, saith the Lord’ (Isa. 66:18,23). As Rotherham says: ‘Unless we are prepared to turn the whole Old Testament into allegory, a hundred texts are at hand to shew that there will be such a center in the final theocracy.’ ... During the millennium the gatherings in Jerusalem will be joyous pilgrimages for all mankind. There will be so much to see, so much to learn. Jerusalem and the temple will be the fountainhead of everything. Jesus will be there. The twelve apostles will be there, sitting on twelve thrones and judging the twelve tribes of Israel” (John Phillips).

Psalm 100 can be applied to the church age, as the gospel call for all people to be saved and the call for believers to worship the Lord, but the literal fulfillment is in the millennial age. “How often is this Psalm used in a spiritualised way, making the gates and the courts some church building. But we worship in Spirit and in Truth and not in an earthly house. The gates and courts have reference to that future Temple, which will be a house of prayer for all nations” (*Annotated Bible*).



Music score and words (Scottish Psalter)

<https://hymnary.org/media/fetch/140261>

Other tunes for long meter

<https://hymnary.org/search?qu=meter%3A8.8.8.8%20in%3Atunes&sort=totalInstances>

Psalm 100 - Scottish Psalter

- 1 All people that on earth do dwell,
Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice.
- 2 Him serve with mirth, his praise forth tell,
Come ye before him and rejoice.
- 3 Know that the Lord is God indeed;
Without our aid he did us make:
We are his flock, he doth us feed,



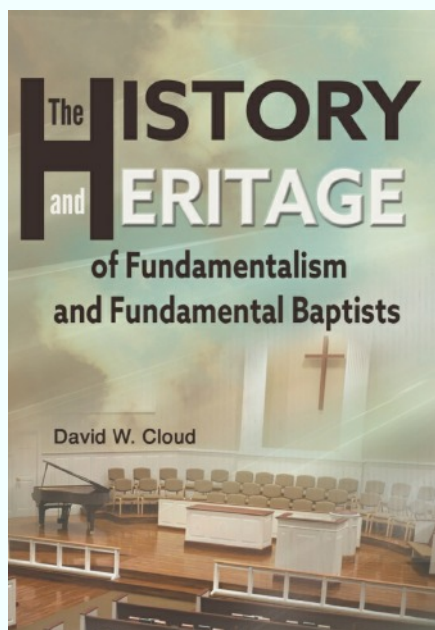
And for his sheep he doth us take.

4 O enter then his gates with praise,
Approach with joy his courts unto:
Praise, laud, and bless his name always,
For it is seemly so to do.

5 For why? the Lord our God is good,
His mercy is for ever sure;
His truth at all times firmly stood,
And shall from age to age endure.

Psalm 100 - Isaac Watts

Ye nations round the earth, rejoice
Before the Lord, your sovereign King;
Serve him with cheerful heart and voice,
With all your tongues his glory sing.
The Lord is God; 'tis he alone
Doth life, and breath, and being give;
We are his work, and not our own,
The sheep that on his pastures live.
Enter his gates with songs of joy,
With praises to his courts repair;
And make it your divine employ
To pay your thanks and honors there.
The Lord is good, the Lord is kind,
Great is his grace, his mercy sure;
And the whole race of man shall find
His truth from age to age endure.



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.



Available From Way of Life Literature

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

Tips For

FAMILY DEVOTIONS

By David Cloud



The daily family altar (family devotion) is very important. It is a time when the family can meet regularly and consistently to worship God and study His Word. It is a time to read the Bible and discuss it. It is a time to memorize Scripture. It is a time to pray together.

Pastor Gene Haymaker says,

“The day of family altars is disappearing as quickly as our youth. Families have relegated the teaching of biblical truth to their church and to their Christian schools. It is my belief that the number of homes having a family altar, where the entire family is involved, would directly correspond to the percentage of young people leaving the church. The primary agency for teaching children biblical truth is the home.”

Dave Sorenson gives this following advice for family altars,

Every family’s schedule will be different, but we found doing so at the breakfast table to work well. Let us consider several pointers for establishing a simple, but ongoing family devotions.

HAVE A PURPOSE. Over the years we focused on primarily two areas in our family devotions. One was to explain the matter of salvation to our children. They needed to understand the need for it, what Christ did for us on the cross, and the way to be saved. When our children were young and before they were saved, we often focused our daily devotions on this crucial topic. The other major matter we focused on was Christian and godly character. Because the practice of righteousness is at the heart of Christian character, all throughout their formative years, we repeatedly discussed the

principle of righteousness, the practice thereof, and verses which illustrated these.

HAVE A PLAN. One route to success for a family devotion time is having a simple operational plan which does not require a great deal of preparation. One method we have used over the years, particularly in teaching godliness and righteousness, is to take one chapter of Proverbs a day according to the days of the month. For example, if the day of the month is the 29th, I would go to Proverbs 29. There I would seek out a verse or two which stood out and go over it very briefly. Once we had gone through Proverbs, we might then go to Psalms and look for an appropriate verse in a three chapter sequence. For example, if the day of the month was the 15th, I might peruse Psalm 45-47 for a verse to dwell upon. (There are 150 Psalms and seeking a good verse over three chapters was simple and always worked.) Of course, we might go elsewhere to deal with specific problems. Having a well-marked Bible wherein verses which have blessed us or otherwise stood out were underlined made it very easy to conduct family devotions this way. That underlining was done during personal Bible reading times. We then had a season of prayer wherein various members of the family took turns praying.

KEEP IT SIMPLE. One of the great hindrances to family devotions is that most people do not have a long-term method of sustaining a day-after-day and year-after-year devotional plan. The plan mentioned above is simple and eminently Scriptural. It is virtually inexhaustible. Most parents are very busy with the affairs of life and don’t have time to prepare extensive family

devotions. Pre-planned devotional guides cost money and usually run out after a month or two. However you do it, have a simple plan of teaching your children the things of God. God has given that charge to the parents in general and to the father in particular (Sorenson, *Training Your Children to Turn Out Right*).

Pastor Ken Shaver describes his family's devotions as follows,

"In the Shaver family, devotions consist of a moment of Scripture memorization, a time of singing, a time of Bible reading (sometimes we also read a Christian biography or story like *Pilgrim's Progress*), and a short period of prayer. We always have tried to include all the family, maybe one reading, one picking out a song, one praying, and everyone quoting Scripture. We also do not try to make it an in depth Bible Study, although as our children grew older, we would spend a few weeks on issues like modesty, biblical principles for entertainment, and other relevant things. Additionally, we would work very hard at keeping it light, and upbeat. In our home, we just tried to take a few minutes to focus on the things of God and, as I mentioned earlier, draw closer together. There are many good family devotion books available, but most of the time we would just take a different chapter of the Bible and take turns reading it."

The Eric Taylor family -

The Lord placed a burden for more prayer in our family several years ago. Prayer has given us a Pilgrim mindset and helped us have a Biblical perspective in our daily lives. How thankful we are that our Lord desires to have such a personal relationship with us.

My family has a nightly family prayer time. Each family member shares a personal prayer request for each day. Often, we share it through a family-wide texting group during the day, but we also sometimes wait to share it with the family at night.

On Fridays we each provide a personal Praise....we call it Praise Friday. Our prayer time starts by coming together and one family member

giving a devotional about what they are reading and studying from the Bible from their personal Bible reading time. Each family member has a specific night that they are responsible for, so they can be prepared. The same person picks a Psalter for us all to sing out of our Isaac Watts Psalter. We then, share each of our prayer requests. Often, we discuss some of them in more detail. Then we pray silently together for 16 minutes for each other's requests. Next, we pray silently for 5 minutes for a specific ongoing "family-related request" which changes as needs arise. During these 5 minutes we also pray for our country and Israel.

Our family also prays individually for a specific block of time during the day. We each do this a little differently. Our times range from 20 minutes to over 30 minutes. Several of us have specific prayer lists that are updated often but prayed over each day. We also pray for our children's future spouses and their ministries.

One of our sons has recently started fasting one day a week for a specific burden that the Lord has placed on his heart.

Through the years our times have increased, and we have added different ideas such as our Psalter singing. We have really seen our family grow spiritually and have made life-changing decisions through the leading of the Lord. Our family plans to continue this sharing of prayer requests and prayer time even after they each leave our house and start their own families.

We are very thankful for our prayer times. They are precious to us, and we desire to continue to grow in this commitment.

Pastor Bobby Mitchell, Jr. -

Our family devotions are usually at the dinner table following the eating. I start with the youngest and we each give thanks to the Lord for some thing. We work on the passage that our church is memorizing. I often teach through that passage over a period of several days or a few weeks. If not teaching through a passage we are memorizing I am teaching through a book. I have taught

Matthew through Colossians to them. I am currently teaching them through second Peter.

I like to read the verse or verses and ask what they think the Bible is saying there. It makes them think. It reveals a lot of their understanding or lack there of.

We share prayer requests and I lead in prayer. Sometimes I have one or two others pray out loud too. I've found it best to not have a long meeting. Some men have what amounts to another church service for family devotions. I intentionally don't allow myself to say too much. We all have private devotions too, of course. The Lord seems to be blessing all of this. I'm thankful.

Pastor Chris Starr -

Thank you for your burden to write on the *Keeping the Kids*. Below are few things that may be helpful. I by no means am an expert. Yet, I believe God led me on many fronts in those times we had.

On one occasion we dealt with how to handle a situation where a friend tries to swear you to secrecy and the next day it happened and two of my kids said, Dad, you won't believe what happened. We had to put into practice what you taught us last night. God reminded me of the great value of time with God as a family.

Our family devotions over the years has included

- Training focuses (over 100 of them)
- Reading and discussing a chapter of Proverbs
- Learning how to study the Bible in different ways
- Acting out Bible stories when they were younger
- Practicing good manners
- Reading books together when they were teens
- Teaching series like *What If they Say - Defending your beliefs and standards with others*
- Writing and praying for missionaries
- Memorizing chapter themes and portions of Scripture
- Singing

- Creating scenarios that they may face and how to react Biblically
- Times of tightening things up
- Addressing problems
- Dealing with sloppy speech
- Teaching when to use the church altar
- Times where we go around and let each one compliment another for something they appreciate about them
- Teaching and talking through how courtship works
- Developing your own guard rails and safeguards.
- Being responsible

Prayer times consisted of praying for church needs, missionaries, tender hearts for all of us, family needs, extended family members lost neighbors.

We have seen three lost neighbors come to Christ, the most recent being a drunk who lives across the street. All of whom we prayed for!

These are just a few things we have implemented over the years.

Pastor Simeon Western -

1. Aim for something that is realistic and doable on a day to day basis time wise rather than aiming for something idealistic which may lead to discouragement and ultimately giving up when it is not attained. I have said for some time now that it is better to do a little each day and maintain it in the long term than to be hit and miss.

Training children is a day after day, week after week and year after year exercise. Home schooling presents the opportunity for constant training and discipleship of our children so the devotions, while important, are only one facet of the overall picture. Even if the devotional times are brief but done consistently, over time there is a cumulative benefit.

I am not at all suggesting we shouldn't aim to have quality devotions as families and give the time to it that it deserves. Some days the devotion time will be longer and other times it will need to be

shorter, depending on the family schedule and what is happening. Flexibility is important but the critical thing is to MAINTAIN devotions each day as consistently as possible. Obviously on a Sunday devotions are not often possible due to being at church for morning and evening services but other than that, devotions can be done the other days of the week.

2. Try to be creative and use a variety of devotional resources. This helps to keep the children's interest. It also can help cater for the different ages of the children. For example:

- Read straight out of the Bible. We have read whole Books together this way. This should be the primary method. I have always tried to encourage the children to ask as many questions as they desire, even if some of the questions can be childish at times. This is because I don't want our children to just put their minds in neutral when it comes time for Bible reading. I want them engaged and interested. We have often been surprised at the insightful and interesting questions children ask! Sometimes they require real thought on the part of the parent to answer. I will also often take the initiative to explain the meaning of a word or make brief comments as I read.

- Read Bible story books with visuals. This is great for the younger children and often helps them be more engaged. Our favourite Bible story book so far is called *101 Favourite Stories from the Bible* by Ura Miller. It is one of the rare Bible story books that has Jesus with short hair. Apart from a few places, we have found it is pretty accurate to the Scriptures. It also contains a verse for parents at the end and several review questions. The children love answering the questions and they listen carefully when they know questions will be asked at the end. We have even done small rewards (e.g., a small chocolate) at the end if they can answer the questions. I will often add questions of my own.

- Read other devotional books with short stories and Bible applications. We enjoyed the two volumes entitled *From Grandpa with Love* available from Bible Truth Publishers. They

contain short stories from the farm with Gospel applications.

- *The Daily Light* (KJV). This contains a daily reading of Scripture under a certain theme. Sometimes we use this if we are pressed for time.

3. Aim for devotions both morning and evening.

- Morning Devotions: In our case, my wife usually does the morning devotion with the children before they start their schooling for the day. Also, I am usually gone for the day by then to the office for study so it works best for my wife to do it. A major emphasis of our morning devotions is Scripture memory with the children. Our children have learned multiple chapters of the Bible during these morning devotional times. One of the best resources we came across as a family about 7-8 years ago was a DVD called *Scripture Talk*. In this DVD, they put hand actions to memory verses and teach the children whole passages of Scripture that way. Children love doing actions to things. This resource has had a huge impact on our family in the area of Scripture memorization. Not only did our children watch the DVD repeatedly and learn the passages of Scripture on the DVD, we took the idea and started learning our own chapters of the Bible, making up our own hand actions as we go. The children LOVE suggesting different hand actions for the verses which makes it a fun, creative and enjoyable exercise. My wife also has a prize box with small items in it and when they complete a certain number of verses and can recite them on their own, they get to choose something from the prize box. To us, there is no greater investment than having our children memorize the Word of God at a young age so we are more than happy to give them small rewards to encourage them along the way. We have been amazed how even the youngest members of the family (e.g., age 3-4 years) also learn the verses! The minds of young children are like sponges that soak in information and that period of their lives presents a unique opportunity to fill their hearts and minds with God's truth. [This DVD might be available through Amazon.]

- Evening devotions. I usually lead this one at the end of the day after the evening meal. This is

usually when we do our readings as per the list above. Sometimes the children will recite their memory verses to me at this time also. It is important that the father, as head of the home, leads at least one of the devotions for the day.

More Tips for Fruitful Family Prayers

- As a minimum, the father needs to lead the family in prayer at the end of family devotions. Sometimes there will only be time for the father to pray, depending on how the day has worked out. This is especially true in a pastor's home where ministry sometimes brings variations into the daily routine.

- Often we pray around the table and encourage even the youngest members of the family to pray. Even if they aren't saved yet, we want to cultivate prayer as a pattern and habit of life in their hearts and minds.

- One tool we have found that has really helped us with family prayers is a prayer box. The children love it! Basically it is comprised of a cardboard box with a square hole in the top. My wife made ours with the children, including decorating the outside with a nice paper. We then write prayer points/needs on small cards and put them in the box. Prayer needs include family members, church folk, missionaries as well as other specific needs. At family prayer time at the end of family devotions, one of the children takes the box around the table and each child draws out 2-3 cards (They love volunteering to be the box carrier!!!). We then pray around the table with each member of the family praying through his/her prayer cards. We have found this helps keep the family prayer time fresh. Otherwise children tend to end up praying for the same things each day (e.g., bless my teddy, mummy and daddy!). Again, variation and creativity are important and help maintain the children's interest. It also teaches the children that God answers prayers as cards with specific needs get supplied. For example, about 5 years ago we wrote a prayer card that God would provide us with our own home. We prayed about this as a family for some time and the Lord provided. We were able to rejoice as a family that God had answered that prayer card!

Pastor Nathan Searle -

I certainly see family devotions as a very crucial component to any spiritual success of our family. It is one of the key recommendations that I make to our church and school families who are desiring to honour the Lord and train up godly children. I encourage our school students to be ever so thankful if the Lord has placed them in a family where there is a faithful family altar and to do all they can to encourage their parents in that endeavour.

Our devotions consist of time in the Word, family prayer and hymn singing. I either use a suitable book as our focus on the Word or we read through some Scripture.

We are currently working through *The Teenage Years of Christ* by Pastor Jerry Ross which has been a great challenge. I ask the Lord to help me make our family devotion time alive, helpful, reverent and honouring to the Lord.

Our time together commences as we briefly ask the Lord to speak to our hearts and prepare us for what He has for us to learn from Him. We begin our time in the Word by briefly reviewing where we have been in the section that we are studying which I find also helps us all to remember what the Lord has been speaking to us about over the previous days. I seek to engage the children and ask questions as we go along to help them remain engaged and also remember what they have learned.

Our devotion times become quite extended sometimes when they start asking further questions around the theme of whatever we are studying. These are times that I really cherish as we are able to discuss issues and questions that are on their heart giving me opportunity to point them to the Scriptures for the answers.

Our prayer time consists of discussing points of prayer to petition, thank and praise the Lord. We have a copy of our midweek church meeting prayer points which we also refer to. Each child prays and I finish off at the end. Our devotion time concludes with the singing of three hymns which

are chosen by anyone in the family...first in, best dressed. Although there are a few of us that play piano, we sing acapella, as it enables all of us to sing and the children sing harmony. Our devotion time usually goes for about 45min.

I asked my children if they would like to write something about how they view our family devotion time together, and they have replied as follows:

Maryanne (7)

I look forward to devotions because I want to learn about the Lord. I love what we do in our devotions. I love how we sing together.

Simeon (12)

Family devotions, it's a time that we as a family spend each night in the Word and with each other (excluding Sundays and Tuesdays because we have church or prayer meeting on those days). I think family devotions is a great blessing to our family and a real reminder to us of how good, mighty, loving, and real our God is. Family devotions for me is a great encouragement and a tool that God can use if I (and any of the rest of the family) am downhearted, scared, or tempted. I am thankful that my dad takes time off his busy schedule and reads us the Bible, prays, and sings with us each night.

Isaiah (15)

Every night I look forward to our family devotions. I really value being able to spend time

with my family in praying, singing, and reading the Bible. I enjoy hearing my dad expand on God's Word which is very helpful as he brings the scripture to life and makes it more relatable to everyday life. I have learned in devotions how important it is to have integrity and always tell the truth. This study has helped me to overcome many temptations in my life and live a more successful life.

Missionary Bob Nichols says,

"I try to lead my family to memorize 14 verses a month. We'll go over the verses as a family, and what a tremendous help that's been."

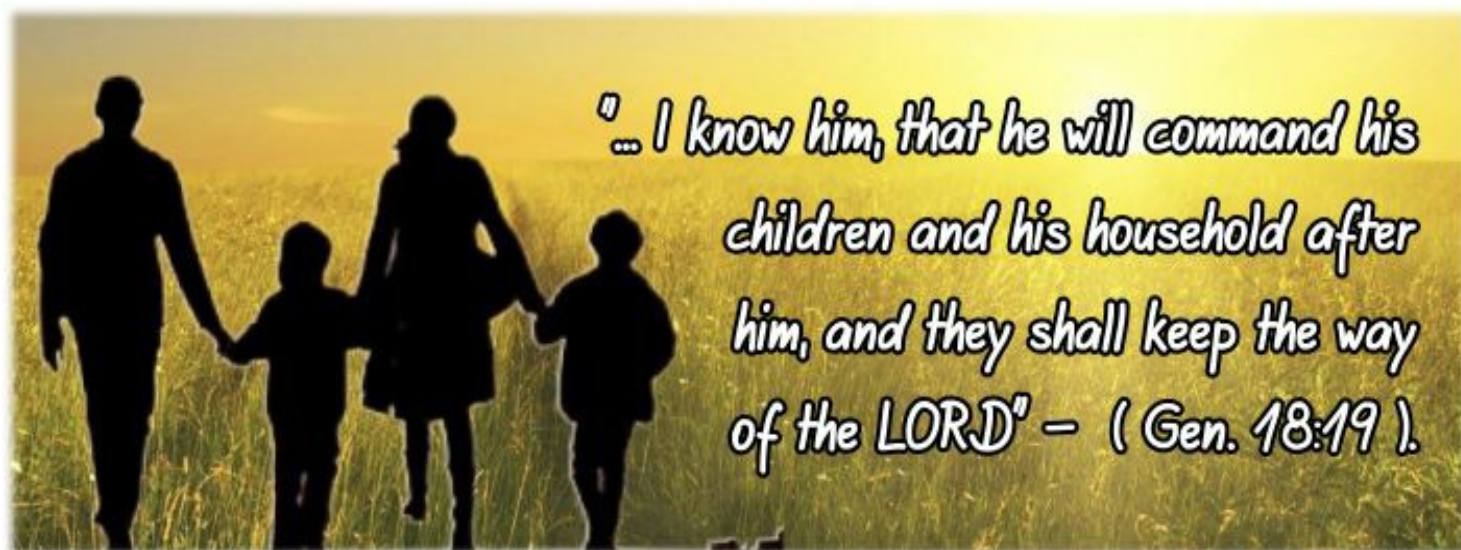
There are many things beyond Bible study and memorization that can be done during family devotions when time permits.

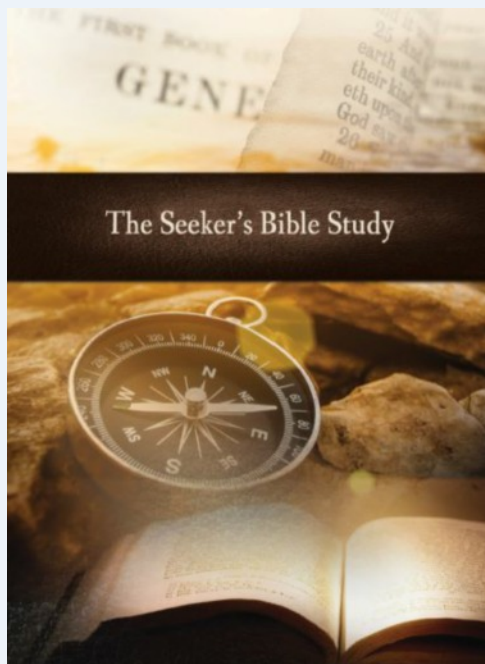
The family can read biographies together and discuss them. They can read material pertaining to creation science.

The book *A Closer Look at the Evidence* by Richard and Tina Kleiss contains 365 interesting brief studies on fascinating facts of life that support creation. It is available in a KJV edition from Bethel Baptist Bookstore at:

<https://bethelbaptist.ca/bookstore/>.

Nothing, of course, should take the place of studying the Bible itself and effectual prayer.





The Seeker's Bible Study

By David Cloud

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

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

This is followed by practical studies on repentance and faith.

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

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

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

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

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

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

SCIENTISTS REINCARNATING THE WOOLLY MAMMOTH

(Friday Church News Notes, February 17, 2023, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

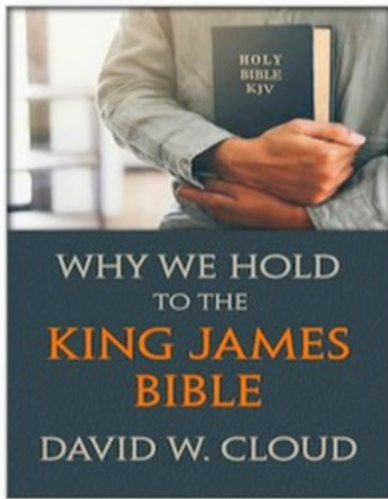
The following is excerpted from "Scientists Are Reincarnating," *Popular Mechanics*, Jan. 30, 2023: "The long-dead woolly mammoth will make its return from extinction by 2027, says Colossal, the biotech company actively working to reincarnate the ancient beast. Last year, the Dallas-based firm scored an additional \$60 million in funding to continue mammoth gene-editing work it started in 2021. If successful, not only will Colossal bring back an extinct species--one the company dubs a cold-resistant elephant--but it will also reintroduce the woolly mammoth to the same ecosystem in which it once lived in an effort to fight climate change, according to a recent *Medium* post. Colossal calls the woolly mammoth's vast migration patterns an active part of preserving the health of the Arctic, and so bringing the animal back to life can have a beneficial impact on the health of the world's ecosystem. While Colossal originally hoped to reintroduce the woolly mammoth into Siberia, the company may explore other options based on the current political framework of the world."

BACTERIAL PHYSICISTS AND CHEMISTS

(Friday Church News Notes, July 7, 2023, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is from CreationMoments.com, June 16, 2023: "Some types of bacteria are able to go into a state of suspended animation when living conditions become too harsh. Not only do they change their form and appearance, they are amazingly able to change their DNA structure to avoid damage from harmful types of light! Like other living things, bacteria need the right temperatures, the right amount of moisture, and other conditions that support life. When conditions change, bacteria are too tiny to move to better conditions. However, they can *sporulate*. When living conditions become too harsh, some bacteria encase themselves into a tough coating of protein and enter a state of suspended animation. As spores, bacteria can rest in bone dry soil for up to 60 years waiting for rain. Ultraviolet radiation poses another danger to bacteria. This light damages a bacterium's DNA at a point where two thymine molecules sit next to each other. The light strikes the molecules and twists them. The result can be fatal to bacteria. So when a bacterium



begins to go into spore form, it produces a protein that slightly and harmlessly changes the shape of these two thymine molecules so that they are not affected by ultraviolet light. The entire process by which bacteria go into spore form reflects a sophisticated knowledge of both biochemistry and physics. Even in the lowly bacteria, our Creator has made it clear that He and He alone deserves the credit for the creation in which we live! REF: Weiss, R, 'New light on bacterial DNA protection,' *Science News*, v. 139, Jan. 12, 1991. p. 21."



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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?



SUPREME COURT ISSUES MAJOR RELIGIOUS LIBERTY RULING (Friday Church News Notes, July 7, 2023, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The following is excerpted from "Supreme Court Rules in Favor," *Fox News*, June 30, 2023: "The U.S. Supreme Court held that a Colorado graphic designer who wants to make wedding websites does not have to create them for same-sex marriages, in a landmark decision that pit the interests of LGBTQ non-discrimination against First Amendment freedom. In a 6-3 decision issued Friday, the high court ruled in favor of artist Lorie Smith, who sued the state over its anti-discrimination law that prohibited businesses providing sales or other accommodations to the public from denying service based on a customer's sexual orientation. Justice Neil Gorsuch authored the majority opinion, which said that, 'In this case, Colorado seeks to force an individual to speak in ways that align with its views but defy her conscience about a matter of major significance.' 'But, as this Court has long held, the opportunity to think for ourselves and to express those thoughts freely is among our most cherished liberties and part of what keeps our Republic strong,' Gorsuch continued. 'But tolerance, not coercion, is our Nation's answer. The First

Amendment envisions the United States as a rich and complex place where all persons are free to think and speak as they wish, not as the government demands. Because Colorado seeks to deny that promise, the judgment is reversed,' he concluded. ... Smith told *Fox News Digital* in a March 2022 interview, 'I think it's important for people to understand that I love and welcome the opportunity to work with all people. My case has never been about choosing which client to work with, but about choosing the message that I'm being asked to promote.' ... 'I've had my home address put on social media, I have received many threats-death threats, threats of bodily harm,' she said in December. 'The security system on my home, my child's school has been on alert. I've lost business, my clients have been harassed and my website ... people attempt to hack into it, almost regularly by the hour.' **Despite this, Smith said she did not regret going to court. 'The right to speak freely is guaranteed to all of us, and that's been hard at times,' she said. 'While it has come at a cost, it's a right worth protecting.'**"

SUPREME COURT ISSUES VERDICT SUPPORTING POSTAL WORKER'S RELIGIOUS LIBERTY (Friday Church News Notes, July 7, 2023, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The following is excerpted from "Landmark win," *Christian Headlines*, June 29, 2023: "The U.S. Supreme Court on Thursday delivered a major win to a former USPS postal carrier who says he was forced out of his job because his religious request to not participate in Sunday deliveries was denied. The justices, in a 9-0 decision, vacated a



lower court ruling against the worker and clarified what is allowed under the Constitution in the often-contentious area of religious requests and employer-employee relations. The case will now go back to the U.S. Third Circuit Court of Appeals with new instructions from the high court that are more favorable to religious employees. Gerald Groff, an evangelical Christian ... was told he must work Sundays. He resigned and sued USPS. Groff's attorneys claimed USPS was in violation of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prohibits religious discrimination by employers. The law says religion includes 'all aspects of religious observance and practice, as well as belief, unless an employer demonstrates that he is unable to reasonably accommodate an employee's or prospective employee's religious observance or practice without undue hardship on the conduct of the employer's business.' The case partially hinged on the definition of 'undue hardship,' the Supreme Court said in its opinion. Undue hardship is 'shown when a burden is substantial in the overall context of an employer's business,' Justice Samuel Alito wrote for the court. ... First Liberty said, 'The Court held that federal law requires workplaces to accommodate their religious employees unless doing so would cause significant difficulty or expense on the business. Previously, employers could avoid granting

religious accommodations to employees of faith simply by pointing to trifling, minimal, or *de minimis* effects. This decision means that more employers will be legally required to respect their religious employees by granting them accommodations. Employees of faith often seek religious accommodations to honor their holy days, to take prayer breaks during the day, to dress according to their religious beliefs, or to otherwise not be forced to violate their religious beliefs on the job.'"

TRANSGENDERISM AND SUICIDE (Friday Church News Notes, July 7, 2023, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from "Mental Health You Say?" *PowerLine Blog*, June 27, 2023: "The Biden Administration and the rest of the cheerleaders for transgenderism like to claim that, especially for teens, transgender 'medicine' is 'affirming health care,' especially mental health. If we don't allow teens access to puberty blockers and other aggressive interventions, we risk a wave of suicides among young people suffering gender dysphoria in larger and larger numbers. Well, this story in . . . *THE NEW YORK TIMES*!!! is going to cause heads to explode: 'Landmark Study Shows Higher Suicide Risk for Transgender People. Transgender people in Denmark have a significantly higher risk of suicide than other groups, according to an exhaustive analysis of health and legal records from nearly seven million people over the last four decades. The study is the first in the world to analyze national suicide data for this group. Transgender people in the country had 7.7 times the rate of suicide



attempts and 3.5 times the rate of suicide deaths compared with the rest of the population, according to the records analyzed in the study, though suicide rates in all groups decreased over time. And transgender people in Denmark died--by suicide or other causes--at younger ages than others.' ... The study this *Times* article is based on was published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* today. It will be hard for the transgenderists to waive off this mainstream publication."

WAVES OF ISLAMIC ANTISEMITISM VIOLENCE IN FRANCE (Friday Church News Notes, July 7, 2023, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from "Netanyahu Condemns Waves of Antisemitism," *Israel Today*, July 2, 2023: "Rioters in areas with large Muslim populations have torched cars and looted shops, clashing with police and causing hundreds of injuries. Vandals spray-painted 'Police scum'



on a monument in Nanterre commemorating the Holocaust and Jewish members of the French resistance to the Nazis. Antisemitic chants have been heard during riots and Jewish businesses were ransacked in the Paris suburb of Sarcelles, dubbed 'little Jerusalem' due to its large Jewish population. There are fears of a repeat of antisemitic violence in the region in 2014, when antisemites targeted Jewish-owned shops and synagogues during the seven-week war between Israel and Hamas terrorists in the Gaza Strip. Jews have been targeted repeatedly in France, including the January 2015 killings by Islamic terrorists at the Hyper Cacher supermarket in Paris. In 2012, Islamic terrorist Mohamed Merah perpetrated a massacre at the Ozar Torah Jewish school (now called Ohr Torah) in Toulouse. Six years earlier, 23-year-old Ilan Halimi was captured, tortured and held for ransom by a French gang named The

Barbarians, led by a self-professed Islamic radical. Outwardly identifiable Jews have routinely been attacked in cities across the country."

KNIFE VIOLENCE IN GERMANY AND FRANCE



(Friday Church News Notes, July 7, 2023, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from "German Officials Estimate 60 Knife Attacks Per Day in 2022," *The European Conservative*, June 21, 2023: "If one takes into account

figures recorded and published by the state criminal police offices in Germany's 16 federal states, the total number of knife attacks across the entire country exceeded 21,000 in 2022, which amounts to a staggering 60 attacks every single day, the German online magazine *Tichy's Einblick* reports. ... The news comes months after Ibrahim A., a 34-year-old Palestinian, carried out a deadly knife rampage on a regional train to Hamburg that resulted in the untimely deaths of two young people and saw five others injured. In 2022, knife attacks on trains and at train stations in Germany more than doubled. In France, which in terms of its multicultural trajectory is slightly ahead of Germany, knife attacks are even more widespread, with a 2020 study by the National Observatory of Delinquency and Criminal Responses (ONDRP) revealing that **more than 120 people are victims of knife crimes each day.**"

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