

O Timothy

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

A Monthly Newsletter for Spiritual Protection and Edification

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"David continued to have victory over his enemies ... 'The servants of David, though men of ordinary stature, were too hard for the giants of Gath in every encounter because they had God on their side. ... We need not fear great men against us while we have the great God for us. What will a finger more on each hand do, or a toe more on each foot, in contest with Omnipotence?' (Matthew Henry)." Page 6.

Digging in the Walls: A month's worth of news items, republished from Friday Church News Notes. **Page 11.**



WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT WICKEDNESS IN HIGH PLACES ~ By David

The previous name of this report was "What the Bible Says about the Wicked?"

The following is why dirty politics and conspiracies and corrupt schemes in high places can never long prevail and why the righteous should not fret at the prosperity of the wicked. God's people are to trust in their God and do good and wait for Him, for He is the King who ruleth over all. Those who cannot do this should not profess to have faith in Christ and should admit that they don't really obey the Bible.

To do good in this present age is to focus on Christ's Great Commission until He comes for His bride. This is how we "do good" today. This is the business that Christ taught, repeated, and emphasized after the resurrection (Mt. 28:18-20; Mr. 16:15; Lu. 24:44-48; Joh. 20:21; Ac. 1:8).

"be sure your sin will find you out" (Numbers 32:23).



"To me *belongeth* vengeance, and recompence; their foot shall slide in *due* time: for the day of their calamity *is* at hand, and the things that shall come upon them make haste" (Deuteronomy 32:35).

“The hand of our God is upon all them for good that seek him; but his power and his wrath is against all them that forsake him” (**Ezra 8:22**).

“So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai” (**Esther 7:10**).

“Even as I have seen, they that plow iniquity, and sow wickedness, reap the same” (**Job 4:8**).

“The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, *saying*, Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us. He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision. Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath, and vex them in his sore displeasure” (**Psalm 2:2-5**).

“Behold, he travaileth with iniquity, and hath conceived mischief, and brought forth falsehood. He made a pit, and digged it, and is fallen into the ditch *which* he made. His mischief shall return upon his own head, and his violent dealing shall come down upon his own pate” (**Psalm 7:14-16**).

“The heathen are sunk down in the pit *that* they made: in the net which they hid is their own foot taken” (**Psalm 9:15**).

“Many sorrows *shall be* to the wicked: but he that trusteth in the LORD, mercy shall compass him about” (**Psalm 32:10**).

“Evil shall slay the wicked: and they that hate the righteous shall be desolate” (**Psalm. 34:21**).

“Fret not thyself because of evildoers, neither be thou envious against the workers of iniquity. For they shall soon be cut down like the grass, and wither as the green herb” (**Psalm 37:1-2**).

“For evildoers shall be cut off: but those that wait upon the LORD, they shall inherit the earth. For yet a little while, and the wicked *shall not be*: yea, thou shalt diligently consider his place, and it *shall not be*. But the meek shall inherit the earth; and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace. The wicked plotteth against the just, and gnasheth upon him with his teeth. The Lord shall laugh at him: for he seeth that his day is coming. The wicked have drawn out the sword, and have bent their bow, to cast down the poor and needy, *and* to slay such as be of upright conversation. Their sword shall enter into their own heart, and their bows shall be broken” (**Psalm 37:9-15**).

“For the LORD loveth judgment, and forsaketh not his saints; they are preserved forever: but the seed of the wicked shall be cut off” (**Psalm 37:28**).

“Wait on the LORD, and keep his way, and he shall exalt thee to inherit the land: when the wicked are cut off, thou shalt see it. I have seen the wicked in great power, and spreading himself like a green bay tree. Yet he passed away, and, lo, he *was* not: yea, I sought him, but he could not be found” (**Psalm 37:34-36**).

“Thy tongue deviseth mischiefs; like a sharp razor, working deceitfully. Thou lovest evil more than good; *and* lying rather than to speak righteousness. Selah. Thou lovest all devouring words, O *thou* deceitful tongue. God shall likewise destroy thee for ever, he shall take thee away, and pluck thee out of *thy* dwelling place, and root thee out of the

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land of the living. Selah. The righteous also shall see, and fear, and shall laugh at him: Lo, *this is the man that* made not God his strength; but trusted in the abundance of his riches, *and* strengthened himself in his wickedness” (Psalm 52:2-7).

“They search out iniquities; they accomplish a diligent search: both the inward *thought* of every one *of them*, and the heart, *is* deep. But God shall shoot at them *with* an arrow; suddenly shall they be wounded. So they shall make their own tongue to fall upon themselves: all that see them shall flee away. And all men shall fear, and shall declare the work of God; for they shall wisely consider of his doing. The righteous shall be glad in the LORD, and shall trust in him; and all the upright in heart shall glory” (Psalm 64:6-10).

“When the wicked spring as the grass, and when all the workers of iniquity do flourish; *it is* that they shall be destroyed for ever: But thou, LORD, *art most* high for evermore. For, lo, thine enemies, O LORD, for, lo, thine enemies shall perish; all the workers of iniquity shall be scattered” (Psalm 92:7-9).

“Shall the throne of iniquity have fellowship with thee, which frameth mischief by a law? They gather themselves together against the soul of the righteous, and condemn the innocent blood. But the LORD is my defence; and my God *is* the rock of my refuge. And he shall bring upon them their own iniquity, and shall cut them off in their own wickedness; *yea*, the LORD our God shall cut them off” (Psalm 94:20-23).

“The desire of the wicked shall perish” (Psalm 112:10).

“evil shall hunt the violent man to overthrow him” (Psalm 140:11).

“For their feet run to evil, and make haste to shed blood. Surely in vain the net is spread in the sight of any bird. And they lay wait for their *own* blood; they lurk privily for their *own* lives” (Proverbs 1:16-18).

“Therefore shall they eat of the fruit of their own way, and be filled with their own devices” (Proverbs 1:31).

“Evil pursueth sinners” (Proverbs 13:21).

“Pride *goeth* before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall” (Proverbs 16:18).

“Whoso diggeth a pit shall fall therein: and he that rolleth a stone, it will return upon him” (Proverbs 26:27).

“Whoso causeth the righteous to go astray in an evil way, he shall fall himself into his own pit” (Proverbs 28:10).

“Woe unto the wicked! *it shall be* ill with him: for the reward of his hands shall be given him” (Isaiah 3:11).

“For they have sown the wind, and they shall reap the whirlwind” (Hosea 8:7).

“the LORD will take vengeance on his adversaries, and he reserveth *wrath* for his enemies” (Naham 1:2).

“Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap” (Galatians 6:7).

“Vengeance *belongeth* unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord” (Hebrews 10:30).

“And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever” (1 John 2:17).

The verb “passeth” is present indicative. The present tense is a continuous tense, and the indicative mood “asserts something which is occurring while the speaker is making the statement.” So the world is passing at this time. This present world system seems to be permanent, but it is even now in the process of passing away. That’s what God says. But he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

God holds the reins. He is using this present world system for His eternal purpose, and it will be finished exactly when God decides, to be replaced by Christ’s kingdom.

The prophet Daniel described the end of this present world system. In the dream given to Nebuchadnezzar, it was depicted as a great image of a man representing the ruling empires of Babylon, Persia, Greece, and Rome (Da. 2:31-35).

Daniel's interpretation explains that Rome continues in various forms until the return of Christ, at which time the world system will be crushed and replaced with Christ's righteous kingdom. "Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet *that were* of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces. Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshingfloors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and the stone

that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth" (Da. 2:34-35).

Bible commentator Robert Lenski says, "The world is now in the act of passing away. It is its very nature not to last. Its doom is overtaking it. Its glory is fading, its flowers are withering, its promises are failing, its hopes are crumbling. Isa. 14:11. ... Does the siren voice of the world tickle your ears? Hear the word of truth: 'The world is passing away!' The bank is breaking, it was never solvent--will you deposit in it? The foundation is tottering, it was never solid but only sham--will you build on it? The mountain is rumbling, quaking, it was never anything but volcanic, ready to blow off its head at any time--will you build your city there?"

DANIEL DETAILS Confound The CRITICS

By David Cloud



The following is excerpted from Bill Cooper's *The Authenticity of the Book of Daniel* (2012).

Bill Cooper (1947-2021) was a prolific writer and speaker, with a gift of cutting through the fog of biblical 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 entitled "The Authenticity," which included *The Authenticity of the Book of Genesis*, *Joshua*, *Judges*, *Esther*, *Daniel*, *Jonah*, the Gos-

pels, *Acts*, the *Epistles*, and *Revelation*. In *The Forging of Codex Sinaiticus*, Cooper gave 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; at times he seems to be dogmatic when the evidence isn't absolute; there is an occasion or two when he might have been led astray by Jewish mysticism; but everything we have read from his pen is well worth considering.

If you want to be encouraged in your faith in the divine inspiration of Scripture, read Bill Cooper.

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

To confound them [Bible critics] though, there are many small, almost unnoticeable, items of internal evidence within the Book of Daniel which tell plainly of its antiquity, and which no forger would have thought of, no matter how 'pious' or well-intentioned he may have been.

Daniel 10:4 contains one such: "And in the four and twentieth day of the first month, as I was by the side of the great river, which is Hiddekel..." The use of the name Hiddekel is most interesting. The Persians knew that river as the Tigris, and Greeks knew it as the Tigris. No post-Persian Greek-speaking Maccabean forger of Daniel would have used the river's ancient Hebrew name.

Daniel 5:2 contains another powerful indicator of early authorship: "Belshazzar, while he tasted the wine, commanded to bring the golden and silver vessels which his father Nebuchadnezzar had taken out of the temple which was in Jerusalem; that the king, and his princes, his wives, and his concubines, might drink therein." The Lord is in the detail here. Notice how women were allowed to be present and to partake of royal feasts under the Babylonians. That was never allowed under the Persians. Women were banished to their own quarters. The Book of Esther records the fact:

The mathematics of the Book of Daniel is another indicator of the 6th-century BC authorship of the book. In Daniel 3:1, the writer describes in sexagesimal dimensions the image which Nebuchadnezzar set up on the Plain of Dura (of which more later). The Babylonians used a sexagesimal system of mathematics.

But how would our Maccabean forger have known this? The Persians and Greeks had for 400 years past used the decimal system, the same one that we use today. The sexagesimal system would have been entirely unknown to him. In Daniel 8:2, we are told, "...I was at Shushan in the palace, which is in the province of Elam..." The curious thing here is that Shushan belonged to Elam in Babylonian times and even earlier, but not in the 2nd century BC, nor in the preceding three centuries. Then it was considered to belong to, and indeed was, the capital of the province Susiana.⁸

There are many other indicators in the Book of Daniel showing a 6th-century BC authorship, along with a most intimate knowledge of Babylonian culture and affairs. We shall be considering more of them as we proceed. Suffice it here to say that such points as we have considered are entirely ignored by the critics, or are passed over without comment.



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David's Last Years

By David Cloud

Though King David had to suffer the consequences of his sin with Bathsheba, he continued to enjoy fellowship with God and continued to experience God's blessings. God did not remove His mercy, as David celebrated in his psalms. "*But verily God hath heard me; he hath attended to the voice of my prayer*" (Ps. 66:19). "For as the heaven is high above the earth, *so* great is his mercy toward them that fear him" (Ps. 103:11).

Solomon was born (2 Sa. 12:24-25). David named him *Solomon*, which means "peace," but God named him *Jedidiah*, which means "beloved of the Lord." Here we see God's great mercy and foreknowledge.

David continued to have victory over his enemies. The sons of the giant were killed (1 Ch. 20:4-8). "The servants of David, though men of ordinary stature, were too hard for the giants of Gath in every encounter because they had God on their side. ... We need not fear great men against us while we have the great God for us. What will a finger more on each hand do, or a toe more on each foot, in contest with Omnipotence?" (Matthew Henry).

David received the instructions for building the temple (2 Ch. 29:25), made preparation for that project, and had the joy of seeing his son Solomon sit upon the throne with the people united behind him.

- David was not allowed to build the temple himself, but God told him that his son would build it and God used David to prepare for it (2 Sa. 7:1-13).
- After David numbered the people, God sent a pestilence to judge the nation (1 Ch. 21:1-14). It appears that this was because David was acting in pride rather than faith, because the people were God's and not David's (1 Ch. 27:23-24). And David was not

trusting God for deliverance, but was trusting the number of his people.

- In response to David's confession and prayer, God stopped the pestilence at the threshingfloor of Ornan the Jebusite. David bought the place (1 Ch. 21:18-30) and prepared to build the temple there. Note that David refused to offer to the Lord that which cost him nothing (1 Ch. 21:24). He wanted to sacrifice to the Lord from his own goods. He wanted his offering to the Lord to cost him something. He was a giver rather than a beggar, which reminds us of Jesus' words that it is more blessed to give than to receive (Ac. 20:35).

- This is Mt. Moriah, where Abraham had gone to offer Isaac and God provided a ram instead, pointing to Christ's vicarious death for the sins of the world (2 Ch. 3:1; Ge. 22:2). David's sacrificial altar on Moriah also pointed to Christ's cross. Just as God stopped the pestilence from destroying Israel via the sacrificial altar (1 Ch. 21:25-26), so He stopped the pestilence of judgment on mankind by Christ's atonement on the cross. As the fire from heaven fell on David's sacrifice, God's judgment fell on Christ at Calvary. David offered both a burnt offering and a peace offering (1 Ch. 21:26). The burnt offering signified Christ as the sinless man who was acceptable to God in the behalf of sinful man. It signifies Christ offering "himself without spot to God" (Heb. 9:14). The peace offering depicts Christ reconciling man with God through the offering of Himself. It signifies Christ as "having made peace through the blood of his cross" (Col. 1:20).

- We will see more about David's preparations for the temple in his final address to Israel (1 Ch. 28-29).

David exhorted his son Solomon to know God and to be faithful to Him (1 Ch. 22:11-13). “And thou, Solomon my son, know thou the God of thy father, and serve him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind: for the LORD searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts: if thou seek him, he will be found of thee; but if thou forsake him, he will cast thee off for ever. ... Be strong and of good courage, and do *it*: fear not, nor be dismayed: for the LORD God, *even* my God, *will be* with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee, until thou hast finished all the work for the service of the house of the LORD” (1 Ch. 28:9, 20).

David had failed in many ways in his family, but he continued to the end of his life to exhort his children to walk with God. In spite of his own sins and failures, he didn’t quit trying to help the next generation. This is wise. If you fail in some area of your Christian life, you should repent and get things right and go on to try to help others. And wise children will give honor to and receive instruction from their parents even though they have failings. This is God’s will.

David continued to write beautiful Psalms by inspiration of the Holy Spirit. He wrote Psalm 71 in his old age (Ps. 71:18). This psalm was written to show “thy strength unto *this* generation, and thy power to every one *that* is to come.”

To the very end of his life, David was passionate to teach Israel about God. He was a man after God’s own heart, a man who had the heart of a shepherd-king. David’s last words were a psalm (2 Sa. 23:1-7).

David praised God before the congregation and led the people to the Lord (1 Ch. 28:1-8; 29:10-19).

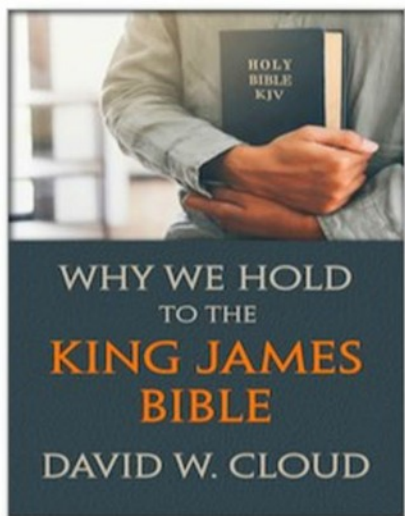
David was warmed by Abishag (1 Ki. 1:1-4). This account is in Holy Scripture and is, therefore, “profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness” (2 Ti. 3:16).

David was “old and stricken in years” and could not keep warm. His wives were old, too. After a search throughout Israel, Abishag was found. She was “a Shunammite,” meaning she was from Shunam, which was on the north side of the hill Moreh. She was “very fair.” She was brought to Jerusalem to the palace and kept the king warm and ministered to him.

After David’s death, Adonijah asked Bathsheba for permission to marry Abishag. She agreed to talk to Solomon about the matter, but Solomon discerned that Adonijah was again plotting to gain access to the throne and had him killed (1 Ki. 2:13-25).

We aren’t told any more about Abishag. It is likely she did not marry. One prominent lesson is that any work in the will of God is a life well lived. From a worldly perspective, Abishag’s life was a sad failure: a beautiful woman who did not enjoy a normal marriage, did not bear children, did not have a husband to grow old with. But she had the privilege of ministering in a small way to the greatest king in Israel’s history, the anointed of God, the father of the coming Messiah, the sweet psalmist of Israel.

That is a high calling.



Why We Hold To The KING JAMES BIBLE

By David Cloud

This is an extensive defense of the King James Bible and refutation of the modern versions.

The book contains an exposition of the doctrine of Bible preservation, documentation of the apostasy that enveloped the 19th century as modern textual criticism was devised, and documentation of the role played by Unitarians in the development of modern textual criticism.

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CARY SCHMIDT

More Contemporary Fruit Of

LANCASTER

By David Cloud

Lancaster Baptist Church of Lancaster, California, pastored by Paul Chappell, is spawning large numbers of contemporary churches by graduates, associates, and former staff members. Examples are Rock Hill Church, Fontana, California (pastored by Chappell's son Matt); Coastline Baptist Church, Oceanside, California (pastored by Chappell's brother, mentored Matt Chappell); Grace Gathering, Santa Barbara; Ambassador Baptist Church, Fresno, California; Southridge Church, San Jose, California; Citypoint Baptist Church, Tempe, Arizona.

See the report "Lancaster's Contemporary Fruit"
<https://www.wayoflife.org/reports/lanaster-baptist-church-contemporary-fruit.php>

And the video "Lancaster's Roll in the Downgrade"
https://www.wayoflife.org/s3/satanic_attack_on_sacred_music.php

Cary Schmidt took the pastorate of Emmanuel Baptist Church, Newington CT, in 2012, after serving 22 years with Paul Chappell at Lancaster. He left on good terms and his material remains on Pastor Chappell's web site.

Schmidt has transitioned Emmanuel Baptist from a fundamentalist stance to a contemporary evangelical one. A former member of the church informed me in 2017 of the changes, including \$85 thousand spent on a "slick platform renovation."

In typical contemporary fashion, the auditorium is darkened and the spotlight is on the speaker.

In April 2017, the new Emmanuel hosted a **Steve Green concert**. While Green is on the "conservative" side of Contemporary Christian Music, he is a rocker and an ecumenist and is therefore a bridge to the world and to the "broader church."

In 1996, Green appeared at the Promise Keepers Atlanta Clergy Conference and sang "Let the Walls Come Down," referring to tearing down walls between all denominations.

Ralph Colas, who attended the conference with media credentials, wrote, "The big beat, contemporary music brought the ministers to their feet. ... Steve Green belted out repeatedly 'Let the Walls Come Down.' The 40,000 clergy shouted, whistled, clapped, and cheered as they worked to a higher and higher pitch of emotion" (*Calvary Contender*, April 15, 1996).

Promise Keepers' ecumenism is cutting edge. At the 1997 Stand in the Gap conference in Washington, D.C., Promise Keepers' founder Bill McCartney declared, "We have a plan ... Baptists, Lutherans, Roman Catholics, we've been divided, but now we're being reunited." He said that full Catholic participation was his intention from the start (*Our Sunday Visitor*, July 20, 1997).

Catholic priest John Salazar spoke at a Promise Keepers rally in Plainview, Texas, in December 1995. A Promise Keepers leadership conference was held at the Franciscan University of Steubenville, Ohio, in July 1995, and priest Michael Scanlan, who

heads up the school, conducted a Catholic mass. In an article in *New Covenant* magazine for June 1997, Scanlan called Mary “the Spouse of the Holy Spirit.” He believes Mary is the Queen of Heaven and that she hears and answers prayer. Promise Keepers participated in follow-up conferences at the Franciscan University in 1996 and 1997.

Catholic lawyer Mike Timmis was a member of the Promise Keepers board of directors. In an interview with attorney Michael Thomas in October 1997, Timmis said he attends mass daily and is dedicated to bringing Catholics and evangelicals together.

Green’s *The Faithful* album featured songs that promote Pentecostal-ecumenical heresies. “The River” preaches the dangerous charismatic practice of opening oneself non-critically to “the Spirit” and being led wherever the Spirit goes (nonsensical tongues, uncontrollable laughter, shaking, roaring like a lion, spirit slaying, etc.).

“The river calls, we can't deny/ A step of faith is our reply/ We feel the Spirit draw us in/ The water's swift, we're forced to swim/ We're out of control/ And we go where He flows.”

“The Great Revival” promotes the false doctrine of an end-time miracle revival: “Oh, glory hallelujah/ For the Lord is pouring a holy fire/ The great revival started...”

Why would a fundamental Baptist pastor bring Steve Green to his church to build bridges to the very dangerous ecumenical and charismatic movements?

In 2023, Cary Schmidt joined Bryan Samms at the Church Advanced conference. Samms is at the forefront of teaching pastors how to transition away from the King James Bible.

Samms transitioned the River City Baptist Church of Jacksonville, Florida, from a conservative fundamental Baptist Church to a contemporary evangelical church. He and Schmidt are two peas in a pod.

Conclusion

Not all West Coast graduates are planting contemporary churches, but that is the overall direction, and the seeds are being sown at Lancaster itself. I don’t know any graduates who have spoken out against what is happening. As far as I know, Paul Chappell has never denounced the aforementioned churches **publicly** and **plainly**.

A discerning pastor commented, “Pastor Chappell has produced this legacy. This is the fruit of his labor to embrace pragmatism and soften the lines of Independent Baptists. I would guess that 75% of WCBC grads end up this way within 10 years of graduating.”

It is very sad to me that these young men (the Matt Chappells, the Mark Rasmussen Jrs, the John Guys, etc.) are on a wrong path, a path that will lead to anywhere within the “broader church.” only time will tell where they and their followers will end up.

They are young, talented, studious, zealous, visionary.

They could be starting strong Bible churches that would stand and bear fruit and be a bright light in an evil day.

They could be starting churches that are biblically stronger and wiser than any that have existed in my lifetime.

They could be testing everything by God’s Word alone and rejecting every tradition that is unscriptural. But this entails going back to the New Testament church described in Scripture, which is a pilgrim separatist church, rather than following the “after their own lusts” pattern of end-time apostasy (2 Timothy 4:3-4).

Sadly, that is not what we are seeing as the fruit of Lancaster Baptist Church and West Coast Baptist College.

HYMNS - CALLED FROM ABOVE

“Called from Above” was written by James D. Deck (1802-1884), a Plymouth Brethren elder in England and New Zealand. His hymns were first published in *Hymns for the Poor of the Flock* in 1838 and appeared in many other hymn books in the 19th century. “His compositions are marked by directness of aim, simplicity of language, and great earnestness. The rhythm is good, and an expressive tenderness pervades many of them” (hymnary.org).

Deck’s hymns extol Christ, His incarnation, sinless character, cross-work, resurrection, and ascension. Christ’s atonement is preeminent. Many of Deck’s hymns deal with Christ’s Second Coming. These include “A Little While, Our Lord Shall Come,” “How Long, O Lord Our Savior,” and “Savior, Haste, Our Souls Are Waiting.”

1 CALLED from above, and heavenly men by birth,
(Who once were but the citizens of earth)
As pilgrims here, we seek a heavenly home,
Our portion in the ages yet to come.

2 Where all the saints of every clime shall meet,
And each with all shall all the ransomed greet,
But oh, the height of bliss, our Lord, shall be
To owe it all, and share it all, with Thee.

3 Thou wast the image in man's lowly guise
Of the invisible to mortal eyes;
Son of His bosom, come from heaven above,
We see in Thee incarnate, "God is love".

4 Thy lips the Father's name to us reveal;
What burning power in all Thy words we feel,
As with enraptured hearts we hear Thee tell
The heavenly glories which Thou know'st so well!

5 No curse of law, in Thee was sovereign grace,
And now what glory in Thine unveiled face!
Thou didst attract the wretched and the weak,
Thy joy the wanderers and the lost to seek.

6 That precious stream of water and of blood
Which from Thy pierced side so freely flowed,
Has put away our sins of scarlet dye,
Washed us from every stain, and brought us nigh.

7 We are but strangers here, we do not crave
A home on earth, which gave Thee but a grave:
Thy cross has severed ties which bound us here,
Thyself our treasure in a brighter sphere.

The musical score can be found at this link -
<https://hymnary.org/hymn/HoGT1903/page/324>

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?



BOY BORN WITH "NO BRAIN" MAKING GOOD PROGRESS

(Friday Church News Notes, September 1, 2023,

www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- In October 2008, a boy named Noah Wall was born in England with only 2% of his brain and with spina bifida, to boot. His parents were advised to abort him, but they refused. In the documentary *The Boy Without a Brain*, Noah's father, Rob, said, "It was never an option for us. We wanted to give Noah that chance of life." The doctors persisted in pressuring the Walls to abort the baby, five separate times, painting a dire picture. He would basically be in a vegetative state, severely mentally disabled, unable to walk, talk, see, hear, or eat. He was only expected to live a few days. Their predictions were reasonable, medically, but they turned out to be wrong. After birth, Noah breathed on his own, cried, and was alert. When he was three, the doctors were dumbfounded to find that his brain had grown to 80%. Noah's mother, Shelly, said, "Rob and I broke down when we heard the news. It was like a dream. I've never known anything like it. Even the consultants were in tears. Every time we see the doctors, they just shake

their head. They're just amazed at what he can do." Noah's parents have done everything possible to help him live a normal life, including obtaining the best medical care. He has had 11 surgeries, beginning with an intensive early surgery to connect two parts of his brain that weren't connected. Noah is 12 now, and he can talk, walk, read, do math, surf, and ski. He goes to school and loves science. We commend the Webbs for their refusal to abort the boy. The prophet David wrote, "Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being imperfect; and in thy book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them" (Psalm 139:16).

ANDROGYNOUS ROCKERS WARNING ABOUT THE PUSH FOR CHILD TRANSSEXUALISM

(Friday Church News Notes, September 1, 2023,

www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- In a case of brazen hypocrisy, some of the old 70s androgynous rockers, who helped pave the way for the homosexual rights movement and all of its destructive wickedness, are warning of the agenda to transsexualize children. In April, Paul Stanley of KISS called transgender affirmation for youth a "sad and



Paul Stanley of KISS Fame

dangerous fad” (Apr. 30, 2023). Dee Snider of Twisted Sister agreed, saying, “I do not believe young children are ready to decide their gender allocation. I believe their choices should be supported and accepted by their parents, but I do not think kids have the mental capabilities to make rational, logical decisions on things of a magnitude that will affect them for the rest of their lives” (“Dee Snider,” *Rolling Stone*, May 6, 2023). Alice Cooper (a man named Alice) has joined the chorus with this: “I find it wrong when you’ve got a six-year-old kid who has no idea. He just wants to play, and you’re confusing him telling him, ‘Yeah, you’re a boy, but you could be a girl if you want to be. I think that’s so confusing to a kid. It’s even confusing to a teenager. You’re still trying to find your identity, and yet here’s this thing going on, saying, ‘Yeah, but you can be anything you want. You can be a cat if you want to be.’ I mean, if you identify as a tree... And I’m going, ‘Come on! What are we in, a Kurt Vonnegut novel?’” (“Rocker Alice Cooper,” *Fox News*, Aug. 24, 2023). What these men are saying is right, as far as it goes, but it is largely ineffectual coming from individuals who were at the forefront of the unisex movement and have preached “do your own thing” to all ages.

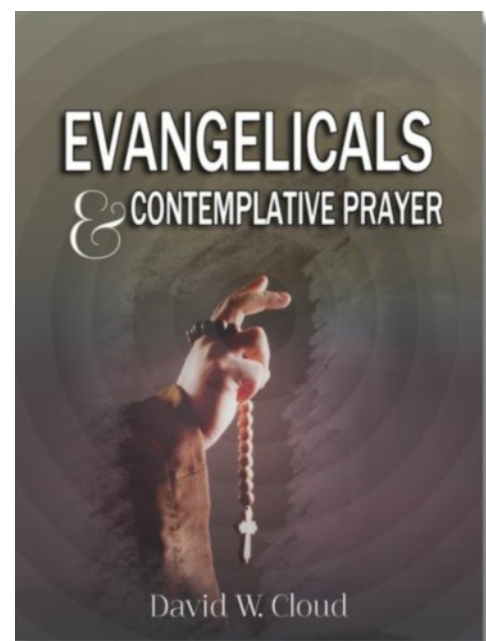
MUSLIMS RAMPAGE AGAINST CHRISTIAN CHURCHES IN PAKISTAN (Friday Church News Notes, September 1, 2023, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from “Firsthand account of extremist violence,” *Fox News*, Aug. 23, 2023: “Images and video obtained by *Fox News Digital* show the ransacking of churches by an apparent Muslim-led



mob in Jaranwala on Aug. 16, an action provoked by allegations that a Christian and his friend had blasphemed by ripping pages out of a Quran. Tumultuous crowds were filmed going into churches, tossing furniture out windows, smashing altars and setting fire to the buildings. Many Christians were also forced to flee their homes to escape the attackers. When the riots quelled, and they returned to their dwellings, they found their property stolen and homes burned. ‘I saw with tears in my eyes how the mob desecrated crosses on the roofs of the churches and in graveyards and ruined church buildings. They burnt so many Bibles and altars,’ said the Rev. Deacon Daud Irshad, 28. ... ‘The condition in Pakistan is very bad,’ Irshad said, casting doubt on the blasphemy allegations that instigated the riots. ‘So much hatred, jealousy, envy and enmity from the Muslims towards Christians. It seems that we Christians are like animals to them. Whenever they want to kill, they kill, and whenever they want to spare, they give free hand.’ By his account, more than 25 churches were damaged and hundreds of homes attacked. Irshad said rioters first looted property from the buildings and then used flammable liquids to set them on fire. ... Open Doors, a Christian charity that serves persecuted churches throughout the world, reports that Christians in Pakistan are considered second-class

citizens. The country was seventh on the charity’s worldwide list of the worst places to be a Christian. ... [Open Doors spokesperson Eshan] Silva attributed the latest attacks to Pakistan’s notorious blasphemy laws, which the organization says disproportionately target religious minorities. ... ‘The laws are used to settle grudges and exact revenge; a simple allegation of having insulted the Prophet or desecrated a Quran is enough to see the accused imprisoned for years while they wait for trial.’”

BAPTIST SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER’S JOURNEY VIA CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER TO GODDESS WORSHIP (Friday Church News Notes, September 1, 2023, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Contemplative prayer, which was borrowed from Rome’s dark monasticism, has swept through “evangelicalism” in the past 20 years, as we have documented in the free eBook [Evangelicals and Contemplative Prayer](#). Popular contemplative practices include breath prayer, centering prayer, Jesus



prayer, entering the silence, and *lectio divina*. It is an extremely dangerous field that has often led to apostasy and even pantheistic concepts of God. For example, popular author Sue Monk Kidd, who was once a Southern Baptist Sunday School teacher, found goddess worship through the path of contemplative prayer. As she delved deeper into contemplative mysticism, she traveled to Crete and worshiped in a cave of the goddess Skoteini. She says, “[S]omething inside me was calling on the Goddess of the Dark, even though I didn’t know her name” (*The Dance of the Dissident Daughter*, p. 93). Soon, the Sunday School teacher was praying to God as Mother, “the divine feminine presence.” Finally, she envisioned herself as a goddess and began to worship herself. “To embrace Goddess is simply to discover the Divine in yourself as powerfully and vividly feminine” (*Dance of the Dissident Daughter*, p. 141). She set up an altar with a mirror so she can worship herself. She believes that the world can be saved by the divine mother. “I know of nothing needed more in the world just now than an image of Divine present that affirms the importance of relationship--a Divine Mother, perhaps, who draws all humanity into her lap and makes us into a global family” (*Dance*, p. 155). Sue Monk Kidd’s book ends with the words, “She is in us.”

GAITHERS RECOMMENDING NEW AGE WRITINGS (Friday Church News Notes, September 1, 2023, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Gloria Gaither, who with her husband, Bill, have had a vast influence on Southern Gospel, is recommending the writings of New Age goddess Sue Monk Kidd and



Catholic/Buddhist mystic Richard Rohr. In the Gaither’s *Homecoming Magazine* website, Gloria recommends Kidd’s *The Invention of Wings*, gushing that Kidd is “an amazing writer who tells a story with such skill that she somehow manages to both prick our consciences and give us great hope.” In an interview with Rohr, Gloria said, “I want to say thank you because so many of your books have been impacting my life, especially *Falling Upward*. ... I think that changed my thinking about ... just about everything. We have studied that book in our Monday night Bible study.” In 2009, Bill and Gloria Gaither hosted William Paul Young, author of *The Shack*. In 2005, they hosted emerging leader Brian McLaren, and New Ager Leonard Sweet at a Gaithers Praise Gathering. These people the Gaithers are promoting do not believe in the vicarious blood atonement of Jesus Christ. By their own testimonies, they are not born again. In her book *Dance of the Dissident Daughter*, Sue Monk Kidd describes her journey from Southern Baptist Sunday school teacher to goddess worship by means of Catholic mysticism. Richard Rohr believes the path to God is found through “the teachings of both Jesus

and Buddha” (announcement for Rohr’s 2008 Jesus and Buddha conference). In *The Shack*, William Paul Young re-imagines God as a woman. He believes God is non-judgmental; he denies the need of salvation through the blood of Jesus Christ. These are the dangerous waters to which the Gaithers are digging channels for their ill-informed, feeling-oriented, Southern Gospel-loving friends in fundamental Baptist churches. (For more about this see the free eBook [Evangelicals and Contemplative Prayer](http://www.wayoflife.org/publications/all.php), available from Way of Life Literature, <https://www.wayoflife.org/publications/all.php>)

FLASH OF LIGHT MARKS MOMENT LIFE BEGINS (Friday Church News Notes, September 1, 2023, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from “Bright Flash of Light,” *London Telegraph*, Apr. 26, 2016: “Human life begins in a bright flash of light as a sperm meets an egg, scientists have shown for the first time, after capturing the astonishing ‘fireworks’ on film. An explosion of tiny sparks erupts from the egg at the exact moment of conception. ... [It is] an incredible spectacle, highlighting the very moment that a new life begins.” “For thou hast possessed my reins: thou hast covered me in my mother’s womb” (Psalm 139:13).

AFFLICTION THE BEST BIT OF FURNITURE (Friday Church News Notes, September 1, 2023, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - “I am afraid that all the grace I have got out of my comfortable and easy times and happy hours might almost lie on a penny. But the good that I



have received from my sorrows and pains and griefs is altogether incalculable. What do I not owe to the hammer and the anvil, the fire and the file! Affliction is the best bit of furniture in my house. It is the best book in a minister's library" (Charles Seeger).

HEROD-ERA AQUEDUCT DISCOVERED IN JERUSALEM

(Friday Church News Notes, September 8, 2023, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from "Jerusalem Archaeologists Uncover," *Israel365 News*, Aug. 30, 2023: "Archaeologists in Jerusalem have discovered a 300-meter (985-foot) portion of a Second Temple-era aqueduct, the longest such continuous stretch ever found in Israel's capital, the Israeli Antiquities Authority announced on Monday. The ancient waterway was discovered at a building site in the southern Jerusalem neighborhood of Givat HaMatos. ... The Hasmoneans' King Herod built two elaborate aqueducts for



Jerusalem, which were among the largest and most complex waterworks in the Land of Israel. The system concentrated spring water in the Bethlehem area and transferred it to Jerusalem by taking advantage of topography, the laws of gravity and large pools, said [excavation managers Ofer Shion and Rotam Cohen.] The aqueduct known as the 'Upper Aqueduct' brought water to the Upper City—the area of the Old City's current Jewish and Armenian Quarters. Meanwhile, the so-called 'Lower Aqueduct' transferred water directly to the Temple."

1,600 SCIENTISTS, INCLUDING NOBEL PRIZE WINNERS, DECLARE

CLIMATE EMERGENCY A MYTH (Friday Church News Notes, September 8, 2023, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The following is excerpted from "Second Nobel Prize Winner Signs," *The Federalist*, Sept. 1, 2023: "A coalition of more than 1,600 scientists critical of their peers' hyperbolic claims about climate change drew a prominent recruit to sign their 2019 declaration that the climate 'emergency' is a myth. John Clauser, who won last year's Nobel Prize in physics, became the second Nobel laureate last month to sign the document with 1,607 other scientists rebuking the idea of a climate crisis. 'Climate science should be less political, while climate policies should be more scientific,' the declaration organized by the Climate Intelligence Foundation (CLINTEL) reads. 'Scientists should openly address uncertainties and exaggerations in their predictions of global warming, while politicians should dispassionately count the real costs as well as the imagined benefits



of their policy measures.' Norwegian-American engineer Ivan Giaever, who won the Nobel Prize in physics in 1973, is also a signatory to the declaration. 'The popular narrative about climate change reflects a dangerous corruption of science that threatens the world's economy and the well-being of billions of people. Misguided climate science has metastasized into massive shock-journalistic pseudoscience,' Clauser said. 'In turn, the pseudoscience has become a scapegoat for a wide variety of other unrelated ills. It has been promoted and extended by similarly misguided business marketing agents, politicians, journalists, government agencies, and environmentalists.' The document makes several claims that contradict popular narratives peddled by climate hysterics. For example, the planet is warming slower than predicted and has not driven a spike in natural disasters. ... The World Climate Declaration also notes that carbon dioxide is plant food, 'not a pollutant'. 'It is essential to all life on Earth,' the document reads."

LARGE MAJORITY OF ANGLICAN PRIESTS ACCEPT PRE-MARITAL SEX AND HOMOSEXUAL PRACTICE

(Friday Church News Notes, September 8, 2023, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from



“British Clergy Supports,” *The European Conservative*, Aug. 31, 2023: “A new ‘landmark’ survey of English priests—the first of its kind in almost a decade—has allowed the clergy to reveal its increasingly liberal views on marriage and sexual matters. Well over half (62.6%) of those polled by *The Times* said the Church of England should drop its opposition to premarital sex. They said this climbdown should only apply to people in ‘committed relationships,’ in what comes across as a fairly flimsy attempt to continue looking firm on the subject. A slightly higher percentage (64.5%) of priests said the worldwide Anglican teaching that ‘homosexual practice is incompatible with scripture’ should come to an end. So too should the ban on gay priests entering into civil marriages, according to 63.3% of those polled. *The Times* reported that a majority of priests want the Anglican church to stop its official opposition to homosexuality. ... Around 6% of the active English clergy—mostly vicars, rectors, curates, chaplains, and retired priests who still serve—responded to the survey by *The Times* (1,436, to be exact). The survey also pointed to changing attitudes towards the role of women, with the possibility of a female Archbishop of Canterbury now backed by more than 80% of priests.”

AMERICANS MORE CHURCHY AND RELIGIOUS BY A LARGE MEASURE THAN BRITS AND

EUROPEANS (Friday Church News Notes, September 8, 2023, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The following is excerpted from “Who Goes to Church?” powerlineblog.com, Sept. 1, 2023: “It remains the case that although church attendance and religious affiliation have been declining in the U.S. for a while now, the U.S. remains one of the most religious nations among western democracies. This chart is an interesting measure, showing that even Ben & Jerry’s Communist Vermont has higher weekly church attendance than most leading European nations. By the way, one possible interpretation of this data is that any state that scores above 25 percent weekly church attendance votes Republican. Europe Avg: 14% and U.S. Avg: 25%. Data: European Social Survey 2018-2022 and Cooperative Election Study 2020-2022.” The top ranked U.S. states are Utah 41%, Mississippi 35%, Alabama 34%, Arkansas 34%, South Dakota 33%, South Carolina 33%, Louisiana 32%, Georgia 31%, North Carolina 31%, Idaho 31%, Tennessee 31%, Nebraska 30%, North Dakota 30%, Indiana 30%, Missouri 30%, Texas 29%, Oklahoma 25%, Kentucky 27%, Wyoming 26%, West Virginia 26%, Kansas 26%, Maryland 26%, and Virginia 26%. In comparison, Spain is 14%, Great Britain is 12%, Netherlands 10%,



Belgium 9%, Switzerland 8%, Germany 8%, France 8%, Sweden 5%, Finland 4%, Norway 4%, and Denmark 3%.

CANADA COURT SUPPORTS ORDER FOR CONSERVATIVE COMMENTATOR TO ATTEND RE-EDUCATION CLASSES; OUTSPOKEN VICTIM STANDS FIRM (Friday Church News Notes, September 8, 2023,

www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The following is excerpted from “Peterson Loses Court Battle,” *The European Conservative*, Aug. 28, 2023: “Three Ontario judges ruled unanimously against Jordan B. Peterson, upholding the decision of the College of Psychologists that ordered the conservative commentator to undertake social media ‘re-education’ training due to a series of ‘degrading’ and ‘unprofessional’ tweets that offended marginalized social justice groups, Peterson announced on Thursday, August 24th. As we wrote back in February, the renowned psychologist and conservative media personality was reprimanded by the Ontario College of Psychologists, who threatened to revoke Peterson’s license as a medical practitioner due to ‘hateful conduct’ on social media unless he takes a course on ‘professional communication’ and even pay for it himself. **But one glance at his ‘problematic’ tweets is more than enough to know it was never about professionalism, but an ideologically motivated witch-hunt, attempting to silence one of the best-known right-wing commentators on the internet simply for his political opinions. ...** In an interview with the *Toronto Sun*, Peterson reacted by saying he was



‘stunned’ by the decision and vowed to take his appeal ‘all the way to the Supreme Court’ if he has to. ... Before the ruling, Peterson—who no longer practices but wants to retain his license—stated that if every court rejected his appeal, he would eventually attend the training—and even broadcast it. ‘I’ll comply with their regulations, but I’m not going to do it in secret,’ the psychologist told CBC. ‘And the reason I’m not going to do it in secret is because I don’t believe I’ve done anything wrong.’ Besides, the story is not really about the Orwellian re-education training, but whether it manages to silence one of Western conservatism’s most influential voices. **‘The fundamental issue is one of free discourse. ... We think by talking, in a large part.’** Peterson said, adding that: **‘And so I’m not willing to suspend my tongue as a consequence of government decree.’”**

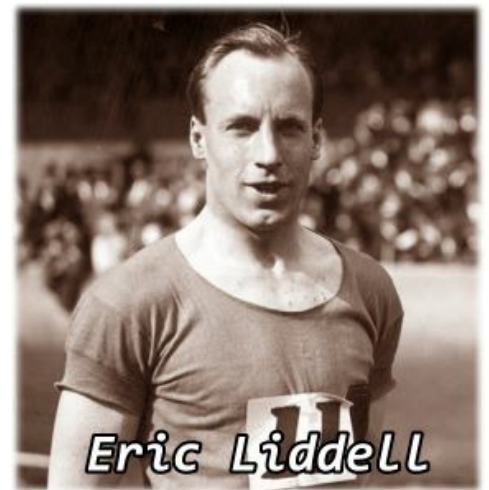
MARXISTS LOVE TURMOIL

(Friday Church News Notes, September 8, 2023, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - “Marx took Hegel’s idea of change through confrontation and accommodation and placed it in the material world. This gives us the basic communist idea of change through destruction and

reorganization. Communism thrives on turmoil because, to their way of thinking, anything which upsets order is an aid in movement toward their ultimate synthesis. In communism, the ruling class is the thesis, the working class the antithesis, and the ultimate synthesis will be a state controlled by the people living in complete equality. ... Many Christians have been amazed at the sympathy and comradeship liberal theologians feel for the godless communist movement. But it is not really surprising since they are both, in different areas of life, searching by the same methods for the same end” (Daniel J. Ebert, *Will Our Sons Defend the Faith*, 3rd edition, 1994, p. 36).

ERIC LIDDELL’S LAST RACE

(Friday Church News Notes, September 8, 2023, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Eric Liddell, the son of Scottish missionaries to China, was Scotland’s fastest runner and in 1923 won the 100 yard race at the AAA Championship with 9.7 seconds, a record that stood for the next 35 years. A committed Christian, Liddell spoke at gospel meetings for the Glasgow Students Evangelical Union during his college years. He qualified for the British track and field team for the 1924 Olympics in Paris, but because the 100 meter race was held on Sunday he refused to participate, even though this was his best distance. It was said that “most athletes come to the games desiring to be great and do great, Eric Liddle came to the Paris Olympics desiring to be good, and to do good.” In spite of personal pleas from the royal family and criticism in the British press for letting down his country, he



stood by his decision and spent that Sunday preaching in an evangelical church in Paris. He entered the 400 meter race, and it is said that as he headed to the starting block, a man handed him a piece of paper with a quotation from 1 Samuel 2:30, “... them that honour me I will honour.” He ran with that piece of paper in his hand and won, breaking the world record with a time of 47.6 seconds. In 1925, Liddell returned to China to preach the gospel. In 1943, he was incarcerated in a Japanese prison camp where he died two years later. Liddell said, “We are all missionaries. Wherever we go, we either bring people nearer to Christ, or we repel them from Christ.”

BALM OF GILEAD AND INCENSE FOR THE THIRD TEMPLE

(Friday Church News Notes, September 15, 2023, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from “Farmer Revives,” *Israel365 News*, Aug. 30, 2023: “One very special farmer in the Holy Land is raising rare and endangered plants in an effort to bring back the Biblical Balm of Gilead and the Temple incense. In 2008, Guy Ehrlich was driven to recreate the Biblical Balm of Gilead,



Commiphora gileadensis

renowned for its healing properties. Incredibly rare even in Biblical times, growing only in the extreme heat and saline soil of the Dead Sea area, it disappeared from the region in the sixth century. ... Ehrlich's passion for this semi-mythical balm led him to name his farm after it: the Balm of Gilead Farm. Today, his Balm of Gilead Farm has the world's largest private collection of Biblical plants. ... The balm was made from the tree known scientifically as *Commiphora gileadensis*. The sap of the balsam tree is released by cutting the bark. 'I focus on plants that few other people in the world cultivate. That's how I have a chance to succeed in the years to come,' he said. 'These are also very important plants, and if they're not cultivated, they'll disappear.' ... In Roman times, it was grown only in Jericho and Ein-Gedi, and it generated much revenue both for the Hasmoneans and King Herod. ... Ehrlich's is the only farm in existence that cultivates Boswellia trees, an endangered species that is the source of the frankincense that constituted one of the eleven ingredients of the Temple incense. ... His trees have been certified by the Temple Institute for use in the Third Temple, which want to make sure the raw materials of the incense will be available when the Temple is rebuilt."

FINLAND PROSECUTING CHRISTIANS FOR QUOTING THE BIBLE

(Friday Church News Notes, September 15, 2023, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from "Newest NATO Country," *The Federalist*, Sept. 1, 2023: "In an appeals court Thursday, Helsinki's top prosecutor said publicly quoting the Bible and publishing a booklet about Christian sexual ethics violates Finland's 'hate speech' law. The appeal escalates this U.S. ally's prosecution of dissidents from leftist politics, a marker of repressive regimes. The prosecutor has charged Member of Parliament Paivi Rasanen and Bishop Juhana Pohjola for writing and publishing, respectively, a booklet supporting natural marriage. 'This [case] is a God-given wake up call for Christians and others worried about the direction our society is going,' Pohjola said in a post-court press conference Friday morning U.S. time. He noted convicting a religious leader for publishing theological documents would in effect criminalize Christianity in Finland and encourage similar oppression worldwide. Rasanen is also criminally charged with posting a Bible verse to X (formerly Twitter) and stating Christian theology in a radio interview. The prosecutor wants all recordings of the radio interview taken down and the booklet to be unavailable online, and fines levied against both Christians. ... 'The content of my writings and my speeches represents the classical Christian view of marriage and sexuality, the same as the Churches have generally taught for two millennia,' Rasanen said in a statement. 'I do not condone



insulting, threatening or slandering anyone, and my statements have not included content of such a nature. I consider this matter to be a theological discussion that should not be in a courtroom.' ... Friday morning, [prosecutor Anu] Mantila argued, 'There is material in the Bible that contradicts principles in our society. This is why the interpretation of the law against discrimination must be applied effectively.' ... Due to Communist influence, much of the West has enacted speech restrictions similar to Finland's. That includes dozens of U.S. states and cities. All it would take is courts to interpret hate speech laws the way these Finnish prosecutors are arguing to criminalize Christianity across the West."

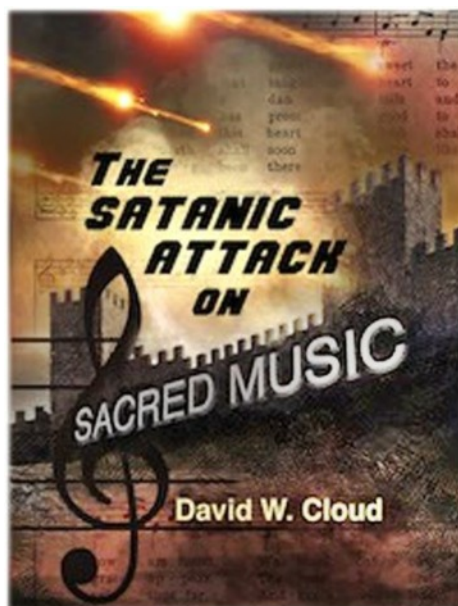
OKLAHOMA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOL HIRES DRAG QUEEN AS PRINCIPAL

(Friday Church News Notes, September 15, 2023, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from FoxNews, Sept. 7, 2023: "The principal of John Glenn Elementary



School, Oklahoma City, Shane Murnan, is a drag queen who goes by the name 'Shantel Mandalay,' *Fox News Digital* can confirm. ... Dressed as a drag queen, Murnan has read books to children to celebrate Pride for the Metropolitan Library System. According to the Facebook page, Murnan was employed as a drag queen at a venue called 'The Boom.' Ryan Walters, superintendent of [education for] the State of Oklahoma, called on Western Heights School District to immediately terminate Murnan. 'It's outrageous to have a drag queen running a school, you know, here in Oklahoma that doesn't line up with Oklahoma values, This individual is not fit to lead a school district,' Walters said. 'What they are doing is injecting this ideology for an end goal here. Their end goal is to absolutely break down a child's mind, break down the classroom, break down the family, and you see the results that have come from this. They want kids to turn on their parents and only listen to their leftist ideology.'" Earlier, *Newsweek* reported, "The hiring drew further attention when Libs of TikTok, an account on X, formerly Twitter, on Wednesday posted photos of Murnan's personal Facebook page, his alleged drag queen persona, and past news stories of the child pornography allegations he was charged with. Murnan's personal Facebook page has appeared to have been deactivated" ("School Investigated," *Newsweek*, Sept. 1, 2023).

FEEDBACK ON THE SATANIC ATTACK ON SACRED MUSIC SERIES (Friday Church News Notes, September 15, 2023, www.wayoflife.org,



fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - "My wife and I are missionaries currently ----- We have recently completed your course, 'The Satanic Attack on Sacred Music.' We thoroughly enjoyed the material! Additionally, we are now nearly finished with Pastor Tim Kelly's music retreat videos. Your course created a thirst to study this issue out in more depth. Our intent is to learn more music theory so as to be wise concerning these things and to teach others in our ministry these things. My prayer is that even more people would see the issue as a serious issue in the church today and not dismiss it as a 'non-essential' doctrine (not that there is such a thing). Music is an incredibly subtle way Satan is drawing people away. Unfortunately, this issue is such an emotionally based issue it cannot be discussed rationally very often, so we simply wait for opportunities to share these truths with others. ... Lastly, I also wanted to say that your investment into our lives and ministry has been tremendous in other ways as well. ... Thank you for devoting decades of study and work into helping disseminate the truth found only in

God's Word. It has not been, neither is it in vain!"

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

HILLSONG DRUMMER SAYS GOAL OF CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP MUSIC IS TO "ENTER INTO THE PRESENCE OF GOD" (Friday Church News Notes, September 15, 2023, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - In an interview, Matt Crocker, worship leader and guitarist for Hillsong United, said, "My goal is to create an atmosphere for people to be able to enter into the presence of God and then hear the message of God through the actual speaking of it. I love the idea of teaming up with someone to create that atmosphere. It allows people to encounter His presence" ("Seeing the World in Wonder with Hillsong United's Matt Crocker," *WorshipMusician.com*, Jul. 21, 2017). This is a clear and accurate description of the objective and essence of contemporary worship. It's about a feeling, which is why it incorporates the backbeat, beat anticipation, and other forms of rock & roll dance syncopation, as well as unresolving chord sequences and other musical elements that have a sensual effect. Contemporary worship music's objective is in great contrast to sacred music, which works through the edification of the mind and heart.



In the New Testament's teaching about worship music, there is not a hint of "entering into an experience with God," which is a nebulous thing that can easily lead to spiritual deception. "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). "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour" (1 Peter 5:8).

with the preacher" (George Whitefield).

"Satan may build a hedge about us and fence us in and hinder our movements, but he cannot roof us in and prevent our looking up" (J. Hudson Taylor).

CATHOLIC MUSICIAN SAYS CONTEMPORARY MUSIC DISARMS PEOPLE AND OPENS THEM TO ECUMENISM (Friday Church News Notes, September 22, 2023, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- Contemporary Christian musician Audrey Assad, who converted to the Roman Catholic Church in 2007, says



she is passionate about musical ecumenism and explains that it "disarms" people. **"Ecumenism, true actual dialogue between different branches of Christianity, is absolutely one of my greatest passions, and so music is a great way to accomplish that. Christians of many different stripes can come together to sing worship songs with**

"It is a poor sermon that gives no offences; that neither makes the hearer displeased with himself nor

THE SPIDER AND THE FLY (Friday Church News Notes, September 15, 2023, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is from CreationMoments.com, August 25, 2023: "One would never expect to find any insect sharing living arrangements with a spider. That's why scientists were amazed to find a tiny fly in the rain forests of Central America who shares both room and board with a spider! The fly spends most of his time on the back of the golden web spider, who does not seem to object. This spider does not deal with its victims in the same way most spiders do. When a large insect gets caught in the tough web of the spider, the golden web spider injects the victim with digestive juices to prepare it for eating. The fly keeps track of meal preparations from the spider's back. Just before the meal is liquefied to the spider's satisfaction, the fly buzzes over and drinks its fill in a few seconds. By the time the spider approaches lunch, the fly is back napping on the spider. Both the spider and the fly are designed with special features to make this most unlikely arrangement work. If the golden web spider's eating habits were like most spiders', there would be no liquefied meal for the fly. The fly itself has a mouth

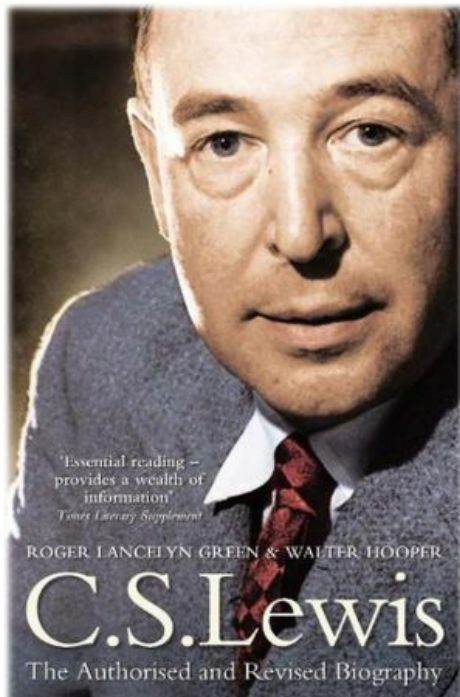


that is specially designed to allow it to drink a full meal in seconds. This helps keep him out of the spider's way. How can a spider and a fly live together? God can design a solution to any problem. Why design an arrangement between a spider and a fly anyway? So that we would know there is a Creator and that He can meet any challenge! There is nothing you cannot take to Him in the name of His Son, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Ref: 'Random chance or intelligent design?' *Associates for Biblical Research Newsletter*, Jan.-Feb. 1991, p. 2."

each other. It's a good way to open up the potential of dialogue ... And so I JUST THINK MUSIC IS DISARMING. I think it paves the way for people to put down their weapons for a minute. ... So I'm just very intentional about making sure we remain in a conversation going to all different kinds of places" ("Audrey Assad Shares Her Inheritance," JesusFreakHideout.com, Feb. 9, 2016). Assad attends Our Lady of Mt. Carmel in Tempe, Arizona, which is devoted to Mary as Queen of Heaven. In 2012, Assad performed at Trinity Baptist Church in Jacksonville, Florida, a prominent independent Baptist congregation, but Trinity's leaders are far from the only independent Baptists who are too lacking in spiritual discernment to recognize that contemporary worship music "disarms" their people toward the one-world church agenda.

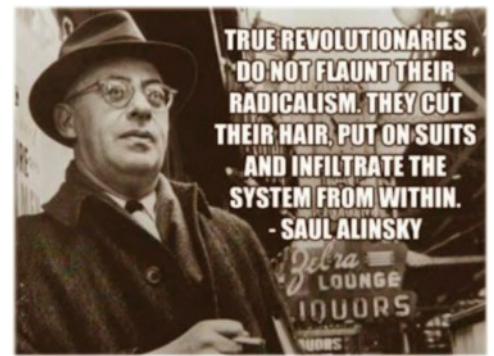
YOUNG MAN ESCAPES INFLUENCE OF C.S. LEWIS

(Friday Church News Notes,



September 22, 2023, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is a testimony we received from a reader: "My father pointed me to your materials, and at first I was hesitant, as you are more hard-lined in what you believe than Ravi Zacharias, Frank Turek, and others who I was listening to. **With time, I jumped into your materials as well, and you have made me much more confident in my faith than anyone else. Your hard stance on God's Word is not harsh, but simply true.** Your method of citing all claims you make with Biblical references is unlike virtually anyone else I have read. And to think I was close to purchasing *Mere Christianity* before reading your e-book on CS Lewis! Your work is completely necessary in such a confused and Biblically illiterate world, and I just want to thank you, as a brother in Christ, for the hard work you put into what you do. I have also built up a habit of daily Bible reading, which has now developed into a daily Bible study, using commentaries, the *Way of Life Encyclopedia*, and *Strong's Concordance* along with my reading. I also am reading strictly King James, which is something I never thought I'd be doing (your book, 'Why We Hold to the King James Bible' changed my heart in the matter). For the first time in my life, I can say that my faith in God is truly grounded in actual conviction, repentance, and a love for God and His Word, and you are a big reason for it. So again, I sincerely love the work you continually put out, and I pray daily for your various ministries as well."

MARXISM, THE NEW LEFTISM, CRITICAL THEORY, ETC., IS SIMPLY A WAR



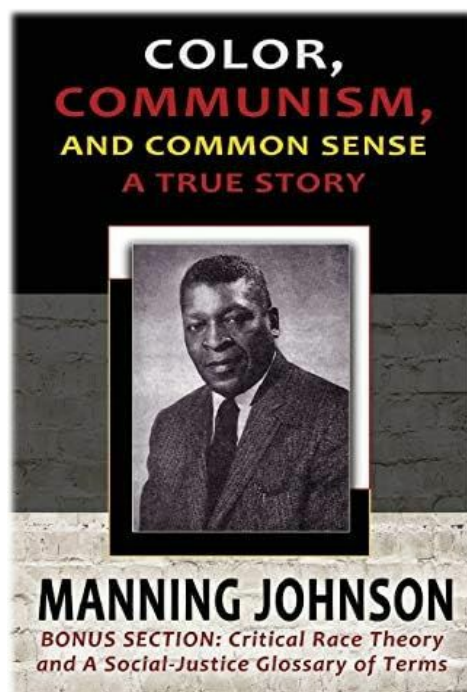
AGAINST GOD AND HIS HOLY LAWS (Friday Church News Notes, September 22, 2023, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - **Karl Marx** wrote, "Communism abolishes eternal truth, it abolishes all religion, and all morality" (*The Communist Manifesto*). **Herbert Marcuse**, father of the New Left, called for a "cultural revolution in the sense that the protest is directed toward the whole cultural establishment, including the morality of the existing society" ("Reflections on the French Revolution," cited from Michael Walsh, *The Devil's Pleasure Palace: The Cult of Critical Theory and the Subversion of the West*, 2015). **Antonio Gramsci**, founder of the Italian Communist Party and one of the founders of cultural Marxism, said, "One must speak for a struggle for a new culture, that is, for a new moral life that cannot but be intimately connected to a new intuition of life, until it becomes a new way of feeling and seeing reality," and, "Socialism is precisely the religion that must overwhelm Christianity" (*Gramsci's Political Thought: Hegemony, Consciousness, and the Revolutionary Process*, 1981). **Saul Alinsky**, communist-leaning community organizer who influenced Barack Obama, honored Lucifer in *Rules for Radicals*. In the front of the book he said, "Lest we forget at least an over-the-shoulder

acknowledgement to the very first radical ... the first radical known to man who rebelled against the establishment and did it so effectively that he at least won his own kingdom.” Alinsky’s book has been called “the bible of the far left.”

Kate Millett influential feminist, said, “A sexual revolution would require perhaps first of all an end of traditional sexual inhibitions and taboos, particularly those that most threaten patriarchal monogamous marriage: homosexuality,

‘illegitimacy,’ adolescent pre- and extra-marital sexuality” (*Sexual Politics*, 1979). Following is a chant led by Kate Millett in a consciousness-raising group in New York City in 1969: “And how do we make Cultural Revolution? By destroying the American family. How do we destroy the family? By destroying the American Patriarch. And how do we destroy the American Patriarch? By taking away his power. How do we do that? By destroying monogamy. How can we destroy monogamy? By promoting promiscuity, eroticism, prostitution and homosexuality” (cited by Kate Millett’s sister Mallory Millett who attended the meeting, “Marxist Feminism’s Ruined Lives,” *Frontpage* magazine, Sept. 1, 2014). **The Bible** says, “The fool hath said in his heart, *There is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good*” (Psalm 14:1).

MANNING JOHNSON EXPOSED BLACK LIVES MATTER 65 YEARS AGO (Friday Church News Notes, September 22, 2023, www.wayoflife.org,



fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Manning Johnson (1908-1959), a high-ranking Communist Party USA member, renounced communism in 1940 and dedicated himself to exposing its plans and methodology for the overthrow of America using racial strife. In 1958, he authored *Color, Communism and Common Sense*, the preface to which was written by Archibald Roosevelt, a son of President Theodore Roosevelt. Chapter one, “In the Web,” begins like this: “Ten years I labored in the cause of Communism. I was a dedicated ‘comrade.’ All my talents and efforts were zealously used to bring about the triumph of Communism in America and throughout the world. To me, the end of capitalism would mark the beginning of an interminable period of plenty, peace, prosperity and universal comradeship. All racial and class differences and conflicts would end forever after the liquidation of the capitalists, their government and their supporters. ... Being an idealist, I was sold this ‘bill

of goods’ by a Negro graduate of the Lenin Institute in Moscow. ... Little did I realize until I was deeply enmeshed in the *Red Conspiracy*, that **just and seeming grievances are exploited to transform idealism into a cold and ruthless weapon against the capitalist system—that this is the end toward which all the communist efforts among Negroes are directed.** Indeed, I had entered the red conspiracy in the vain belief that it was the way to a ‘new, better and superior’ world system of society. Ten years later, thoroughly disillusioned, I abandoned communism. The experiences of those years in ‘outer darkness’ are like a horrible nightmare. **I saw communism in all its naked cruelty, ruthlessness and utter contempt of Christian attributes and passions. And, too, I saw the low value placed upon human life, the total lack of respect for the dignity of man, the betrayal of trust,** the terror of the Secret Police and the bloody hand of the assassin, during and since, those fateful years when I embraced communism. ... My zeal, training, both theoretical and practical, combined with loyalty and willingness to sacrifice, changed me from a novice into a dedicated red--a professional revolutionist. Consequently, I climbed rapidly to the National Committee, the highest governing body of the Communist Party in America. ... Thus, **as a participant on the highest level of the communist conspiracy in America, I observed the cold, calculating, ruthless nature of red power politics and political warfare, stripped of all its illusory propaganda and idealistic cover.”**



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THE PROOF OF GOD IN THE PALM OF YOUR

HAND (Friday Church News Notes, September 22, 2023, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from Craig Beidler, "Proof of God in the Palm of Your Hand," *The Real Truth*, Dec. 20, 2009: "Sir Isaac Newton once said, 'In the absence of any other proof, the thumb alone would convince me of God's existence.' ... In his book *Fearfully and Wonderfully Made*, Dr. Paul Brand, who was one of the foremost hand surgeons in the world, testifies to the wonder—the miracle—of the human body. Dr. Brand explained that although many people think that fat serves no significant purpose, it does on the hand. 'Underneath the skin in the palm of the hand lie globules of fat with the look and consistency of tapioca pudding. Fat globules, so soft as to be almost fluid, cannot hold their own shape, and so they are surrounded by interwoven fibrils of collagen, like balloons caught in a supporting rope net...where stress occurs, such as on the palm of the hand, fat is tightly gathered and enveloped by fibrous tissue in a design resembling fine Belgian lace.' When you grasp a hammer in the palm of your hand, each 'cluster of fat cells changes its shape in response to the pressure. It yields but cannot be pushed aside because of the firm collagen fibers around it. The resulting tissue, constantly shifting and quivering, becomes compliant, fitting its shape and its stress points to the precise shape of the handle of the hammer. Engineers nearly shout when they analyze this amazing property, for they cannot design a material that so perfectly balances elasticity with



viscosity.' The skin of the hand is also well suited to the task of gripping and handling different kinds of objects. Dr. Brand wrote, 'If my skin tissue had been made harder, I might insensitively crush a goblet of fine crystal as I hold it in my hand; if softer, it would not allow a firm grip.' ... Another remarkable feature of a normal hand is its sensitivity. Dr. Brand states, 'A normal hand can distinguish between a smooth plane of glass and one etched with lines only 1/2500 of an inch deep.' The fingertips have the ability to detect a difference of just three milligrams. How extraordinary it is that the hand should be so well-suited for its purpose through all of these amazing features and abilities. Was this the product of chance or the

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- 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)
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- 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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