

O Timothy

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

A Monthly Newsletter for Spiritual Protection and Edification

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"The basic definition of the Greek word (metanoia) doesn't tell us much about what repentance is. It doesn't tell us what the sinner is to repent of, for example. For that, we must examine the context of the word in each passage and look at the examples of salvation in Scripture." Page 6.

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



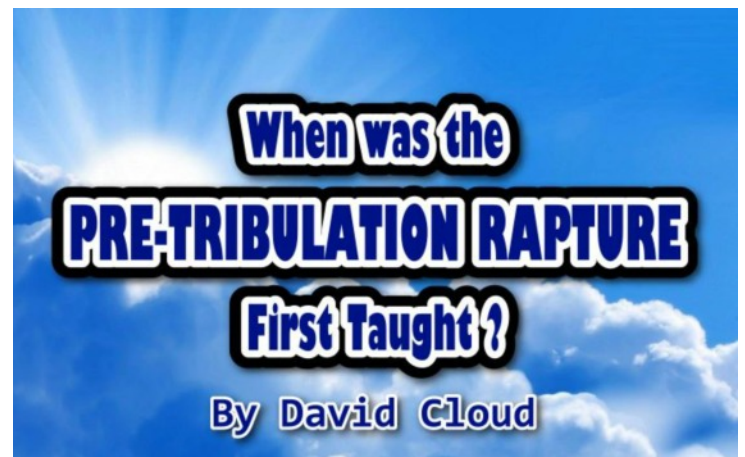
WHEN WAS THE PRE-TRIBULATION RAPTURE FIRST TAUGHT? ~ By David Cloud

It has long been alleged by those who interpret prophecy allegorically that the pre-tribulation Rapture is a new doctrine and cannot, therefore, be true.

Gary DeMar, President American Vision, says: "A majority of prophecy writers and speakers teach that the church will be raptured before a future tribulational period. But did you know that prior to about 1830 no such doctrine existed. No one in all of church history ever taught pretribulational rapture" (cited from "Why Christians Will Suffer Great Tribulation," Ourdailybreadbyjoeortiz).

When Demar says the pre-tribulation Rapture did not exist prior to 1830, he is referring to the *The Morning Watch* prophecy journal and the writings of John Darby which popularized dispensational theology in the 1800s.

Though this claim continues to be made, it is patently false.



MORGAN EDWARDS (1722-1795)

The Pre-Tribulation Rapture was taught by prominent Baptist leader Morgan Edwards. His *Two Academical Exercises on the Subjects Bearing the Following Titles; Millennium and Last-Novelties* was published in 1744 in Philadelphia.

Morgan Edwards was one of the most prominent Baptist leaders of his day. He was the pastor of the Baptist church in Philadelphia and the founder of Brown University, the first Baptist college in America. A summary of life was featured in the *Baptist Encyclopedia*. He was one of the first Baptist historians of repute, his *Materials Toward A History of the Baptists* (1770) providing a foundation for all subsequent works.

Following is what Edwards believed about Bible prophecy:

“The distance between the first and second resurrection will be somewhat more than a thousand years. I say, somewhat more; because **the dead saints will be raised, and the living changed at Christ’s ‘appearing in the air’ (I Thes. iv. 17); and this will be about three years and a half before the millennium, as we shall see hereafter: but will he and they abide in the air all that time? No: they will ascend to paradise, or to some one of those many ‘mansions in the father’s house’ (John xiv. 2), and disappear during the foresaid period of time.** The design of this retreat and disappearing will be to judge the risen and changed saints; for ‘now the time is come that judgment must begin,’ and that will be ‘at the house of God’ (I Pet. iv. 17)” (Edwards, *Two Academical Exercises on the Subjects Bearing the Following Titles; Millennium and Last-Novelties*, 1744).

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We should note that Edwards believed that the tribulation would only be 3.5 years, so he was not promoting a “pre-wrath” or mid-tribulation position.

Edwards first wrote the previous statement in an senior essay while at Bristol Baptist College in Bristol, England, before coming to America. At the beginning of the essay, in a comment addressed to his teacher, Edwards said,

“And is it come to my lot to treat of the Millennium, or Christ thousand years reign on earth? Thousand pities, sir, that you had not allotted the task to one of these older and abler students! But since it is your pleasure, I will do my possible: and IN THE ATTEMPT WILL WORK BY A RULE YOU HAVE OFTEN RECOMMENDED, VIZ. ‘TO TAKE THE SCRIPTURES IN A LITERAL SENSE, EXCEPT WHEN THAT LEADS TO CONTRADICTION OR ABSURDITY.’”

This rule of literal interpretation of prophecy is exactly the rule from which Pre-Tribulationists work today. It is the rule that I teach in my courses on Bible interpretation.

Edwards bluntly rejected the allegorical approach. Of the millennial kingdom prophecies, he said, “Miserable work do the Antimillenarians make of these texts.”

Edwards was writing 175 years before the destruction of the Ottoman Empire’s hold on the land of Israel (1917) and 200 years before the establishment of the modern state of Israel (1948), yet he knew that these things would happen. Consider the following fascinating prediction that he made based on a literal interpretation of Bible prophecy:

“The Turkish or Ottoman Empire will be demolished; for otherwise the right owners cannot posses their inheritance ... The twelve tribes (as observed before) will return to their ancient inheritance, else how can the twelve apostles be their judges? ... In this united capacity they will rebuild Jerusalem in its place, and the temple in its place on mount Zion; for in this temple will antichrist sit as god, and be the abomination mentioned by Daniel, and referred to by Christ” (Edwards, *Two Academical Exercises on the Subjects Bearing the Following Titles; Millennium and Last-Novelties*, 1744).

From the case of Morgan Edwards, it is obvious that there were Baptists in the 18th century in England and America

who held the literal principle of interpretation of Bible prophecy as opposed to the allegorical.

We must remember that most preachers do not leave a permanent record of their teaching. From Paul's day to ours, the vast majority of sound preachers have been common men as opposed to scholars.

Typically, they are not writers and do not publish books. In the record church history, we only have a tiny glimpse into what was happening, and that glimpse is based on the pittance that has survived of the little that was ever recorded.

“For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty” (1 Cor. 1:26-27).

EPHRAEM THE SYRIAN (AD c. 303-373)

We now go back to two centuries after the apostles. Ephraem is venerated as a “saint” by the Catholic and Orthodox churches, but they would not allow him to teach his doctrine of prophecy today.

Ephraem is called “the Syrian” because he lived in that region.

He was a voluminous writer. Many of his sermons and psalms are included in the 16-volume *Post-Nicene Library*. (The Council of Nicea was held in AD 325, and historians divide the “fathers” into Ante-Nicene, before 325, and Post-Nicene, after 325).

Some of Ephraem's sermons and hymns are used in the liturgy of Orthodox churches.

In the 1990s some of Ephraem's writings were translated into English for the first time, one of these being *On the Last Times, the Antichrist, and the End of the World*, A.D. 373.

The translation was done by Professor Cameron Rhoades of Tyndale Theological Seminary at the bequest of Grant R. Jeffrey. It was subsequently published in Jeffrey's 1995 book *Final Warning*.

It is obvious that Ephraem believed in a literal fulfillment of prophecy, including a Rapture of New Testament saints prior to the Tribulation.

“For all the saints and Elect of God are gathered, prior to the tribulation that is to come, and are taken to the Lord lest they see the confusion that is to overwhelm the world because of our sins” (Ephraem the Syrian, *On the Last Times*).

Observe that Ephraem taught that the saints will be taken to the Lord so they will not see the confusion that is to overwhelm the world, which is exactly what 1 Thessalonians 5:3-9 says.

Ephraem taught a literal antichrist who will sit in a literal rebuilt temple in Jerusalem, a literal 3.5 year Tribulation, a literal Two Witnesses or prophets who will preach in Jerusalem, a literal battle of Gog and Magog.

“And when the three and a half years have been completed, the time of the Antichrist, through which he will have seduced the world, after the resurrection of the two prophets, in the hour which the world does not know, and on the day which the enemy or son of perdition does not know, will come the sign of the Son of Man, and coming forward the Lord shall appear with great power and much majesty, with the sign of the word of salvation going before him, and also even with all the powers of the heavens with the whole chorus of the saints. ... Then Christ shall come and the enemy shall be thrown into confusion, and the Lord shall destroy him by the Spirit of his mouth. And he shall be bound and shall be plunged into the abyss of everlasting fire alive with his father Satan; and all people, who do his wishes, shall perish with him forever; but the righteous ones shall inherit everlasting life with the Lord for ever and ever” (Ephraem the Syrian, *On the Last Times, the Antichrist, and the End of the World*, A.D. 373).

Ephraem believed in the imminency of the return of Christ and urged Christians to live godly lives in expectation of His return.

EARLY CHRISTIANS TO AUGUSTINE

Actually, Ephraem the Syrian was not alone in interpreting Bible prophecy literally in his day.

He was living one generation from the era of Augustine (354-430), at which time there was a dramatic change. When Ephraem died in 373, Augustine was 19 years old.

It was in the era of Augustine that allegoricalism widely replaced the previous method of interpretation. Prior to this, it was common among Bible believers to interpret prophecy literally. They believed that Christ would return literally (and imminently), bind Satan, and establish a literal millennial kingdom on earth.

This is admitted by church historians.

William Newell says: “The early Church for 300 years looked for the imminent return of our Lord to reign, and they were right” (Newell, *Revelation*).

Phillip Schaaf said, “... the most striking point in the eschatology of the ante-Nicene age [prior to AD 325] is the prominent chiliasm, or millennarianism, that is the belief of a visible reign of Christ in glory on earth with the risen saints for a thousand years, before the general resurrection and judgment” (*History of the Christian Church*, 8 vols, Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1960, 2:614).

Henry Thiessen says, “It is clear ... that the Fathers held not only the pre-millennial view of Christ’s coming, but also regarded that coming as imminent. The Lord had taught them to expect His return at any moment, and so they looked for Him to come in their day. Not only so, but they also taught His personal return as being immediately, with the exception of the Alexandrian Fathers, who also rejected other fundamental doctrines” (Thiessen, *Introductory Lectures in Systematic Theology*, p. 477).

In fact, Augustine, “the father of amillennialism,” once believed in a literal millennium himself. He said, “I myself, too, once held this opinion. ... They who do believe them are called by the spiritual, Chiliasts, which we may literally reproduce by the name Millenarians” (Augustine, *City of God*, book 20, chapter 7).

The following statement by Irenaeus is an example of what was commonly believed among the early “church fathers,” as they looked forward to Christ’s return and the establishment of His kingdom:

“The predicted blessing, therefore, belongs unquestionably to the times of the kingdom, when the righteous shall bear rule upon their rising from the dead; when also the creation, having been renovated and set free, shall fructify with an abundance of all kinds of food, from the dew of heaven, and from the fertility of the earth. ... In like manner [the Lord declared] that ... all animals feeding [only] on the productions of the earth, should [in those days] become peaceful and harmonious among each other, and be in perfect subjection to man” (Irenaeus, *Against Heresies*, The Ante-Nicene Fathers).

The church at Antioch long interpreted Bible prophecy literally. Antioch was an important church founded by Barnabas and Paul, and it is from this church that the first foreign missionaries were ordained and sent out (Acts 11:19-26; 13:1-4). It was at Antioch that the believers were first called Christians.

Some of the preachers associated with Antioch were Lucian (died 312), Theodore (AD 350-428), Chrysostom (AD 354-407), Theodoret (AD 386-458), and Diodorus of Tarsus. These men interpreted Bible prophecy literally and believed in a literal millennium.

In his *History of Interpretation*, F.W. Farrar observed, “Diodorus of Tarsus’ books were devoted to an exposition of Scripture in its literal sense, and he wrote a treatise, now unhappily lost, ‘on the difference between allegory and spiritual insight’” (Farrar, pp. 213-15).

“The Antioch’s school’s two greatest exegetes, Theodore of Mopsuestia (AD 350-428) and John Chrysostom (AD 354-407), were ‘anti-allegorical’” (Matthew Allen, “Theology Adrift: The Early Church Fathers and Their Views of Eschatology,” bible.org).

Some of the early Christians after the apostles even taught a form of dispensationalism. Examples can be found in the extant writings of Justin Martyr, Irenaeus, Tertullian, and Methodius. Justin Martyr (100-165) believed in four phases of history in God’s plan: From Adam to Abraham, from Abraham to Moses, from Moses to Christ, and from Christ to the eternal state. Irenaeus (120-202) taught something similar, dividing the dispensations into the creation to the flood, the flood to the law, the law to the gospel, the gospel to the eternal state.

THE ORIGIN OF THE ALLEGORICAL METHOD OF INTERPRETATION

The allegorical method of interpretation was invented by false teachers after the apostolic era as the apostasy was growing and spreading toward the formation of the Roman Catholic Church.

A school was established at Alexandria, Egypt, which became the headquarters for the allegorical method of interpretation. Egypt was a place where false teaching proliferated in the first centuries after Christ. **Clement**, who headed the school from AD 190 to 202, corrupted the Christian faith by mixing it with the worldly philosophy and allegoricalism of Philo. He taught many false doctrines, including purgatory, and believed that most men would eventually be saved even though Jesus said only a few would be (Mat. 7:14). “Clement saw the literal meaning of Scripture as being a ‘starting point’ for interpretation. Although it was ‘suitable for the mass of Christians,’ God revealed himself to the spiritually advanced through the ‘deeper meaning’ of Scripture. In every passage, a deeper or additional meaning existed beyond the primary or immediate sense” (Matthew Allen, “Theology Adrift: The Early Church Fathers and Their Views of Eschatology,” bible.org).

Origen (AD 185-254) was one of the chief fathers of allegoricalism. He led the school at Alexandria from AD 202 to 232. Though he endured persecution and torture for the cause of Christ under the Emperor Decius in 250, Origen was laden down with heresies. Like Clement, he mixed the truth of the Bible with pagan philosophy. He taught that celibacy was a holy state above marriage, contrary to the teaching of the apostles. He taught baptismal regeneration, purgatory, and the pre-existence of the human soul. He taught that all men, even Satan and demons, would eventually be saved. He taught that the Holy Spirit was the first creature made by God, and denied the full Godhead of Jesus. He did not believe that the Scriptures are wholly inspired by God.

Origen claimed that “the Scriptures have little use to those who understand them literally.” He described the literal meaning of Scripture as “bread” and encouraged the student to go beyond this to the “wine” of allegoricalism, whereby one can become intoxicated and transported to heavenly realms. Origen’s commentaries contained a wealth of fanciful interpretations, abounding in “heretical

revisals of Scripture” (Frederick Nolan, *Inquiry into the Integrity of the Greek Vulgate*, p. 367).

Another father of allegoricalism was **Augustine** (AD 354-430), one of the fathers of the Roman Catholic Church. He was exalted as one of the “doctors” of Rome. Augustine invented the terrible and unbiblical doctrine of the inquisition that was used by the Catholic Church against Bible believers for more than 1,000 years. The German historian Neander observed that Augustine’s teaching “contains the germ of the whole system of spiritual despotism, intolerance, and persecution, even to the court of the Inquisition.” Augustine instigated fierce persecutions against the peace-loving, Bible-believing Donatists who were striving to maintain pure biblical churches. He taught that “the sacraments,” such as baptism, were the means of salvation. He taught that Mary did not commit sin. He taught the heresy of purgatory. He was one of the fathers of infant baptism, claiming that unbaptized infants are lost and calling all who rejected infant baptism “infidels” and “cursed.” He exalted the authority of “the church” over that of Scripture.

“Through Augustine, Origen's allegorical hermeneutic became the backbone of medieval interpretation of the Bible” (Matthew Allen, “Theology Adrift: The Early Church Fathers and Their Views of Eschatology,” bible.org).

These heresies grew and became a fundamental part of the Roman Catholic and Orthodox Churches.

When the Protestant denominations (e.g., Anglican, Presbyterian, Lutheran, Methodist) broke away from Rome, one of the errors they brought with them was the allegorical interpretation of prophecy and its Replacement Theology.

THE APOSTLES

When it comes to sound doctrine, the bottom line is not what anyone has or has not taught in church history. It is “what saith the Lord?” Period. The Bible is the *sole* authority for faith and practice. It is not one authority among many, and it is not the authority only as confirmed by “church fathers” and “theologians.”

The bottom line is that the apostles and early Christians interpreted prophecy literally.

They believed in an imminent return of Christ.

“For they themselves shew of us what manner of entering in we had unto you, and how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God; And **to wait for his Son from heaven**, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come” (1 Th. 1:9-10).

The apostles and prophets taught that the Lord’s return is “at hand” (Ro. 13:12; Php. 4:5; 1 Pe. 4:7; Re. 1:3).

They believed in a Rapture of New Testament saints.

“But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words” (1 Th. 4:13-18).

They believed that the New Testament saints would be saved from the Tribulation to come.

“For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as *do* others; but let us watch and be sober. For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night. But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation. For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Thessalonians 5:3-9).

They believed in a literal Antichrist.

“Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that

man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God” (2 Th. 2:3-4).

They believed in a literal return of Christ and a literal fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy.

“Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord; And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began” (Acts 3:19-21).

They believed in a literal fulfillment of Israel’s covenants following the church age.

“For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in. And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob: For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins” (Romans 11:25-27).

OTHER PRE-DARBY PRE-TRIBULATION RAPTURE QUOTES**Irenaeus (AD 130 - 202)**

“Those nations however, who did not of themselves raise up their eyes unto heaven, nor returned thanks to their Maker, nor wished to behold the light of truth, but who were like blind mice concealed in the depths of ignorance, the word justly reckons “as waste water from a sink, and as the turning-weight of a balance — in fact, as nothing;”(1) so far useful and serviceable to the just, as stubble conduces towards the growth of the wheat, and its straw, by means of combustion, serves for working gold. **And therefore, when in the end the Church shall be suddenly caught up from this, it is said, “There shall be tribulation such as has not been since the beginning, neither shall be.”(2) For this is the last contest of the righteous, in which, when they overcome they are crowned with incorruption.**”

- *Against Heresies*, Book 5, 5. 29

Cyprian (AD 200-258)

"We who see that terrible things have begun, and know that still more terrible things are imminent, may regard it as the greatest advantage to depart from it as quickly as possible. Do you not give God thanks, do you not congratulate yourself, **that by an early departure you are taken away, and delivered from the shipwrecks and disasters that are imminent?** Let us greet the day which assigns each of us to his own home, **which snatches us hence**, and sets us free from the snares of the world and restores us to paradise and the kingdom."

- *Treatises of Cyprian*

Victorinus (AD 240-303)

"And the heaven withdrew as a scroll that is rolled up." For the heaven to be rolled away, that is, that the Church shall be taken away. "And every mountain and the islands removed from their places intimate that in the last persecution all men departed from their places; that is, that the good will be removed, seeking to avoid persecution."

- *Commentary on the Apocalypse*

Thomas Vincent (1634-1678)

"the righteous ... suddenly caught up together in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air; which sight will be fearful and amazing to them, when they perceive themselves to be left behind. ... O the fear and trouble which will be upon the spirits of those unbelieving Christ-less, grace-less sinners ... some of them linked in the nearest relations to them, when their believing relations shall be caught away from them, and carried up into the air, with the rest of the glorious train of Saints, when themselves shall remain below upon the earth ... Friends will be together at that day as at other times, not expecting Christ's coming ... Suppose that the heavens should just now open and you should hear the sound of the last Trumpet, and Jesus Christ should descend. ... all you that are impenitent and unbelievers, would be left behind: and think what terror would fall upon you..."

- *Christ's Certain and sudden Appearance to Judgment* (London, 1667), 53-54.

Joseph Mede (1586-1639)

"After this, our gathering together unto Christ at His coming...The saints being translated into the air ... and they may be preserved during the conflagration of the earth, and the works thereof: 2 Pet. 3.10. that as Noah and his family were preserved from the deluge by being lifted up above the waters in the ark, so should the saints at the conflagration be lifted up in the clouds, unto their ark, Christ, to be preserved there from the deluge of fire, wherein the wicked shall be consumed."

- *Mede, Works*, III, 611 [cited in H. Orton Wiley; *Christian Theology*]

Jeremiah Burroughs (1600-1646)

"The first thing that shall be done in this great day of Jezreel, shall be the deliverance of the Churches from wofull affliction which they shall be found to be in a little before, For so the Scripture tells us, Dan.12.1. that before this day there shall be a time of trouble such as never was...and at that time thy people shall be delivered...it is therefore called a great day, because of Gods appearing so gloriously in the deliverance of his Church at that day. ... It is a going up, it is a rising... search into these truths of God, that so they may be the better prepared to meet Christ their Bride-groom when he commeth."

- *An Exposition of The Prophetie of Hosea* (London, 1643), 187, 195.

Nathaniel Homes (1599-1678)

"all mankind shall rise in their order, Christ the first fruits...afterwards, they that are Christs at his coming...notes a distance of time of above a thousand and a halfe of yeers...the rapture of the Saints into the clouds, to be their present translation into heaven...this our gathering together unto Christ at his coming (so the Apostle calls this rapture, 2 Thess.2.1.) wee shall from henceforth never lose his presence, but always enjoy it, partly on earth, during his reign of the thousand yeers, and partly in heaven, when wee shall be translated thither. **[Why] this rapture of the Saints on high to meet the Lord in the clouds, rather then to wait his coming to the earth. What if it bee, that they may be preserved during the conflagration of the earth, and the works thereof, 2 Pet.3.10. That as Noah, and his**

family were preserved from the deluge, by being lift up above the waters in the Ark, so should the Saints at the conflagration be lift up in the clouds unto their Ark, Christ, to be preserved there from the Deluge of fire, wherein the wicked shall be consumed?”

- *The Resurrection Revealed* (London,1653), 492,494.

William Aspinwall (1605-1662)

“If God by some voice from heaven, I mean out of his Churches, say Come up hither, Rev.11.12,13. Follow his call, and fear not enemies; though you see them, & they see you ascend up to heaven, you shall be safe. Some commotion or earthquake will ensue, but no detriment to you that obey the voice from heaven, The detriment will be to the enemies themselves...”

- *A Brief Description of the Fifth Monarchy, or Kingdome, That shortly is to come* (London, 1653), 9-10.

John Browne (1582-1659)

“the hundred forty and four thousand, who are called Virgins, cannot be said to be the Virgins that attend the Spouse, the Lamb’s Wife, seeing that they are upon the Earth after the said Spouse is taken up. ...then will follow the calling of the two Tribes of Judah and Benjamin to Jerusalem...and then the City is built, which bringing back of the ten Tribes will not be completed till after the Saints are taken up, when as before that time both Jerusalem and the Temple will be built, and Sacrifice offered...”

- *Events of Last Times* (London,1654), 7, 12-13

William Hook (1600-1677)

“There are several Resurrections mentioned in the Scriptures. But great troubles will follow this Resurrection [pre-Trib rapture] after a short time...which will shake the power of the Beast...till it come to Armageddon... The Beast lives in Hell upon Earth [tribulation], the Saints in Heaven...when they ascended up to Heaven in a cloud, their Enemies beheld them. They rise up from Antichrist and his Pollutions, and all his earthly and hellish waies...and at last, they shall come with Christ to judge the world. ...

“Until then they are protected, somewhat like as when the Egyptians pursued the Israelites into the Red Sea...”

- *Short Discourse of the Nature and Extent of the Gospel-Day* (London,1673) 13, 18, 20-23.

Anonymous Tract (1699)

“those saints that are then alive shall not prevent the rising of the Saints that were dead at the coming of Christ...for the dead in Christ shall be raised first; then the Saints alive in the Body, in this mortal state, shall be changed...in the twinkling of an eye, less than a moment, raise all the dead Saints, and change all the Saints then alive into an incorruptible immortal state... They shall be caught up in the Clouds to meet the Lord in the Air...in this appearing of Christ...but here it’s another sight of Christ, viz. as their Judge: for so he will be to the Sinner and ungodly, when he shall come the second time in the Clouds of Heaven...coming to enter upon his Kingdom here on Earth, with all his Saints in a glorified State, after having received their gloried bodies, and after meeting their Lord in the air, prepared for this great Assize and Judgment of the World.”

- *Anon, A Short Survey of the Kingdom of Christ here on Earth with his Saints* (London,1699, 9-11, 14-15.

Oliver Heywood (1630-1702)

“the Souls of the glorified Saints shall descend and be united to their own Bodies, and then ascend to meet the Lord in the Air, and the wicked are left behind on their dunghill the earth...the dead shall rise, before the living are rapt up... These congregated Saints shall be admitted into one place, and state of Glory: They are before the throne of God...there is room enough in heaven for all the saints, In my Father’s house, saith Christ, are many mansions.”

- *The General Assembly: or, a Discourse of the Gathering of all Saints to Christ* (London,1700), 15-16,19-20.

Increase Mather (1639-1723)

“The Living Saints at Christ’s coming shall be caught up into the Air, that they may escape that Deluge of Fire which will be the Perdition of ungodly Men. ... But before this Rapture of the living, the dead Saints shall be

raised. ... They, as to their Bodies, shall not be with Christ before the Bodies of Saints asleep in the Grave shall be with him ... As when the Flood came, there was a Difference make between Noah's family and the rest of Mankind: Thus when the World shall perish by Fire, no Saint shall be hurt by that Fire, but Sinners shall. ...we may not determine how long the Conflagration shall last. Noah's Flood continued for many Days and Months, he was a whole Year in the Ark. The Weapons of Ezekiel's Gog are Seven Years in burning, Ezek. 39.9."

- *Dissertation Concerning the Future Conversion of the Jewish Nation* (1709), 15.

CONCLUSION

Brethren, do not let anyone rob you of a literal interpretation of prophecy and the imminency of the return of Christ, which is the believer's Blessed Hope. We are looking for Christ, not for the Antichrist.

A large portion of the Bible consists of prophecy, and much of it has not yet been fulfilled. The portion that has been fulfilled has been fulfilled literally. We think of the great Messianic prophecies of Christ's first coming in Psalm 22 and Isaiah 53. The prophecies are breathtaking in detail, and every detail was fulfilled "literally."

Further, if we do not interpret prophecy according to the "normal literal" method, there is no way to determine for sure what it means.

A literal interpretation of prophecy results in the doctrine that the church is not Israel, and that Israel's covenants will yet be fulfilled after the church age.

"For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in. And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob: For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins" (Romans 11:25-27).

The 70th Week of Daniel 9:24-27 pertains to Israel, not to the church. Every event of the 70 Weeks pertains to "thy [Daniel's] people, and the holy city [Jerusalem]" (verse 24). Before God turns His attention, so to speak, to fulfilling Israel's ancient covenants, including the

Davidic covenant of 2 Samuel 7, the Church will be Raptured and will not see the coming of the antichrist and the other signs that immediately precede the glorious return of Christ.

The doctrine of the Pre-Tribulation Rapture is not a minor one. Jesus, Paul, James, and Peter taught that the return of Christ is imminent and is to be expected at any time (Mat. 24:44; Phil. 4:5; Jam. 5:8-9; 1 Pet. 4:7). The early Christians lived in this expectation (1 Th. 1:9-10).

The doctrine of a Pre-Tribulational Rapture is a great motivator for purifying the Christian life.

1. It encourages the believer in trials and persecutions. "Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words" (1 Thessalonians 4:17-18).
2. It keeps the church's focus on the Great Commission (Mat. 28:18-20; Mk 16:15; Lk. 24:44-48; Acts 1:8). D.L. Moody had it right when he said: "I look upon this world as a wrecked vessel. God has given me a lifeboat and said to me, 'Moody, save all you can.'"
3. It motivates believers to be busy in the Lord's work (1 Cor. 15:58).
4. It motivates believers to live obedient lives (1 Jn. 3:1-3; 1 Th. 5:4-7).
5. It motivates believers to separate from evil (Tit. 2:13-14).
6. It keeps believers on the outlook for heresy and apostasy (2 Timothy 4:3-4; 1 John 2:24-28).



REPENTING

Of What ?

By David Cloud



Recently I received the following communication:

Dear Bro. Cloud,

I just finished reading your statement on responding to emails, and I fully understand. I have been receiving your Friday Church News Notes and O Timothy for many years, and I really appreciate the material you produce.

I will try to keep this short. I can't think of any time I really disagree with you, but some times i see things a little differently. Repentance is one of those things. Your article in O Timothy on the corruption of evangelism was great, I have been preaching the same thing for many years, and I receive the same kind of responses.

I'm a bit older than you (82), and I regret the change in the definition of repentance. It, as well as the other things you mention in your article, has resulted in many being given false assurance of salvation, and leaving them on the road to Hell.

My question is on what we are to repent of? Many years ago I did a search through the Scriptures looking for the answer. I looked up every place in the Bible where the word repent, in any form, is used. Then I looked up every Hebrew and Greek word that they were translated from. I may have missed something, but I could not find any place where a lost person was told to repent of their sin or sins. I did find a passage where Christians were to turn from their sins, but the Greek word used there is never translated repent.

What I did find was, Hebrews 6:1, which says one of the foundational principles of the doctrine of Christ is "repentance from dead works." Every religion I know of, with the exception of Biblical Christianity, including

many so-called Christian denominations, teach that good works are, at least in part, necessary for salvation. I do believe that those who are truly saved will turn from their sin, but it seems to me that we are to repent of our own efforts to save ourselves (good works), and turn to Christ and His work on the cross alone for salvation.

This is longer than I wanted it to be, but your opinion on this, long or short, would be appreciated. I will understand if I don't get any response, but even a short one would be appreciated.

Let me close by saying, keep up the good work you do. I recommend your material to everyone I can because I think the service you give is some of the best available on line.

REPLY FROM BROTHER CLOUD

Hello, Bro. _____. I appreciate the gracious communication. I'm glad to hear that you are still kicking at 82, though probably not as high as in former days.

As for what the sinner is to "repent of," that is a very, very good question. Since it gets right to the heart of the debate about repentance and evangelism, I will answer your question, though I have written many reports and books on the subject.

For the sake of those who don't know me, let me say that I have studied this subject pretty seriously since the first year I was saved. In about 1974, I read Bruce Lackey's "Repentance Is More Than a Change of Mind." That was about the time I encountered the practice of Quick Prayerism. Like you, in subsequent years, I studied and re-studied every passage in the

Bible on the subject of repentance. I've read many reports and books on all sides of the subject and communicated personally with a great many men. That doesn't mean I'm right, of course. It is only to explain my research for those who might not be familiar with it.

Studying Bible words has been my delight for half a century. In defining Bible words, context is king, but there are other important principles. I define Bible words in a multiplicity of ways: by their Hebrew and Greek meanings, including root studies, and by how they are translated in the King James Bible, and by how they are used in biblical context. This is one of the many ways that the King James Bible is the peerless English Bible. It is not just a translation; it is a lexicon of Hebrew, Greek, and Syriac. I examine how the King James translators translated the various biblical words.

You used Hebrews 6:1 to define repentance. Salvation definitely requires repentance from dead works. But that is only one definition from one passage.

As you know, the main Greek word translated "repent" and "repentance" is *metanoea* (*metanoia*). Strong defines it as "to think differently or afterwards, i.e. reconsider (morally, feel compunction) ... (subjectively) compunction (for guilt, including reformation); by implication, reversal (of (another's) decision)." The Complete Word Study Bible defines it as "change of mind from evil to good or from good to better." Vine defines it as "to 'perceive afterwards' (meta, 'after,' implying 'change,' noeo, 'to perceive'; nous, 'the mind, the seat of moral reflection') ... hence signifies 'to change one's mind or purpose,' always, in the NT, involving a change for the better, an amendment."

The basic definition of the Greek word doesn't tell us much about what repentance is. It doesn't tell us what the sinner is to repent of, for example. For that, we must examine the context of the word in each passage and look at the examples of salvation in Scripture.

Repentance is not to stop sinning (which is works and has no efficacy). Biblical repentance is a change of mind toward God and sin that produces a change of life by the regenerating power of God. I see this everywhere in Scripture. I see it in John the Baptist's preaching to "bring forth fruits therefore meet for repentance" (Mt. 3:8), in Paul's "do works meet for repentance" (Ac. 26:20), in how the Thessalonians "turned to God from

idols to serve the living and true God" (1 Th. 1:9-10), in how Christ dealt with the rich young ruler (Mt. 19:16-22), in the Prodigal Son's determination to return to the Father and thus leave the old life behind (Lu. 15:17-19), in Zacchaeus' change of mind in regard to his business practices (Lu. 19:8-9), in 2 Timothy 2:19, "The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity," etc. In Acts 17, Paul commanded all men to repent of idolatry (Ac. 17:29-30). We see this in Revelation 9:20-21, where the people "repented not of the works of their hands ... neither repented they of their murders nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts." They are condemned in God's Word for not repenting of their sins. (The second repentance in this passage is the standard Greek word *metanoeo*.) In the Christian life, repentance definitely has to do with repentance of sin ("repent of her fornication ... repent of their deeds," Re. 2:21-22). See also Re. 2:5; 3:3, 19. (In all of these verses in Revelation 2-3 *metanoeo* is used.)

Do you believe that someone can be saved when they *have no intention* to stop worshipping idols, stop fornicating, stop homosexuality, stop thieving business practices, stop a murder plot, stop an adulterous affair, etc.? I recall a pastor who said that if he witnessed to Dennis Rodman (a pro-basketball player with the reputation of a flaming homosexual) and Rodman told him he did not intend to change anything, he would still try to lead him in a sinner's prayer. I recall an evangelistic campaign in Maine some years ago in which people were approached as follows: "If I told you that you can be saved today and you don't have to change anything, would you be interested?" There is a sense, of course, in which you can be saved and not change anything, because there is no change you can make in order to be saved, and the change that does come is by God's regenerating power. But there is no example of salvation in the Bible without change.

In my 50 years of preaching experience, I have seen large numbers of individuals reject the gospel for the simple reason that they intend to hold on to some pet sin or to a sinful lifestyle in general. It is probably the main reason people don't get saved. We have seen thousands of people attend services and Bible studies and preaching meetings in South Asia since 1979 and like what they hear and come near to being saved and even "believe," then disappear because of fear of relatives, love of idols, etc.

We don't preach that people have to turn from sin. We preach that people must repent toward God and exercise faith toward the Lord Jesus Christ. (I don't use the term "repent of your sin," though I don't believe it is wrong to use that term, if properly explained.) We preach what Paul preached, that individuals must repent toward God (Ac. 20:21). The way I see it, to repent toward God is to have a change a mind about who is Boss. It is to repent of breaking God's law, of being at enmity with Him, of being a rebel. Repentance is something that happens in the heart. It is a quiet surrender to God's authority and holiness and justice. This is what happened to me at age 23. Before that, I "believed" in Jesus from my earliest memories and was a reprobate Baptist church member, but the missing element was biblical repentance. God requires this of every sinner who will be saved. According to Paul's summary of salvation, repentance toward God is accompanied by faith toward the Lord Jesus Christ (Ac. 20:21). This is to trust 100% in Christ as only Saviour and in His atoning sacrifice. That part requires rejecting all false religions and false christs and self-works. Such a repentance and faith results in supernatural regeneration which always results in a change of life (2 Co. 5:17; Eph. 2:10; Tit. 2:11-14, etc.).

We explain to sinners that God, in His love and grace, has purchased the gift of salvation for them at great expense to Himself, and if they will receive Christ, He will give them that gift and change their lives forever. We explain what it means to receive salvation in a biblical fashion.

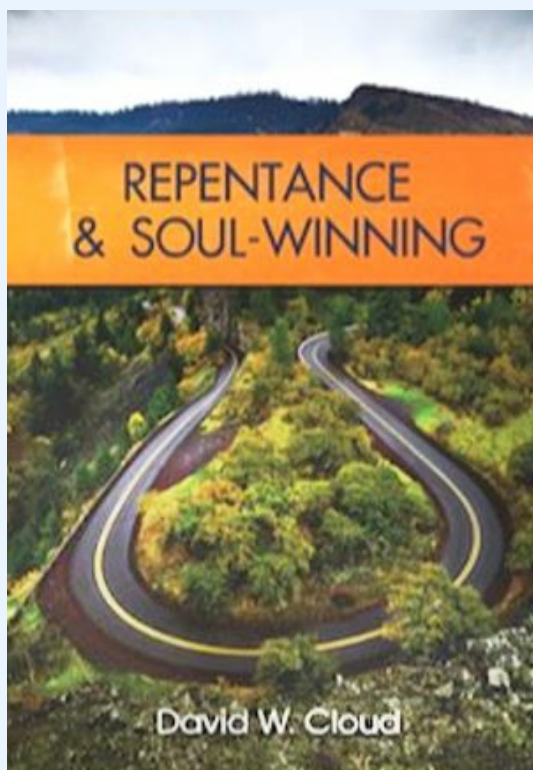
I have gone into these matters extensively in the Bible courses "[Sowing and Reaping](#)" and "[Repentance and Soul Winning](#)."

<https://www.wayoflife.org/publications/all.php>

We use the "Seeker's Bible Study" as an evangelistic tool, and it deals with repentance and saving faith in a practical way. We assign a mature church member to go through Seeker's Bible Study with every individual who is willing. We have seen good fruit from this.

https://www.wayoflife.org/free_ebooks/seekers_bible_study.php

I pray you will have many more years of fruitful service in this needy world.



Repentance & Soul Winning

By David Cloud

This is an in-depth study on biblical repentance and a timely warning about unscriptural methods of presenting the gospel. The opening chapter, entitled "Fundamental Baptists and Quick Prayerism" traces the change in the doctrine of repentance among fundamental Baptists during the past 50 years.

Three is an extensive study on biblical repentance and includes what repentance is not, a study of every Bible passage dealing with repentance, repentance defined by preachers of old, illustrations of repentance, and God's repentance.

Complete Course consists of textbook, free course documents (download above), and free Pictorial Bible presentations. It's our passion to provide serious materials to help grow serious bible students. A syllabus is provided as a guide but please adapt things to best fit your needs.

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https://www.wayoflife.org/bc/course_info_pg.php

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?



STATES TAKING STEPS TO PROTECT CHILDREN FROM SOCIAL MEDIA

(Friday Church News Notes, October 27, 2023, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

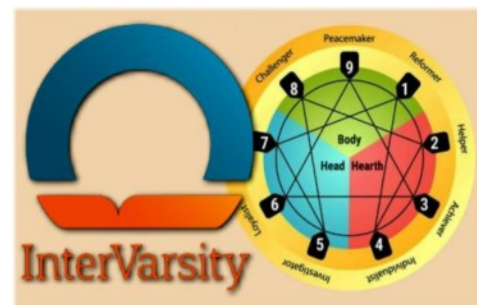
- New York officials have introduced two bills to limit children's access to addictive social media feeds and protect their mental health. The bills are supported by Governor Kathy Hochul and Attorney General Letitia James ("New York Introduce Bills," *PetaPixel*, Oct. 12, 2023). The Stop Addictive Feeds Exploitation for Kids Act (SAFE Act) "requires social media companies to restrict harmful and addictive features on their platforms." It would "allow parents to opt their children out of getting feeds curated by an algorithm" and "ban social media companies from sending notification to minors between 12:00 and 06:00 without parental consent," among other things. New York lawmakers said that "social media is a major factor behind the worsening mental health crisis among children." Multiple states have filed lawsuits against TikTok and Meta (parent company of Facebook and Instagram) for "harming the mental health of children and teens" by "leveraging highly powerful algorithms and manipulative design features to entice young users to use the app." Arkansas claims Meta "knowingly designed its

social media apps to create addiction for its younger users" ("Arkansas Sues TikTok and Meta," *PetaPixel*, Mar. 29, 2023). Other states are Utah, Texas, and Indiana. If the world sees great danger in social media, how much more should Bible-believing parents and churches! (See the book *Spiritual Safety in the Facebook Age*, https://www.wayoflife.org/publications/books/spiritual_safety_in_the_facebook_age.php.)

INTERVARSITY PRESS PROMOTING NEW AGE ENNEAGRAM

(Friday Church News Notes, October 27, 2023, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The following is excerpted from "InterVarsity Press Claims Success," *Lighthouse Trails*, Oct. 12, 2023: "The InterVarsity Press news release announced the seven-year anniversary of the release of *The Road Back to You* by Ian Morgan Cron, a book about the Enneagram. ... The release goes on to claim that because of that book, over a million people have been introduced to the Enneagram. The release's author says: 'So, today I am celebrating that 1 million people have found a way to better understand their own motivations and move toward becoming their truest self.' You see, contemplatives believe that we all have a 'true self,' which, they teach, is a good pure self, and through meditative practices, we can gain awareness of this true pure self. They believe this because they believe that



within each person, there is divinity (God). ... In 2019, we published a booklet titled *The Enneagram—An Enlightening Tool or an Enticing Deception?* by Lois Putnam and the LT Editors. We believe it has more than ample evidence to show the erroneous and unbiblical nature of the Enneagram. And the real name behind the Enneagram is not Ian Morgan Cron but rather the Catholic mystic panentheist priest Richard Rohr ... [T]he Enneagram, a nine-pointed diagram [is] used to determine personality traits and character tendencies. While it may seem harmless and nothing more than a useful tool, the Enneagram is a seducing lure to deception and an example of what the Bible refers to as ‘the wiles of the devil.’ ... After Rohr learned about the Enneagram in the 1970s, he shared his Enneagram teaching on ten tapes, later writing his now classic best-selling book, *Discovering the Enneagram: An Ancient Tool for a New Spiritual Journey* (now titled *The Enneagram: A Christian Perspective*). In Rohr’s book, he explains that the underlying premise behind the Enneagram is that each person has a ‘true self’ and a ‘false self,’ and with the help of the Enneagram, we can identify our true selves, and thus having identified it, we can now be spiritually transformed to live in that true self. ... When Rohr, who is an outspoken panentheist, says ‘True Self in God,’ he is referring to his belief that the true self is the God within every human being.”

GEORGIA SUPREME COURT RULES ABORTION BAN CONSTITUTIONAL

(Friday Church News Notes, October 27, 2023, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The following is excerpted from “Georgia Supreme Court,” *The Hill*,



Oct. 24, 2023: “Georgia’s ‘heartbeat’ abortion ban is constitutional and will remain in place for now, the state Supreme Court ruled Tuesday. The 6-1 ruling rejected a lower court’s reasoning that the six-week abortion ban was unconstitutional. ... The ruling means access to abortion in the state will continue to be restricted, and most abortions will remain illegal once a physician can detect fetal cardiac activity, which is usually around six weeks gestation, before many people know they are pregnant. The ruling was praised by anti-abortion groups, including Susan B. Anthony (SBA) Pro-Life America. ... The ruling is not the end of the legal fight over the state’s abortion ban. The case was remanded back to the trial court to rule on the remaining claims brought by the plaintiffs that the ban violates Georgians’ rights to privacy and equal protection under the state constitution. The abortion ban in Georgia was one of a wave of ‘trigger ban’ laws across the country that took effect shortly after Roe was overturned. The law includes some exceptions for rape and incest, as long as a police report is filed, and allows for later abortions when the mother’s life is at risk or a pregnancy is deemed ‘medically futile.’”

FROM UNISEX FASHION TO DRAG QUEENS (Friday Church News Notes, October 27, 2023, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The contemporary worship band Caedmon’s Call was formed in 1993 with six founding members (Cliff Young, Danielle Glenn, Todd Bragg, Cari Harris, Doug Elmore, and Aaron Tate). Derek Webb joined early on and wrote many of the group’s songs. Webb left in 2003 to pursue a solo career, and he has been on and off with the band since then (2007-2011, 2022). As with the vast majority of contemporary worship groups, there was always a unisex emphasis in Caedmon’s Call (founded 1993). It is one of the many ways that they are conformed to the world in direct disobedience to God’s Word (Romans 12:2). Some of the men wear earrings and long hair, while the female of the group wears pants. This unisex theme has been taken to its logical conclusion by Derek Webb, who now wears dresses, makeup, and wigs. Unisex fashion is not innocent. Scripture says God made man “male and female” (Ge. 1:27), and this distinction is to be maintained in dress. “The woman shall not wear that which pertaineth unto a man, neither shall a man put on a woman’s garment: for all that do so *are* abomination unto the LORD thy God” (De. 22:5). “Doth not even nature itself teach you, that, if a man have long hair, it is a shame unto him? But if a woman have long hair, it is a glory to her: for *her* hair is given her for a covering” (1 Co. 11:14-15). Mary Quant and other fashion designers of



the 1960s understood the revolutionary nature of unisex dress. In 2019, the Victoria & Albert Museum in London had a major exhibit on Quant, who put women in men's attire: pants, ties, suit jackets, and short hair. One display, entitled "Boys Will Be Girls," says that Quant "subverted menswear." Another display said, "Trousers are considered inappropriate for women [but] Quant wears them anywhere she wants." Mary Quant knew that trousers on women is not an issue merely of comfort and freedom of movement. There is a direct path from unisex fashion to the homosexual-transsexual movement. In 2023, Derek Webb published the song "Boys Will Be Girls," which presents transsexualism as something Jesus would support. This is exactly how Victoria & Albert Museum described Mary Quant's fashion revolution. On Twitter, Oct. 13, 2023, Webb promoted the sale of a cup bearing an image of him in a dress (drag queen attire) and the slogan "but i say unto you, you're beautiful and free" from his song "God in Drag." Webb presumptuously uses the words of Jesus ("But I say unto you") from the Gospels to claim Christ's support for homosexuality.

THE BATTLE FOR THE BIBLE VIDEO SERIES (Friday Church News Notes, October 27, 2023, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - *The Battle for the Bible* by Brian Snider is a timely, well-researched, 12-part multi-media video series on one of the most important subjects of our day. Every Christian home and church needs continual education on this issue. "The first seven lessons are an overview of the attack on Scripture from apostolic times. We show that during the last 2,000 years, the Bible



has had two main enemies. Before the Reformation, the greatest enemy of Scripture was the Roman Catholic Church. After the Reformation, the greatest enemy has been unbelieving Bible scholarship. In the last five lessons, we review modern Bibles compared to the KJV and see that they are dramatically different in the kind of scholarship that was used to produce them." Taught in 2023 at Madison Baptist Church, Madison, Alabama, the series has graciously been made available by Pastor Mike Allison and Brian Snider for free viewing and download.

<https://madisonbaptist.com/kjv.html>

DOES TIME WORK MIRACLES? (Friday Church News Notes, November 3, 2023, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The following is from CreationMoments.com, September 29, 2023: "It has been said that if you take a frog and turn it into a man by adding a kiss, you have a fairy tale. But if you take a frog and turn it into a man by adding millions of years,



you have science. It seems that many people think if you add millions of years, the impossible becomes possible. Even the most committed evolutionists admit that our knowledge of how things work makes it hard to explain how life could develop all by itself from nonliving stuff. The late George Wald, who taught biology at Harvard, said just this in an article in *Scientific American*. He was marveling at life and all of its complex systems when he penned some of the most famous words ever offered by an evolutionist. He wrote: 'The time with which we have to deal here is of the order of 2 billion years. What we regard as impossible on the basis of human experience is meaningless here. Given so much time, the impossible becomes possible, the possible becomes probable, and the probable becomes *virtually certain*. One has only to wait, time itself performs the miracles.' Notice how Professor Wald admits the need for miracles to produce life. Will huge amounts of time—time we know didn't exist—create these miracles? Not at all. A fundamental law tells us that if something won't happen by itself in a short period of time, it is *virtually certain* that it will not happen over a long period of time. It's true. If you reject Almighty God as your Creator, you will find another false god to work miracles. For many evolutionists, that false god is time. REF: Wald, George. "The Origin of Life," *Scientific American*, Aug. 1954, pp. 45-53."

NETANYAHU SAYS VICTORY OVER HAMAS WILL BE THE FULFILLMENT OF ISAIAH 60 (Friday Church News Notes, November 3, 2023, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)



- Speaking to his nation on Oct. 25, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu vowed to lead Israel to a “crushing victory” over Hamas and to “realize the prophecy of Isaiah.” (Netanyahu Vows,” *Christian Headlines*, Oct. 27, 2023). He quoted Isaiah 60:18, which in the King James Bible says, “Violence shall no more be heard in thy land, wasting nor destruction within thy borders; but thou shalt call thy walls Salvation, and thy gates Praise.” It is obvious that this prophecy does not describe Israel today. Consider the words of the prophecy, beginning in verse 1. It describes a time when the glory of the Lord rises upon Israel (Isa. 60:1-2), when God’s house will be rebuilt and glorified and sacrifices offered on the altar (Isa. 60:7, 13), when all nations will serve Israel (Isa. 60:12), when Israel’s officers will be righteous (Isa. 60:17), when violence shall no more be heard in the land (Isa. 60:18), when Israel’s gates will be called Praise (Isa. 60:18), when the glory of the Lord will be Israel’s light (Isa. 60:19), when the days of Israel’s mourning shall be ended (Isa. 60:20), and when Israel’s people will be righteous (Isa. 60:21). This most definitely is *not* Israel today! Benjamin Netanyahu and the Israeli army cannot bring this prophecy to pass. The marvelous prophecy of Isaiah 60 will be fulfilled when Israel is converted by repenting of piercing her Messiah as described in Zechariah 12 and Christ returns to

establish His millennial kingdom as described in Zechariah 14.

THE POPE CALLS FOR CEASEFIRE IN ISRAEL-HAMAS WAR (Friday Church News Notes, November 3, 2023, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- Pope Francis is calling for a ceasefire in Israel’s war against Hamas. He said, “Let no one abandon the possibility that the weapons might be silenced--let there be a ceasefire” (“Pope Francis Calls for a Ceasefire,” *National Catholic Reporter*, Oct. 30, 2023). A ceasefire would only help those who are devoted to Israel’s destruction. For her own security, Israel must pursue the war until Hamas no longer controls Gaza. Israel has tried to live in peace with its vicious neighbor and did not start the war. Unlike its enemy, Israel tries to avoid civilian casualties. Her soldiers operate under law. They are not instructed to rape young women, chop up grandmothers, and behead babies. By Bible prophecy, in God’s grace, we understand the times. Israel is back in the land in an apostate condition to prepare for the final seven years of Daniel’s 70 Week prophecy (Daniel 9:27). Israel is back to welcome the Antichrist. She is unwittingly setting the stage for the “time of Jacob’s trouble” (Jeremiah 30:5-11), during which she will be converted and be

right with her God for the first time in more than 2,500 years. Only then will Israel have peace. For now, Israel must survive. She must defeat her enemies. She has every right to do this. It is not the business of popes or presidents or prime ministers of other nations to tell Israel how to fight this war or when to end it.

POPE ENCOURAGES HOMOSEXUAL ACTIVISTS

(Friday Church News Notes, November 3, 2023, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The following is excerpted from “Pope Francis meets leaders of LGBTQ,” *National Catholic Reporter*, Oct. 25, 2023: “Pope Francis greeted the leaders of an international association for LGBTQ Catholics at the end of his weekly audience in St. Peter’s Square on Oct. 25. The pontiff spoke with the co-chairs of the Global Network of Rainbow Catholics, a coalition that draws together LGBTQ Catholic organizations from across six continents. Among U.S.-based members are DignityUSA, New Ways Ministry and Fortunate Families. In an interview with *National Catholic Reporter* shortly after the encounter, co-chair Marianne Duddy-Burke ... called the meeting ‘a big day for LGBTQ Catholics.’ ‘I was in tears,’ she said. ‘We have great hope for what he is trying to do to make the



church more inclusive.’ ... Francis has focused on LGBTQ Catholics in an uncommon way over the past few weeks. On Oct. 17, the pope held an historic, 50-minute meeting with Loretto Sr. Jeannine Gramick, a lifelong advocate for LGBTQ ministry who had previously been reprimanded by the Vatican and several U.S. bishops for her work. Francis also met on Sept. 29 with Jesuit Fr. James Martin, editor of the LGBTQ Catholic publication *Outreach*, and **indicated in a letter released on Oct. 2 that he is open to allowing Catholic blessing ceremonies for same-sex couples.** The pope also recently wrote a note to the executive director of Fortunate Families, a Lexington, Kentucky-based Catholic ministry for the LGBTQ community that is part of the Rainbow Catholics coalition. ‘Thank you for your ministry,’ Francis told Stan ‘JR’ Zerkowski.”

EUTHANASIA IN CANADA MAKES UP 4% OF ALL DEATHS (Friday Church News Notes, November 3, 2023, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from “Canadian government reports,” *Fox News*, Oct. 26, 2023: “The government of Canada published its fourth annual report on ‘Medical Assistance in Dying’ (MAID) this month, a document revealing that the number of MAID deaths--commonly referred to as euthanasia or assisted

suicide--in the country last year was 13,241 accounting for 4.1% of all deaths in Canada. It noted that this represented a ‘growth rate of 31.2%’ for the procedure compared to the previous year. **The report added the total number of euthanasia deaths in Canada since MAID was legalized in 2016 amounts to 44,958 deaths.** ... This month, Conservative MP Ed Fast told *The Toronto Star* he worried that the procedures--now that it could potentially be implemented on those suffering mental illness--could contribute to a ‘culture of death’ in the country.” At least 463 of the people who died by assisted suicide in 2022 “were individuals whose natural deaths were not reasonably foreseeable.”

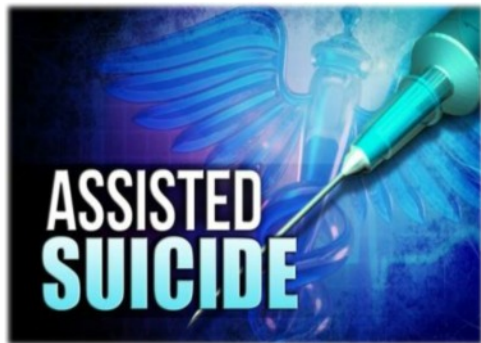
EUTHANASIA’S SLIPPERY SLOPE IN THE NETHERLANDS

(Friday Church News Notes, November 10, 2023, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from “The Netherlands is euthanizing children,” *The Bridgehead*, Apr. 11, 2023: “[In] the Netherlands, which on April 1, 2002, became the first Western country to legalize euthanasia since Nazi Germany, euthanasia deaths continue to rise. According to Dutch News: ‘Euthanasia killings rose by nearly 14.1 percent in 2022, totaling 8,720 deaths. That’s 5.1 percent of all deaths in the Netherlands. Since about half of deaths come from things such as accidents or sudden heart attacks, that means around 10 percent of deaths in which a patient was under medical care were from lethal jabs. The same percentage of USA deaths would be about 170,000 annually. (The USA totals about 3,400,000 deaths per year.) 115 mentally ill people were euthanized



in the Netherlands (sometimes conjoined with consensual organ harvesting). 379 elderly couples received joint euthanasia. ... 288 people with dementia were euthanized. In the Netherlands, killing can be ordered ahead of time by filling out an advance directive.’ The Netherlands and Canada are now on the cutting edge of medical killing, with the Dutch Ministry of Health recommending back in 2019 that the government legalize euthanasia for terminally ill children between the ages of one and 12, with a majority of 72 doctors polled for the report stating that it is morally acceptable to euthanize preteen children who are suffering without prospect of improvement (a deliberately vague framing) if their parents request it.”

FREE VIDEO ON CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP AS A BRIDGE TO DANGEROUS WATERS (Friday Church News Notes, November 10, 2023, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The video “CCM: A Bridge to Dangerous Waters” answers a commonly asked question, which is this: what harm is it to selectively use some contemporary worship music if the words are biblical and the music is not rock & roll? There are multiple aspects to the answer, but a chief thing is that contemporary worship music--any of it, all of it--is a bridge to very dangerous things. In the age



THE LOVING CROCODILE (Friday Church News Notes, November 3, 2023, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is from CreationMoments.com, October 18, 2023: “You might not think of the crocodile as a particularly loving creature. In reality, the crocodile is among the most gentle and loving of parents. Mama crocodile lays between 40 and 80 eggs in a large nest. For the 90 days they take to hatch, she will keep close watch over them, even foregoing food so as not to leave the nest unattended. Even the father stays close to guard the eggs that are a delicacy to many animals. At the end of this three-month watch the babies begin to chirp from within their eggs. Before long there may be dozens of babies chirping from the nest of buried eggs. This brings the mother who carefully uncovers the eggs, one by one. The young are only nine inches long and weigh just four ounces. Yet the gentle and loving mother picks up each one and with a flip of her head places them in a special pouch in her mouth. When some of the young have trouble breaking out of their shell, mama picks up the eggs and delicately works the eggs inside her mouth with her tongue,



freeing the imprisoned baby. Once collected, all the young are taken to a special protected nursery where they will be just as carefully tended for months. Most amazing is that, should the mother not be present to tend to the hatchling chores, the father offers the hatchlings the very same help and care! God loves even the crocodile! And his acceptance of you and me, because of what Jesus Christ has done for us, is an even greater wonder than the loving crocodile!”



of the internet, it is impossible to limit the influence. If you selectively use some of the Getty’s music, for example, you will build bridges to all of their music (including the out-and-out rock & roll) and to their friends and associates, including Roman Catholics. “CCM: A Bridge to Dangerous Waters” is a three-part video series. It identifies these “waters” as the Pentecostal/charismatic movement, the ecumenical movement, theological liberalism, New

Evangelicalism, the emerging church, modern Bible versions, contemplative prayer, cultural liberalism, the encyclopedic view of the Bible, the New Reformed Calvinism, the Jesus People, theistic evolution, homosexual Christianity, the downgrade in hell, secular rock, Matt Maher the Roman Catholic apostle of unity, Hillsong, Rick Warren, *The Shack*, C.S. Lewis, and Chuck Swindoll’s heretical doctrine of grace. We show that these things are not “out there” somewhere; they are a very near danger to every church, and contemporary worship music is most definitely a bridge to these things. This is a clear biblical issue of separation. “Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners” (1 Corinthians 15:33). https://www.wayoflife.org/s3/satanic_attack_on_sacred_music.php

WHY DOES THE WORLD HATE ISRAEL? (Friday Church News Notes, November 10, 2023, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Anti-Semitism is on the march globally such as has not been witnessed in a long time, and it is rampant on prominent American university campuses. “Yesterday, many thousands of Islamofascists and leftists turned out across the globe for pro-Hamas demonstrations, celebrating the massacre of October 7 and demanding the extermination of Jews. Trafalgar Square was packed to overflowing. Hundreds of thousands turned out in Paris. Some might find the idea of a ‘kill the Jews’ rally in Berlin alarming. And, of course, many thousands rallied to support genocide against the Jews in Washington, D.C. It looked almost



like an insurrection” (“Genocide Is Popular,” *PowerLine*, Nov. 5, 2023). What is happening? Hatred of the Jews, promoting lies about the Jews, comparing Israel with Hamas, calling for the destruction of the state of Israel--none of this is reasonable. In 1932, Harold Laski, said of Hitler’s anti-Semitic propaganda, “If the Jews trusted to reason only for the defense of their lives their chance of survival would be relatively small. For the temper in which they are attacked is inherently unamenable to rational discussion” (cited from “Thought for the Day,” *PowerLine*, Nov. 5). Laski was right, and this is a 2,000-year-old irrationality, but why? The answer is found only in the Bible. It has to do with the age-old battle between God and a world in rebellion, a world of which Satan, Lucifer, or the Devil is “the god” (2 Corinthians 4:4). The chief voices of anti-Semitism--Islam, Marxism, Humanism, etc.--are of the Devil. Israel is not right with her God at present, but that is no reason to hate her. God will take care of Israel and bring her to repentance, as He has promised to do in many prophecies of Holy Scripture. As the multitudes rage against Israel and her God, we pray for Israel; we pray for Israel’s safety; we pray for Israel’s repentance. God’s Christ, the Lord Jesus, will rule Israel and the world, and nothing can stop it. All the

nations banded together with all their might, with Satan at their head, cannot stop it, as the great prophecy of Psalm 2 proclaims. It announces the future in the present tense, because *everything* is in the present tense with the Eternal God, who declares the end from the beginning (Isaiah 48:10).

PSALM 2 (Friday Church News Notes, November 10, 2023, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - “Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? 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. Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion. I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou *art* my Son; this day have I begotten thee. Ask of me, and I shall give *thee* the heathen *for* thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth *for* thy possession. Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter’s vessel. Be wise now therefore, O ye

kings: be instructed, ye judges of the earth. Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling.”

THE LATEST HOMOSEXUAL CONTEMPORARY CHRISTIAN MUSIC ARTIST (Friday Church News Notes, November 10, 2023, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Singer/songwriter Grace Baldrige, who goes by the name Semler, announced on TikTok that she’s expecting a baby with her “wife” Elizabeth Capel (“Queer ‘Christian’ Artist Semler Announces,” JubileeCast, Nov. 1, 2023). Semler claims to be a non-binary lesbian, which, I suppose, is supposed to mean something. In the song “Faith,” which was number one this summer on iTunes *Christian and Gospel* chart, Semler complains that “my religion turned against me.” On learning of gaining the top spot, she tweeted, “I really can’t believe it. We got a queer artist to chart at #1 in Christian music during Pride month.” In 2022, Semler toured with the Christian rock band Relient K, winner of two Dove awards. The band posted the following on Twitter, “We are super stoked to announce that @gracebaldrige - Semler will be opening up all the shows on the Um Yeah Tour.” Semler replied, “Relient K is about to have a bunch of gays at their shows this spring now.”



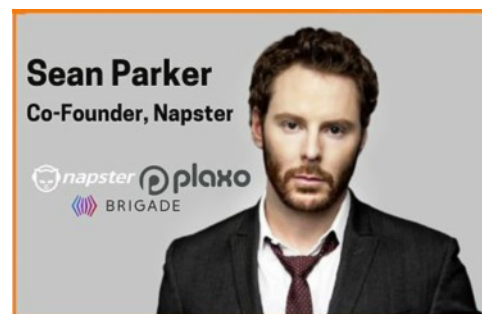
EARTHQUAKES CAUSE A TRILLION DOLLARS IN DAMAGE (Friday Church News Notes, November 10, 2023, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Earthquakes over the past 50 years have killed tens of thousands of people and caused economic damage of about \$1 trillion. Damages include \$200 billion in Hanshin Japan, 1995; \$360 billion in Tohoku, Japan, 2011; \$150 billion in Sichuan, China, 2008; \$50 billion Northridge, California, 1994; \$40 billion in Chirstchurch, New Zealand, 2011; \$30 billion in Chile, 2010; and \$28 billion in Nilgata, Japan, 2004 (“Nepal earthquake,” *Fox News*, Nov. 4, 2023).

EARTHQUAKES IN DIVERS PLACES: GOD’S KNOCK ON THE ROOF (Friday Church News Notes, November 10, 2023, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - In His great prophecy of the end times, the Lord Jesus Christ spoke of earthquakes. “For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. All these *are* the beginning of sorrows” (Matthew 24:7-8). This was spoken 2,000 years ago and is repeated in three of the Gospels. The “beginning of sorrows” refers to the beginning of the seven



year Day of the Lord which will usher in Christ’s return, but the events of the beginning of sorrows obviously precede the Day of the Lord as preliminary warnings of its approach. Earthquakes are the Lord’s “knock on the roof,” which is a military tactic Israel has used for several years in Gaza. A low yield device is exploded on the roof of a Palestinian home that is targeted for destruction as a warning of imminent destruction. It is designed to give the occupants opportunity to flee. The good Lord is knocking on the door of this world. “Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish *from* the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed *are* all they that put their trust in him” (Psalm 2:12). “... the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power” (2 Thessalonians 1:7-9).

FIRST PRESIDENT OF FACEBOOK WARNED THAT IT WAS DESIGNED TO BE ADDICTIVE (Friday Church News Notes, November 10, 2023, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - “The following is excerpted from “The Terms of Service,” *The American Conservative*, May 9, 2022: “[T]he social media platforms conditioning a generation to twitch for dopamine hits every time their smartphones buzz like rats in a lab *know what they are doing*. In 2017, Sean Parker, first president of Facebook and founder of Napster, explained that Facebook’s in-house experts had essentially figured out



how to hack the minds of its users: ‘The thought process that went into building these applications, Facebook being the first of them...was all about: How do we consume as much of your time and conscious attention as possible? And that means that we need to sort of give you a little dopamine hit every once in awhile, because someone liked or commented on a photo or post or whatever. And that’s going to get you to contribute more content, and that’s going to get you...more likes and comments. It’s a social-validation feedback loop...exactly the sort of thing that a hacker like myself would come up with, because you’re exploiting a vulnerability in human psychology. The inventors, creators—it’s me, it’s Mark Zuckerberg, it’s Kevin Systrom on Instagram, it’s all of these people—understood this consciously. And we did it anyway.’” For more about this, see [Spiritual Safety in the Facebook Age](http://www.wayoflife.org/publications/all.php), <https://www.wayoflife.org/publications/all.php>.

FREE VIDEO ON THE LANGUAGE OF MUSIC STYLES: SACRED VS. CONTEMPORARY (Friday Church News Notes, November 10, 2023, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - “The Language of Music Styles” is one of the video classes in [The Satanic Attack on Sacred Music](http://www.wayoflife.org) series. In this video, we learn how to discern the major elements of the worldly sound

in contemporary music. We deal with syncopated dance styles, soft styles, and unresolving chord styles. We learn how to discern soft rock. We learn how chords are used in contemporary music to create a sensual “feel.” We examine vocal singing styles that have been borrowed from secular music and that add a sensual element to the music (scooping and sliding, improvisation, breathy, vocal fry).

https://www.wayoflife.org/s3/satanic_attack_on_sacred_music.php



HAMAS VOWS TO DESTROY ISRAEL (Friday Church News Notes, November 17, 2023, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Speaking from relative safety in Qatar and Lebanon, leaders of Hamas say their goal is to destroy Israel from the land. “Khalil al-Hayya, a member of the terrorist group’s politburo in Qatar, said they planned the Oct. 7 assault to ‘change the entire equation and not just have a clash’ ... Hamas’s goal is not to run Gaza and to bring it water and electricity and such. ... This battle is to completely overthrow the situation.’ ... Senior Hamas official Ghazi Hamad told Lebanon’s *LBC TV* on Oct. 24 that the terror group would continue to carry out massacres like the one it carried out in southern Israel on Oct. 7 until the Jewish state is destroyed. ‘Israel is a country that has no place on our land. We must remove that country because it constitutes a

security, military and political catastrophe to the Arab and Islamic nation, and must be finished,’ said Hamad, according to a translation of the interview provided by the Middle East Media Research Institute” (“Hamas: We want permanent war with Israel,” *Israel Today*, Nov. 8, 2023). Hamas is whistling in the dark. Even in her present unrighteous condition, Israel is God’s chosen nation and that land is Israel’s by divine decree. All of the armies of the world cannot change that. In about 700 BC, speaking the infallible Word of God, the prophet Hosea summarized Israel’s future as follows. “For the children of Israel shall abide many days without a king, and without a prince, and without a sacrifice, and without an image, and without an ephod, and *without* teraphim: Afterward shall the children of Israel return, and seek the LORD their God, and David their king; and shall fear the LORD and his goodness in the latter days” (Hosea 3:4-5). The many days without a king and sacrifice and ephod (priesthood and temple) are nearly finished, and the conversion and restoration is at hand. “David their king” is a reference to David’s Son Jesus Christ who was promised an eternal throne. “Now therefore so shalt thou say unto my servant David, Thus saith the Lord of hosts ... when thy days be fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, I will set up thy seed after thee, which shall proceed out of thy bowels, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever” (2 Samuel 7:8, 12-13). “For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father,

The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of *his* government and peace *there shall be* no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this” (Isaiah 9:6-7).

JIMMY BUFFETT SAYS KEEP THE PARTY GOING (Friday Church News Notes, November 17, 2023, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Rocker Jimmy Buffett died in September of cancer. On his deathbed he exhorted his friends to “keep the party going” (“Jimmy Buffett guitarist recalls singer’s final hours,” *Fox News*, Nov. 10, 2023). Buffett was famous for the drinking song “Margaritaville,” which is about an indolent, beach party lifestyle. (A margarita is an alcoholic drink made of tequila.) The lyrics say, “But there’s booze in the blender/ and soon it will render/ That frozen concoction that helps me hang on/ Wastin’ away again in Margaritaville.” The margaritaville web site eulogizes Buffett in these words: “We celebrate his life, believe his spirit lives on like a never-ending encore, and will see his radiant smile and that twinkle in his eye when we look towards the sun and will continue to share his way of life wherever, whenever we can.” Actually, the glorification of a margaritaville lifestyle was a



deception. He admitted years ago that he no longer lived the drinking/smoking lifestyle. He said, “[P]eople start dying, you know. And having nervous breakdowns. And then you go, ‘Wait a minute here’” (Jimmy Buffett’s *Life Is Nothing Like It Seems*, Nikiswift.com, Feb. 3, 2023). It is obvious that you can’t party very long without facing destruction. He “cleaned up his act,” sought therapy for his “alcoholic addiction,” and gave up marijuana. Building on his mindless hit song, Buffett built a billion dollar financial empire, with Margaritaville tours, restaurants, hotels, casinos, resorts, cottages, sea cruises, and other products. “[T]he increasingly-wealthy musician compartmentalized, keeping the trappings of the beach bum in his businesses while moving on to a much more lavish life for himself. Turns out all of the people getting wasted away again in Margaritaville are financing quite the fancy lifestyle for the son of a son of a sailor” (Ibid.). The Bible says, “Wine *is* a mocker, strong drink *is* raging; and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise” (Proverbs 20:1).

COUNTRY MUSIC DRINKING THEME (Friday Church News Notes, November 17, 2023, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The wicked character of Country music is evident by its glorification



of drinking. Only God knows how many Country music fans have perpetrated violent acts, committed fornication and adultery, destroyed their marriages, estranged their children and friends, crashed their vehicles, ruined their health, died before their time, and lost their souls--all because of “drinking.” Following are a few of the top 20 “drinking” songs chosen by *The Boot* magazine: **“WHISKEY RIVER”** by Willie Nelson (1973): “Whiskey River take my mind / Don't let her mem'ry torture me. / Whiskey River, don't run dry / You're all I've got, take care of me.” **“FRIENDS IN LOW PLACES”** by Garth Brooks (1990): “I've got friends in low places / Where the whiskey drowns / And the beer chases my blues away / And I'll be OK.” **“ALL MY ROWDY FRIENDS”** by Hank Williams, Jr. (1984): “Do you wanna drink? / Do ya wanna party? / ... I cooked a pig in the ground, we got some beer on ice / And all my rowdy friends are coming over tonight.” **“I GOTTA GET DRUNK”** by George Jones, Merle Haggard, Willie Nelson (1970): “A lot of doctors tell me / That I'd better start slowing it down / But there's more old drunks than there are old doctors / So I guess we'd better have another round.” **“MARGARITAVILLE”** by Jimmy Buffett (1977): “There's booze in the blender / And soon it will render / That frozen concoction that helps me hang on.” The Bible says: “Who hath woe? who hath sorrow? who hath contentions? who hath babbling? who hath wounds without cause? who hath redness of eyes? They that tarry long at the wine; they that go to seek mixed wine. Look not thou upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth his colour in the cup, when it moveth itself aright. At the last it biteth like a serpent, and

stingeth like an adder. Thine eyes shall behold strange women, and thine heart shall utter perverse things. Yea, thou shalt be as he that lieth down in the midst of the sea, or as he that lieth upon the top of a mast. They have stricken me, shalt thou say, and I was not sick; they have beaten me, and I felt it not: when shall I awake? I will seek it yet again” (Proverbs 23:29-35).

THE GOOSE AND THE GANDER: HOW FEMINISM PAVED THE WAY FOR TRANSGENDERISM IN SPORTS (Friday Church News Notes, November 17, 2023, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- For a man to pretend to be a woman and to compete in women’s sports is nutty, but it is a product of a society that has rejected the Word of God. **Feminism says the woman can be a man.** She can do whatever the man does and she must be allowed to do so. This is the philosophy that has put women into the front lines of the military. Deshauna Barber, 2016 Miss USA winner and a soldier in the U.S. Army, said, “We are just as tough as men. As a commander of my unit, I am powerful. I am dedicated. And it is important that we recognize that gender does not limit us in the United States Army ... It’s time to show that we as women are versatile, strong and can be anything we set our minds to.” On the other hand, **transgenderism claims that a man**



can be a woman. Why not? If the woman can be a man, why can't a man compete in women's sports? But now women are complaining. "It isn't fair; it isn't right." This is the dilemma caused by exalting man's thinking over God's Word. The Bible destroys all of this confusion at its root. It says God made man "male

and female" (Genesis 1:27). It says the man and woman are created for unique roles in society. They are to compliment one another rather than compete with one another. That is the only right view of male and female. The Bible specifically says the man is stronger than the female (Proverbs 20:29; 1 Peter 3:7). This

is obvious when men pretending to be women compete in women's sports. It is obvious when women try to compete head to head with men in the military. The same reason there are no women in professional football or special forces is the reason why men should not compete in women's sports.

CROCODILE BIRD (Friday Church News Notes, November 17, 2023, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is from CreationMoments.com, October 16, 2023: "How would you like to be a dental hygienist for a crocodile? That's how the crocodile bird makes his living. Of course you do need to know that the crocodile bird doesn't show up to do his work with any drills or needles. He and the crocodile are on good terms with each other. After eating, the crocodile climbs the river bank and relaxes with his mouth open. The little crocodile bird enter the crocodile's mouth to clean up the scraps that are left. While the crocodile bird makes most of his living as sort of a crocodile dental hygienist, he also helps keep the crocodile free of pesky insects that lodge in his skin. The crocodile also receives one other service from the crocodile bird. Whenever the bird senses approaching danger, he gives his sharp warning call and flies off. The crocodile, now warned, can quickly roll over into the water where virtually no animal can get the best of him. This is but one of many



unlikely cooperative arrangements that we find in the plant and animal kingdoms. Every one of these relationships speaks for a Creator and against the idea that either these creatures, or their cooperation, evolved naturally. Evolutionists have written whole books on the subject. Yet they don't seem satisfied that they have explained how these relationships could develop through evolution. We agree that they have no explanation. Nor are they likely to find one as long as they deny a Creator who cares for His creation."

Aim of O Timothy Magazine

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



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