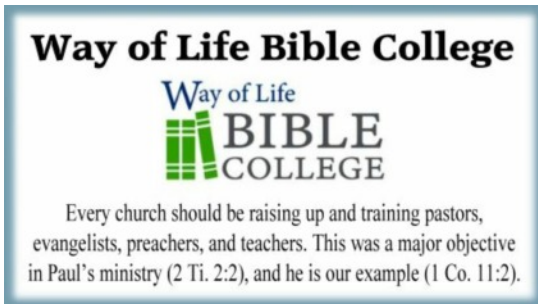


O Timothy

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

A Monthly Newsletter for Spiritual Protection and Edification

Volume 41 - Issue 3 - March 2024



"Our passion is for sound New Testament churches. The church we see in Scripture doesn't merely have a Bible college, it is a Bible college. It is not merely a college in knowledge, it is a college in living. The New Testament church is God's premier institution for the teaching and practice of truth in this dark world." Page 5.

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



I HOLD TO THE DOCTRINES OF GRACE ~ By David Cloud

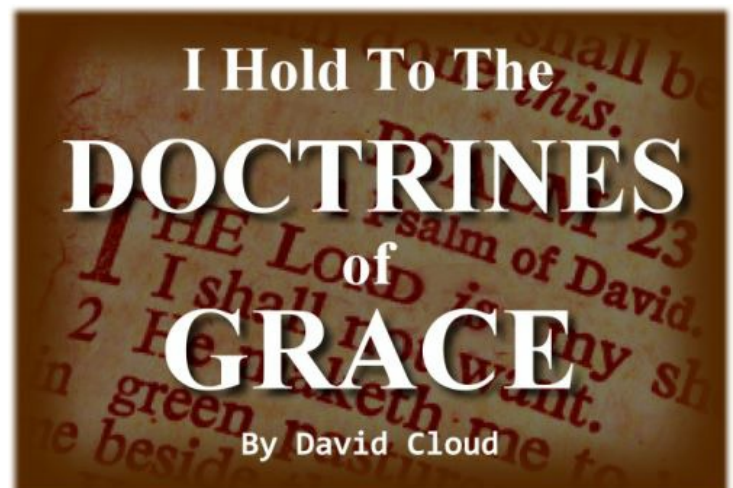
I hold to the doctrines of grace that are clearly taught in Scripture. I absolutely love God's grace.

I am a Bible man. I love everything about the Bible. I've been a Bible man ever since the night I was converted in a motel room in Daytona Beach, Florida, in 1973.

That night I came to believe that the Bible is God's infallible Word, verbally and plenary, though I didn't yet know those terms. I have never doubted a word of the Bible since then. I don't understand it all, but I believe it all.

The kind man that led me to Christ gave me a large King James Bible, and that has been the Book of my life ever since. He taught me to study the Bible diligently and to rightly divide it and to test absolutely everything through the lens of Scripture.

I believe the following doctrines of grace, and I rejoice daily in this great light:



I believe in the sovereignty of God, and I delight in it.

I believe God is Almighty, all-wise, infinite, eternal, King of kings, the only God, the most High. He "sitteth upon the circle of the earth, and the inhabitants thereof *are* as grasshoppers ... That bringeth the princes to nothing; he

maketh the judges of the earth as vanity” (Isa. 40:22-23). “The LORD sitteth upon the flood; yea, the LORD sitteth King for ever” (Isa. 29:10).

The heaven is His throne and the earth is His footstool (Isa. 66:1). He “worketh all things after the counsel of his own will” (Eph. 1:11). He is working all things together according to His eternal plan “that in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; *even* in him” (Eph. 1:10).

God--not revolutions or politics or economics or dynasties--is the Author of human history. He “changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding” (Da. 2:21).

No matter what men determine to do, God is in charge. “The lot is cast into the lap; but the whole disposing thereof *is* of the LORD” (Pr. 16:33). The God who made the world and all things therein “hath made of one blood all nations of men, for to dwell on the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation” (Ac. 17:24-26).

I can say with Abraham Kuyper, “There is not a square inch in the whole domain of our human existence over which Christ, who is Sovereign over all, does not cry: ‘Mine!’”

I believe every son of Adam is unrighteous and undone before God, having a heart that is desperately wicked, not good, spiritually blind, dead in trespasses and sins, estranged from God, at enmity with God, under the power of the devil, totally unworthy of salvation; **and it is absolutely impossible for a sinner to save himself by any means whatsoever,** not by “good” works, not by willing to be righteous, not by sincerity, not by devotion, not by religion, not by sacraments, not by priestcraft, not by asceticism or self-abuse or mysticism, not by peyote or LSD, not by psychology or any other of man’s devices.

I believe salvation is 100%--I repeat, 100%--a work of God’s grace on the basis of the vicarious atonement of Jesus Christ which is the full and acceptable propitiation whereby the sinner is forgiven, cleansed, justified, adopted and given an eternal inheritance in Christ. Salvation is 100% God’s grace, God’s work, God’s provision.

“So then *it is* not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth mercy” (Ro. 9:16).

“For by grace are ye saved through faith, and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast” (Eph. 2:8-9).

I can sing with Isaac Watts, “Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast save in the death of Christ, my God! All the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them through his blood.”

I agree with Isaac Watts’ father, “Avoid their doctrine of meriting by works of obedience, for there is some sin that pollutes our best duties, and we can deserve nothing at God’s hand but wrath. All the good we receive comes of His free grace.”

I sing with Elvina Hall, “For nothing good have I whereby Thy grace to claim, I’ll wash my garments white in the blood of Calv’ry’s Lamb. Jesus paid it all, all to Him I owe.”

I believe that God wants all men to be saved, because He says He does.

That is God’s sovereign will and desire. He “will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth” (1 Ti. 2:4) and He is “not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance” (2 Pe. 3:9) and He “hath concluded them all in unbelief, that he might have mercy upon all” (Ro. 11:32). Thus I believe that all men *can* be saved. The gospel is good news for all men. Christ commanded the gospel to be preached to all men and, “He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned” (Mr. 16:15-16). I don’t believe Christ is playing games with sinners by having good news preached to all of them when it isn’t actually for all of them. I believe the angel’s message of “good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people” (Lu. 2:10). Comparing Scripture with Scripture, I don’t believe that merely means all types of people.

I believe that Christ died for all men in the sense that He made it possible for all men to be saved.

I believe this because the Bible plainly teaches it. He “gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time” (1 Ti. 2:5). He “is the propitiation for our sins: and not

for ours only, but also for *the sins* of the whole world” (1 Jo. 2:2). “To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation” (2 Co. 5:18).

I believe that sinners cannot draw themselves or enlighten themselves or awaken themselves or raise themselves from the dead or bring themselves to Christ.

All of that is God’s work of grace. Scripture plainly teaches that Christ draws all sinners (Joh. 12:32) and enlightens all sinners (Joh. 1:9) and the Spirit of God operates in all sinners through the preaching of the gospel (Joh. 16:8-11; Ac. 1:8) to make it *possible* for men to be saved.

I believe that a sinner *can* respond to this work of God and believe in Christ savingly, and a sinner *can* reject the work of God.

I believe this because the Bible plainly teaches it.

“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, *thou* that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under *her* wings, and YE WOULD NOT!” (Mt. 23:37).

“Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me. And YE WILL NOT COME to me, that ye might have life” (Joh. 5:39-40).

I believe in, and rejoice in, election, predestination, and foreknowledge.

“For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate *to be* conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified” (Ro. 8:29).

“Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied” (1 Pe. 1:2).

“According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will” (Eph. 1:4-5).

I believe that the gospel invitation is a genuine “whosoever” invitation, not an invitation reserved for a certain part of mankind. I believe this because the Bible teaches it in multiple passages, the plain meaning of which cannot be mistaken.

“And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That WHOSOEVER BELIEVETH in him should not perish, but have eternal life” (Joh. 3:14-15).

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that WHOSOEVER BELIEVETH in him should not perish, but have everlasting life” (Joh. 3:16).

“Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And WHOSOEVER liveth and BELIEVETH in me shall never die” (Joh. 11:25-26).

“I am come a light into the world, that WHOSOEVER BELIEVETH on me should not abide in darkness” (Joh. 12:46).

“And it shall come to pass, *that* WHOSOEVER SHALL CALL on the name of the Lord shall be saved” (Ac. 2:21).

“To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name WHOSOEVER BELIEVETH in him shall receive remission of sins” (Ac. 10:43).

“As it is written, Behold, I lay in Sion a stumblingstone and rock of offence: and WHOSOEVER BELIEVETH on him shall not be ashamed” (Ro. 9:33).

“For the scripture saith, WHOSOEVER BELIEVETH on him shall not be ashamed. For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved” (Ro. 10:11-13).

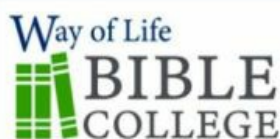
“And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And

WHOSOEVER WILL, let him take the water of life freely” (Re. 22:17).

I believe that the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on Calvary and His resurrection three days later are the central events of human history.

His sacrifice was substitutionary. He is the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world (Joh. 1:29). “... he *was* wounded for our transgressions, *he was* bruised

for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace *was* upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all” (Isa. 53:5-6). His blood and death was the propitiation for the sins of the world to satisfy man’s infractions against God’s holy law. It was sufficient to save all men. It was accomplished fully on the cross and was finished there. “For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified” (Heb. 10:14).



Mastering the English Bible

A complete Bible curriculum in 11 segments

Mastering the English Bible is our most comprehensive Bible course. It is an in-depth survey of the Old and New Testaments, covering Bible history and every book of the Bible.

Mastering the English Bible is for beginning Bible students as well as for advanced ones. It is for youngsters (teens and above) and oldsters. It is for individuals, homes, and churches. It is nearly a complete Bible college curriculum in one course. The aim is to educate the student in Bible history, Bible times (e.g., Egypt, ancient Babylon, Phoenicians, Canaanites, Hittites, Assyria, neo-Babylon, Persia, Greece, Rome), Bible interpretation, Bible doctrine, Bible terms, Bible geography, Bible typology (e.g., the Passover, the Tabernacle, the Levitical Priesthood, the Levitical offerings), Bible culture, Bible biography, Bible archaeology, and Bible prophecy. The course aims to to give the student a broad comprehension of the Bible as a whole. The Bible is one Book that was planned by God in eternity before it was given to the holy prophets, and understanding the big picture is necessary to rightly understand the parts. We teach the student to see Christ everywhere in Scripture.

Mastering the English Bible is practical throughout. Bible teaching does not accomplish God’s will until it produces born again salvation and holy living (2 Ti. 3:16-17). We emphasize the believer’s life as a priest

(1 Pe. 2:5), pilgrim (1 Pe. 2:11), ambassador (2 Co. 5:20), builder of the New Testament church (1 Co. 3:9-15), builder of the home (Eph. 5:22 - 6:4), teacher (Heb. 5:12-14), spiritual warrior (Eph. 6:10-19), and minister of spiritual gifts (Ro. 12:3-8).

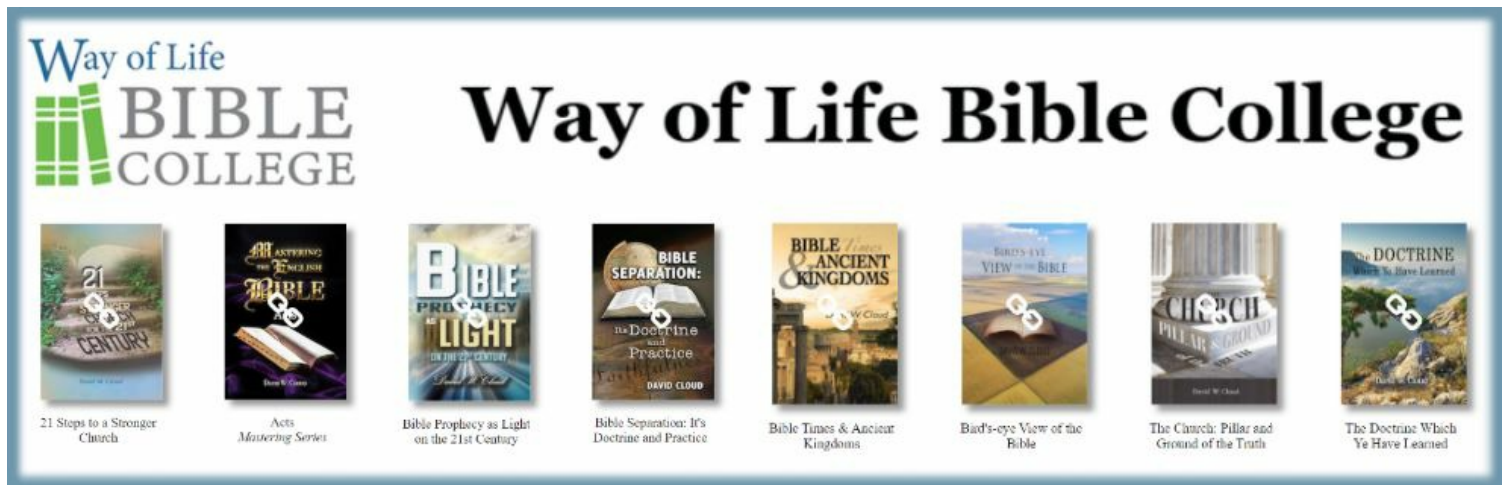
Mastering the English Bible is a package that consists of textbooks (totaling 3,000 pages), syllabi, student assignments, review questions, tests, and test scores. Many of the segments also have video classes (242 in total). These contain the lectures plus multimedia presentations featuring 7,500 maps, archaeology photos, Bible pictures, reconstructive drawings of ancient sites, video clips, and other visual aids gleaned from museums plus research trips to Israel, Greece, Turkey, Jordan, Egypt, and Europe. The course is divided into 11 parts: 01 Old Testament History Genesis to the Silent Years, 02 Job and Psalms, 03 Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon, 04 Prophetic Books, 05 The Gospels, 06 Acts, 07 Romans to Corinthians, 08 Galatians to Thessalonians, 09 The Pastoral Epistles, 10 The General Epistles, 11 Revelation.

Complete Set - Eleven (11) Textbooks

Set of Eleven Books
Coil Bound Softcover
\$225.00

Set of Eleven eBooks
PDF eBooks
\$180.00

Information at: <https://www.wayoflife.org/mastering/>



WAY OF LIFE BIBLE COLLEGE

We are pleased to announce the Way of Life Bible College.

<https://www.wayoflife.org/publications/bible-college.php>

We have been working on this project for 50 years. I published my first book in 1974, the first year I was saved. I published my first Bible course in 1980. It was on Bible prophecy. Beginning in 2002, we published the *Advanced Bible Studies Series*, consisting of 21 courses. The Way of Life Bible College replaces that series. All of the courses are either brand new or highly revised.

The Way of Life Bible College is both a concept and a curriculum.

First, the Way of Life Bible College is a concept that a sound New Testament church is a serious training institution.

Our passion is for sound New Testament churches. The church we see in Scripture doesn't merely *have* a Bible college, it *is* a Bible college. It is not merely a college in knowledge, it is a college in living. The New Testament church is God's premier institution for the teaching and practice of truth in this dark world. It is *the pillar and ground of the truth* (1 Ti. 3:15). Christ is truth, and the Bible is truth, and the church is the pillar and ground for the preservation and proclamation of truth. It is the headquarters for evangelism and world missions. The New Testament church should be a college of the gospel, theology, hermeneutics, philosophy, origins, history, prophecy, preaching, teaching, sacred music, prayer,

spiritual warfare, marriage, child discipline, archaeology, apologetics, and everything else pertaining to the truth of God's Word.

That the church is to be a Bible training, discipling institution for every member, from the youngest to the oldest, is clearly taught in Scripture. There we see that *every* member of a Bible-believing church is a born again disciple of Jesus Christ, and *every* member is aiming to be a skillful, obedient Bible student, and the church is geared to educating each member toward this end. That is the teaching of Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 2:41-42; Ephesians 4:11-16; Colossians 1:28; 1 Thessalonians 1:5-10; 2 Timothy 3:15-17; and Hebrews 5:12-14, for example. This should start with the training of children in the homes, which requires that the fathers and mothers be skillful Bible students and true disciples of Christ. It is the church's job to build up the homes in God's Word so they can raise a godly seed for the glory of Jesus Christ. This is obvious from the fact that the instructions about the Christian home are given to churches or to church planters (e.g., Ephesians 5:22 - 6:4; Col. 3:18-21; 1 Ti. 5:4-16; Tit. 2:3-5). Every youth in a Bible-believing church should be on the way to becoming a skillful Bible student and fruitful disciple of Christ.

Every church should be raising up and training pastors, evangelists, preachers, and teachers. This was a major objective in Paul's ministry (2 Ti. 2:2), and he is our

example (1 Co. 11:2). The Pastoral Epistles were written for this purpose, and in these epistles we see how extensively Paul trained God-called men. This work requires lots of prayer for God to raise up laborers (Lu. 10:2) and creating an environment in the home and church that is filled with challenge and exhortation for the people to surrender to God's will.

We are thus convinced that the equivalent of a Bible college education *is the mere starting point* to be equipped for God's will in this present world, and it is the church's job to give this education. We're not talking about being equipped to be a pastor; we're talking about being equipped to be a "normal Christian"! Every believer is an ambassador for Christ (2 Co. 5:20), a priest of God (1 Pe. 2:5, 9), a minister of spiritual gifts (Ro. 12:3-8), a builder of the church (1 Co. 3:9-15; Eph. 4:16), a soldier in Christ's army (Eph. 6:10-19), a teacher of the Word of righteousness (Heb. 5:12-14). In addition there are the large ministries of the husband as the spiritual head of the home (Eph. 6:4) and the wife as the keeper of the home (Tit. 2:5). All of this requires serious education.

Imagine trying to be a priest, soldier, ambassador, teacher, and builder with little or no training! But this is exactly what is happening in a vast number of churches.

The Way of Life Bible College is a concept that Bible training is a life-long project. It isn't something you complete; it is something you pursue for your entire life.

So the Way of Life Bible College is, first of all, a concept that a sound New Testament church is a serious training institution that aims to disciple every believer toward perfection in every area of Christian life and ministry.

Second, the Way of Life Bible College is a curricula of courses.

Way of Life Literature publishes a full range of Bible courses on practically every subject touching the Bible and Christian life and ministry.

(The *Advanced Bible Studies Series*, which we published for many years, has been replaced by new courses.)

Currently there are about 40 Bible courses. Each course consists of a textbook, a syllabus to guide the teacher and student through the course, student projects, review questions, sectional tests, a final test, and the test

scoresheets. Many of the courses also feature class videos and PowerPoints.

The syllabus, review questions, tests, and answer keys come as a free Course Material Download.

The Way of Life Bible College does not offer diplomas or degrees. The courses are for teachers to download and use in classes and for individuals to download for self study.

As much as possible, we will try to answer questions and give any help we can to students and teachers.

For information about the Way of Life Bible College and description of the courses see

<https://www.wayoflife.org/publications/courses/index.php>

How the Bible College Courses Can Be Used

- *Private study for the individual Christian*
- *Sunday Schools*
- *Small groups*
- *Bible Institutes and Colleges*
- *Home schooling curriculum*
- *Study material in jails and prisons*
- *Discipling new Christians*
- *Refresher and advanced studies for Bible college graduates*
- *Ongoing preacher's training*
- *Expository preaching material (sermon series)*

Way of Life Bible College Courses Listed Alphabetically

Following are the Bible college courses currently available or scheduled to be published in 2024. Each course has a textbook, a syllabus, review questions, sectional tests, a final test, and the test scoresheets. Many of the courses (as noted) also feature multi-media material (e.g., video classes, maps, PowerPoints).

We are adding new video classes regularly. In July 2024, for example, we are scheduled to video record a new edition of *Understanding Bible Prophecy*.

21 Steps to a Stronger Church for the 21st Century (12 video classes, textbook 122 pages)

Animals, Customs, and Plants of the Bible ((scheduled for first half 2024)

Bible Prophecy as Light on the 21st Century (9 video classes, textbook 75 pages)

Bible Separation: Its Doctrine and Practice (5 video classes, textbook 129 pages)

Bible Times & Ancient Kingdoms (textbook 673 pages, PowerPoints)

Bird's-eye View of the Bible (17 video classes, textbook 250 pages)

The Church: The Pillar and Ground of the Truth (12 video classes, textbook 421 pages)

Cities and Places of the Bible (scheduled for first half 2024)

The Doctrine Which Ye Have Learned (textbook 503 pages)

Effectual Bible Student (14 video classes, textbook) (new edition 2022)

Effectual Prayer in Perilous Times (6 video classes, textbook 123 pages)

Feed the Flock: Expository Bible Preaching (15 video classes, textbook 181 pages)

Future According to the Bible (textbook 446 pages)

Hand of God in World History (scheduled for the first half 2024)

Highlights in Bible Doctrine (textbook 220 pages)

Highlights in Church History (28 video classes, textbook 312 pages, PowerPoints)

The History and Heritage of Fundamentalism and Fundamental Baptists (textbook 609 pages)

History of the Churches from a Baptist Perspective (textbook 950 pages, PowerPoints)

Introduction to Bible Geography (3 video classes, PDF textbook)

Jews in Fighter Jets: Israel Past, Present, and Future (textbook 555 pages, PowerPoints)

Keeping the Kids in the Social Media Age (new edition Nov. 2023) (32 video classes, textbook 547 pages)

Knowing God's Will (scheduled for May 2024, 10 video classes, textbook 79 pages)

The Little Known but Essential Doctrine of Apostasy (scheduled last half 2024)

Mastering the English Bible

Old Testament History (90 video classes, textbook 477 pages, syllabus, tests)

Job and Psalms (24 video classes, textbook 130 pages, syllabus, tests)

Proverbs Ecclesiastes (textbook 176 pages, syllabus, test)

Prophetic Books (37 video classes, textbook 239 pages, syllabus, tests)

Gospels (49 video classes, textbook 291 pages, syllabus, tests)

Acts (42 video classes, textbook, 182 pages, syllabus, tests)

Romans to Corinthians (textbook 304 pages, syllabus, tests)

Galatians to Thessalonians (textbook 286 pages, syllabus, tests)

Pastoral Epistles (textbook 279 pages, syllabus, tests)

General Epistles (textbook 300 pages, syllabus, tests)

Revelation (textbook 261 pages, syllabus, tests)

New Evangelicalism: Its History, Characteristics, and Fruit (textbook 174 pages, PowerPoints)

The Pentecostal-Charismatic Movements (textbook 443 pages, PowerPoints 8 sessions)

Satanic Attack on Sacred Music (18 video classes, textbook 264 pages)

Sowing and Reaping: A Course in Evangelism (30 video classes, textbook 105 pages)

Transforming Congregational Singing in the 21st Century (scheduled March 2024)

Understanding Bible Prophecy (new edition with 25 video classes, textbook, and tests is scheduled for September 2024)

Understanding the Bible for Yourself (25 video classes, textbook 341 pages)

Unshakeable Faith: A Course on Christian Apologetics (textbook 354 pages, PowerPoints, review questions/tests scheduled April 2024)

Why We Hold to the King James Bible (2023 edition) (17 video classes, textbook 592 pages)

Woman and Her Service to God (textbook 213 pages)

World History - see *The Hand of God in World History*

Degree in Bible Theology

This curricula is equivalent to a degree in Bible Theology. In Scripture we see that *every* member of a Bible-believing church is a born again disciple of Jesus Christ; *every* member is aiming to be a skillful, obedient Bible student; and the church is geared to educating *every* member toward this end. That is the teaching of Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 2:41-42; Ephesians 4:11-16; Colossians 1:28; 1 Thessalonians 1:5-10; 2 Timothy 3:15-17; and Hebrews 5:12-14, for example.

The following training can be done privately or in classes at church or a combination of both.

Each year's curricula is designed for a commitment of about 250 hours. That would be 5 hours a week for 12 months, 6 hours a week for 10 months. The class hours (video sessions) and textbook studies for each year are about 200 hours, and we are estimating 50 hours for review and testing. This is an educated guess, of course, and it will differ from student to student.

The full curricula is set out for a 5 year program to allow for part study in an otherwise busy schedule. If the student doubles his study time, the program can be done in 3 years.

Students can do as little or as much as they want, of course, but it is good to follow a schedule and to make a commitment to pursue specific goals.

First Year

Bible Knowledge Test (to be taken by the student at the beginning of the training)

Introduction to Bible Geography (3 video classes, PDF textbook)

Understanding the Bible for Yourself (30 video classes, textbook)

Mastering - Old Testament History (90 video classes, textbook 477 pages)

Mastering - Job and Psalms (24 video classes, textbook 130 pages)

Satanic Attack on Sacred Music (18 video classes, textbook)

The Church: The Pillar and Ground of the Truth (12 video classes, textbook)

Effectual Prayer in Perilous Times (6 video classes, textbook 123 pages)

Why We Hold to the King James Bible (2023 edition) (17 video classes, textbook 592 pages)

Second Year

Mastering - Proverbs Ecclesiastes (textbook 176 pages, about 50 sessions)

Mastering - Prophetic Books (37 video classes, textbook 239 pages)

Mastering - Gospels (49 video classes, textbook 291 pages)

Mastering - Acts (42 video classes, textbook 182 pages)
Understanding Bible Prophecy (new edition with 25 video classes, textbook, and tests is scheduled for September 2024)

Third Year

Mastering - Romans to Corinthians (textbook 304 pages, about 50 sessions)

Mastering - Galatians to Thessalonians (textbook 286 pages, about 47 sessions)

Mastering - Pastoral Epistles (textbook 279 pages, about 46 sessions)

Keeping the Kids in the Social Media Age (new edition Nov. 2023) (32 video classes, textbook 547 pages)

Sowing and Reaping: A Course in Evangelism (30 video classes, textbook)

Fourth Year

Mastering - General Epistles (textbook 300 pages, about 50 sessions)

Mastering - Revelation (textbook 261 pages, about 43 sessions)

The Doctrine Which Ye Have Learned (textbook 503 pages, about 80 sessions)

Woman and Her Service to God (textbook 214 pages, about 25 sessions)

Fifth Year

The Pentecostal-Charismatic Movements (textbook 443 pages, PowerPoints 8 sessions)

Jews in Fighter Jets: Israel Past, Present, Future (textbook 555 pages, PowerPoints, about 90 sessions)

History of the Churches from a Baptist Perspective (textbook 950 pages, PowerPoints, no tests yet, about 150 sessions)

New Evangelicalism: Its Its History, Characteristics, and Fruit (textbook 174 pages, about 25 sessions)

Transforming Congregational Singing in the 21st Century (scheduled March 2024)

Curricula in Advanced Bible Theology and Practice

We recommend this curricula for advanced and refresher studies for preachers who have completed Bible college. *Feed the Flock: Expository Bible Preaching* (15 video classes, textbook 181 pages)

Hand of God in World History (scheduled last half 2024)
History and Heritage of Fundamentalism and Fundamental Baptists (textbook 609 pages, about 100 sessions)

Jews in Fighter Jets: Israel Past, Present, and Future (textbook 555 pages, PowerPoints, about 90 sessions)

New Evangelicalism: Its Its History, Characteristics, and Fruit (textbook 174 pages, about 25 sessions)

Satanic Attack on Sacred Music (18 video classes, PowerPoints, textbook 264 pages)

Keeping the Kids in the Social Media Age (new edition Nov. 2023) (32 video classes, textbook 547 pages)

Transforming Congregational Singing in the 21st Century (scheduled March 2024)

Understanding the Bible for Yourself (25 video classes, textbook 341 pages)

Teen Bible College Curricula

We recommend the following courses for home schoolers, teens, anyone beginning his or her Bible study career, or for any believer of any age or station!

Bible Knowledge Test (take at the beginning of the studies)

Bird's-eye View of the Bible (17 video classes, textbook 250 pages)

Effectual Bible Student (14 video classes, textbook) (new edition 2022)

Highlights in Bible Doctrine (textbook 220 pages)

Highlights in Church History (28 video classes, textbook 312 pages, PowerPoints)

Knowing God's Will (scheduled for May 2024, 10 video classes, textbook 79 pages)

Bible Prophecy as Light on the 21st Century (9 video classes, textbook 75 pages)

Introduction to Bible Geography (3 video classes, PDF textbook)

Highlights in Bible Doctrine (textbook)

Proverbs (Mastering the English Bible) (textbook 176 pages)

Satanic Attack on Sacred Music (18 video classes, PowerPoints, textbook 264 pages)

Unshakeable Faith: A Course on Christian Apologetics (textbook 354 pages, PowerPoints)

Bible Times & Ancient Kingdoms (textbook 673 pages, PowerPoints)

Why We Hold to the King James Bible (2023 edition) (video classes, textbook 592 pages)

MultiMedia Material

We are putting most of the multimedia material online for free viewing and downloading. This includes most of our video presentations, audio files, PowerPoints, maps, etc. They can be used by anyone in any way they wish, aside from being sold, of course.

For most of our courses (except *Mastering the English Bible*), we only charge for the textbooks.

Syllabi

The course syllabus explains the course objectives, the requirements, and the student projects.

Review Questions and Tests

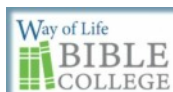
The review questions are designed to draw the student's attention to the most important points of the lessons and to help him remember these after the course is finished. They are also designed to prepare the student for the tests. The student should first go through the review questions and try to answer them without the textbook. Afterward, he should go back and find the answers using the textbook. Finally, he should check his answers against the review question answer sheet.

The sectional tests are culled from the sectional review questions. This is a further step in focusing the student's attention on the most important points of the course. The final test is culled from the sectional tests.

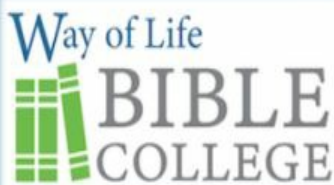
Description of the Way of Life Bible College Courses

For a description of the individual courses and more information, see the Way of Life web site -

<https://www.wayoflife.org/courses/>



Way of Life Bible College



Testimonies About Way of Life Bible Courses

Following are a few testimonies about the Way of Life Bible courses:

- “One solid and clear strength of your curricula is that it undergoes periodic updates specifically to refute or respond to up-to-date or current theological/Biblical errors. For instance, your 2023 edition *Why We Hold to the King James Bible* addresses the latest trend of transitioning traditional churches from away from the KJV.”
- “Our family has greatly appreciated each of the Way of Life courses that we have taken. They have been so

rich and abundant in Scriptural depth and truth. How refreshing! To have the meat of the Word presented in such a clear and straightforward manner has been a breath of fresh air. We are a large homeschooling family and have so appreciated the affordability and ‘no-fluff’ approach to this dependable and solid curriculum. Thank you, Brother Cloud!”

- “About 15 years ago, I bought all of the Bible curriculum that I could find on your website. I also purchased a new journaling KJV Bible and spent the next several years diving into the word of God. I have been a believer in Jesus Christ for over 35 years, but

there is nothing that has done more for my walk with my Saviour than to continue my sanctification process with the tools that you offer. After I completed all of the programs, I had such a comprehensive overview of how the Bible fits together, and I possessed real Biblical answers to many of the questions that I had always had regarding doctrine. Currently, I am leading the Ladies' Bible study at my church. We have a group of over 50 women that regularly attend. I still use these amazing tools in each and every lesson that I teach. I can't thank you enough for answering the call of God on your heart to make disciples."

- "David Cloud's courses have been a tremendous blessing to me. It's a challenge to any serious Christian to examine himself by evaluating his 'walk with Christ.' Dr. Cloud's passion for Biblical history has helped strengthen my love and knowledge of the Biblical truth. Overall, the courses have been a wonderful learning adventure and a much-needed study tool for our growth as a church."

- "I praise the Lord for Brother Cloud's Scripture-soaked Bible courses. It is difficult to find commentaries and courses from a Textus Receptus, pre-Tribulational, non-Calvinist and separatist perspective, but Brother Cloud delivers. Our church and church Bible School have been using his teaching materials for many years to much profit. From church history to music to Bible geography, we have been blessed with insights and resources that enhance our grasp of the Bible, inform our minds with historical context, and sharpen our discernment. One of our members has read through the *Way of Life Encyclopedia*. I heartily recommend Brother Cloud's Bible courses."

- "I want to thank you so much for this Bible course! The sessions have been reproving, challenging, and have greatly grown my spiritual walk with God. When the Bible is accurately preached without apology, God is definitely glorified! The greatest benefit I have received is a more eternally-focused mindset. The things of this earth are just so vain!"

- "My family and I want to tell you how much we have appreciated the studies on *Mastering the English Bible*. We have been challenged to study God's Word more intently and to be more committed to living more holy

for Him. I really appreciate your excitement for the Bible; how contagious that is! Thank you for your hard work and time researching our world today and warning us of the devil's devices such as worldly music, false teachers, worldly dress, and the pop culture, as well as sharing some miraculous facts about God's creation. Thank you, as well, for teaching the importance of studying the Bible correctly, Biblical preaching, a true regenerate church membership, how a New Testament church ought to function, and what it means to put Christ first in our lives and make sacrifices for Him."

- "I thought you would want to know we are taking two of your courses and our folks are 'eating this up.' They are delighted to be gaining a deeper understanding of the Word of God. They are memorizing verses, taking notes, writing papers about what they have learned, and taking the tests. What a joy it is to see them so eager to learn and to witness them growing in the Lord. My sister is planning on using them to teach her two boys while home schooling. I want you to know that I would recommend these books to any pastor or Christian educator."

- "I thought I knew the Bible pretty well, but after starting the *Mastering the English Bible* series I see now that I don't know anything and I must study much more."

- "I have used your Bible courses as teaching materials to prepare one of our men for the ministry. I appreciate your clear, straightforward Biblical teaching, and the man that is working through the books is growing and learning by leaps and bounds!"

- "I just wanted to give you some feedback on the Way of Life Bible courses. They have been a tremendous blessing. I'm teaching Romans for Sunday School and 'How to Study the Bible' on Wednesday evenings. Both books are extremely helpful for any Christian, no matter where they are spiritually. The practical application is extremely helpful and edifying. So, on behalf of our church family here, we thank you."

- "What I appreciate about the Way of Life Bible course is that it is detailed (most courses are so shallow) without being too scholarly/academic."

- "I have found these courses extremely helpful. I would not change a thing about the books. I love the format, the clarity, the assignments and the review questions and tests."

• “Your course on *How to Study the Bible* [the new course is *Understanding the Bible for Yourself*] helped me a great deal. The Scriptures have ‘come alive’ even more. God is so good. I’m now conducting a study of the *New Testament Church* and am looking forward to the rest of the series, and especially to *Understanding Bible Prophecy*.”

• “Thank you for writing the course ‘History of the Churches from a Baptist Perspective.’ It is very well written and documented. Your book has been selected as the text for our Church History class. Thanks for your in-depth research and writing. May the Lord continue to bless your faithful ministry for His glory.”

• “I want to thank you for the *History of the Churches* course. I have had my eyes opened to some things that I was not even aware of as far as the history of the Baptists. Your book really made a difference in my life and I now have a greater appreciation of the Baptist History. I am an Ind. Fundamental Baptist who is now informed on the How and Why of my faith. I have been saved for over 18 years and never have I read the complete story. I knew the Who, What, Where, When but the How and Why just didn't click. Please continue to print and publish fantastic Baptist information.”

• “I have used several of your Way of Life Bible courses. I recommend them to everyone, if you are a new Christian or been saved for 40 years. I look forward to future books being published.”

• “God has used the course *How to Study the Bible* [the new course is *Understanding the Bible for Yourself*] in our church to help people grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior. They are constantly asking when we are going to study it again! ... These books are extremely practical and I have found that they can be used to help new believers, as well as spur the mature believer to a deeper consideration of the truths of God’s Word. God bless your ministry!”

• “The Bible courses are outstanding. I especially appreciate your direct, concise, no-nonsense, and strictly Scriptural approach.”

• “Each course seems to get better, and they were excellent to start with!”

• “I have ordered six of your Way of Life Bible

courses, and I do not know why I waited this long to do so. I am presently working on Romans and whao!!!, what an eye opener.”

• “Just a short note to let you know how very much I’ve enjoyed your Bible study on the book of Job, along with many others such as Romans, Hebrews, Proverbs, Psalms as well as some Epistles. I recently picked up the Job study for the second time and must say that I whole heartedly agree with you when you say, ‘If the book of Job was not in our Bible we would be much poorer spiritually.’ The Bible studies really work for me because they are like a meal; they are tremendously meaty yet simple, not so large as to intimidate and not so small, just right. I like the format of reading so much and then a few questions; it keeps me (most of the time) paying attention. Thank you for this fine material.”

The following testimony is by Don Whitecar, former missionary to Belize and current pastor of Mountain Valley Baptist Church, Pocatello, Idaho:

• “After one year in Belize, we had a little over 100 saved and in various stages of Christian growth. The attendance was consistently over 100, and a few had grown to the point to be workers in classes, etc. It was at this time that I used Way of Life’s 52 week One Year Discipleship Course. I gave every family one in order that they read and answer the questions during the week. In the Sunday evening service announcements, I would go over the answers. We had great participation, and it is this effort that grounded the largest group that made up the foundation of that church. After that point, I used those discipleship books by assigning a newly saved person to a grounded Christian who had already been through the book. They would work through the book together. Before the service began on Sunday evenings, it was common to see several places around the auditorium where people were going over the books. That church has used over 250 copies of that text. After the second anniversary of the church I began a Bible Institute to teach more in depth. We met on Monday evenings for 1.5 hours per class (2 classes). My wife offered speech classes (Bible story telling, etc.) for the ladies. Our classes were always well attended, and Way of Life’s *Advanced Bible Studies* books were always the text (for the Bible classes). The students were turning in their answers to the review questions for homework. We went over the answers in class. The questions from the homework became possible test questions at the end of each section, in addition to the information from my lecture notes.”

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?



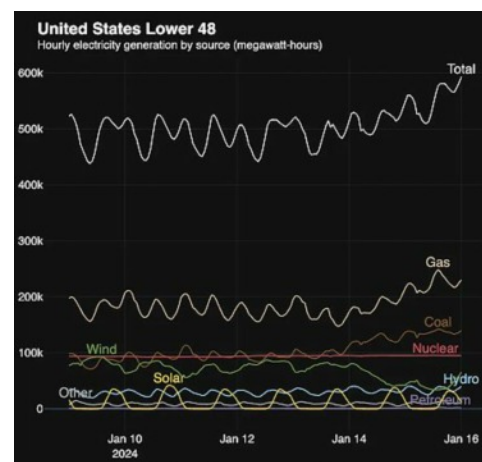
THE CHURCH AS A WALLED SHEEPFOLD AND A WATERED GARDEN (Friday Church News Notes, January 19, 2024, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- It was common in the 17th and 18th centuries for Baptist churches to refer to the New Testament assembly as a walled sheepfold and a watered garden. The First London Confession of 1644 said the members are "under His heavenly conduct and government, to lead their lives in His walled sheepfold, and watered garden, to have communion here with the saints..." In 1815, Benjamin Keach (who pastored the church later made famous by Charles Spurgeon) wrote, "Some part of a wilderness [of this world] hath been turned into a garden or fruitful vineyard: so God hath out of the people of this world, taken his churches and walled them about, that none of the wild beasts can hurt them" (*Gospel Mysteries Unveiled*). This is the language of a regenerate church membership and a pilgrim Christianity, which is the church we see beginning in Acts 2:41-42. The term a "walled sheepfold" speaks of a fold in which Christ's sheep are kept, fed, and protected. Christ's true sheep are defined in John 10:27-28, "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck

them out of my hand." The term "watered garden" is from Song 4:12, "A garden enclosed is my sister, my spouse; a spring shut up, a fountain sealed." The redeemed are Christ's delight, Christ's jewels. He has purchased them at great price. They are the joy that was set before Him as He set His face like flint to Gethsemane and Calvary (Heb. 12:2).

WHAT KEEPS THE LIGHTS ON? (Friday Church News Notes, January 19, 2024, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The following is excerpted from PowerLineBlog.com, Jan. 17, 2024: "Most of the country is in the grip of a cold snap, and demand for electricity is high. So where is our power coming from? Fossil fuels and nuclear energy. [Consider the] chart from the invaluable Grid Brief on energy usage from Jan. 10-16. America runs on natural gas, coal and nuclear power. Everything else is an afterthought. Note that over the last few days, when demand for electricity has spiked, wind turbines have contributed almost nothing. That is typical. When it gets very cold, the wind tends to die down. In fact, if it gets cold enough wind turbines draw electricity from the grid, and thus become a net negative factor. And solar power is consistently pathetic.



The idea that America can be run on wind and solar power is absurd, but the grifters promoting that fantasy are sucking many billions of dollars out of our economy, with a goal of eventually shifting trillions of dollars into their pockets.”

A WIFE TOO MANY (Friday Church News Notes, January 26, 2024, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from Michael Haykin, *Kiffen, Knollys, and Keach: Rediscovering Our English Baptist Heritage*: “During [William] Kiffen’s final years he continued to be active in his pastorate at Devonshire Square and in the life of the English Calvinistic Baptists as a whole. ... However, these were also years of domestic tragedy. Three of Kiffen’s children, as well as his first wife Hanna, had already died by this time. William, his eldest, at the age of twenty in 1669; a second son in Venice, whom Kiffen asserted was poisoned by a Roman Catholic priest; a daughter, Priscilla, in 1679; Hanna in 1682. Respecting Hanna’s life and death, Kiffen wrote later: ‘It pleased the Lord to take to himself, my dear and faithful wife, with whom I had lived nearly forty-four years; whose tenderness to me, and faithfulness to

God, were such as cannot, by me, be expressed, as she constantly sympathized with me in all my afflictions. I can truly say, I never heard her utter the least discontent under all the various providences that attended either me or her; she eyed the hand of God in all our sorrows, so as constantly to encourage me in the ways of God: her death was the greatest sorrow to me that ever I met with in the world.’ Kiffen’s second wife, Sarah, however, was cut of a different cloth. On 2 March 1698 she was charged with a number of misdeeds by Devonshire Square Church. Upon examination, she was found guilty of, among other things, defrauding her husband of two hundred pounds and making false accusations about him. When she refused to appear before the congregation, Sarah was suspended from communion on 24 April 1698.”

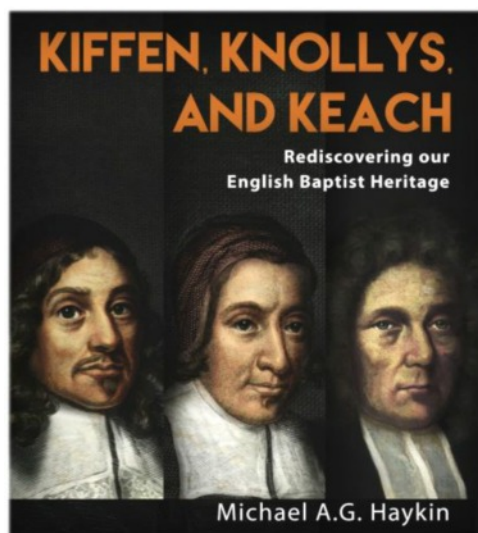
BATS THAT FEED TREES

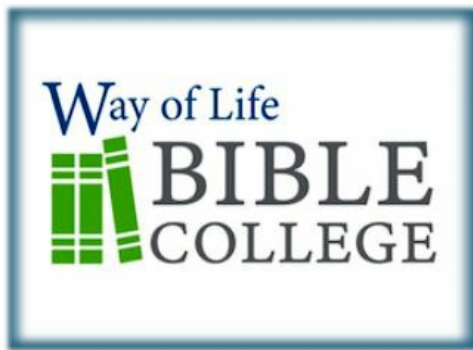
(Friday Church News Notes, January 26, 2024, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is from CreationMoments.com, Jan. 16, 2024: “The surface of the Earth 50 to 150 feet below the great living canopy of the rainforest is a dark, humid, still world dominated by great columns of tree trunks. Within those trunks and some of the giant hollow branches extending from them lies the secret of the life of the canopy itself. A rainforest typically receives 12 or more feet of rain per year. That much rain washes out of the soil most of the nitrates needed by the trees for growth. What the trees need is a rich source of nitrates that is constantly being replenished. And that’s where the bats come in. Typically, these huge trees are hollow inside. Many different kinds



of creatures, including fruit bats, enter the hollow trees through various openings. Fruit bats find ideal daytime sleeping rooms inside the great hollow branches that extend like caverns from the hollow tree trunk. The accumulating layer of bat guano inside the tree itself is one of the richest sources of nitrates known. So the bats provide the tree with the nitrates it needs in exchange for a protected home during the day! In a very real sense, the fruit bats are the collection and transport system for the raw materials that make possible the tropical rain forest canopy with its millions of residents. The Creator has devised an ingenious way to provide for the needs of many creatures. Truly, the Lord does provide all living things with their food in precisely the way they need it! Ref.: *Science Digest*, October, 1978, page 30.”

A PASTOR’S FEEDBACK ON THE WAY OF LIFE BIBLE COLLEGE (Friday Church News Notes, February 2, 2024, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - We announced the Way of Life Bible College this week. See <https://www.wayoflife.org/bible-college/> A pastor replied as follows: “Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this. Firstly let me say I am VERY EXCITED about this and the timing for us is perfect. We have two young men who want to train for the ministry so we are ramping up our





Bible College program for this year. We are offering your *Mastering the English Bible* course on Old Testament history for our Tuesday night Bible class. We already have a good number of the church folk that have signed up. We are then running a full day of Bible college courses on Wednesday for the two young men plus any others who may want to study as well. Having your courses developed in this way for a Bible College context with review questions, tests etc., is so useful as busy pastors like myself can take the courses and use them. I plan to use a good number of your courses for our Bible college program alongside some of our own. ... Thanks again for the first class materials you are producing!"

THE TREASON OF THE INTELLECTUALS (Friday Church News Notes, February 2, 2024, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from "The Treason," Niall Ferguson, *The*



Free Press, Jan. 25, 2024: "It might be thought extraordinary that the most prestigious universities in the world should have been infected so rapidly with a politics imbued with antisemitism. Yet exactly the same thing has happened before. A hundred years ago, in the 1920s, by far the best universities in the world were in Germany. By comparison with Heidelberg and Tübingen, Harvard and Yale were gentlemen's clubs, where students paid more attention to football than to physics. More than a quarter of all the Nobel prizes awarded in the sciences between 1901 and 1940 were awarded to Germans; only 11 percent went to Americans. Albert Einstein reached the pinnacle of his profession not in 1933, when he moved to Princeton, but from 1914 to 1917, when he was appointed professor at the University of Berlin, director of the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute for Physics, and as a member of the Prussian Academy of Sciences. Even the finest scientists produced by Cambridge felt obliged to do a tour of duty in Germany. ... Anyone who has a naive belief in the power of higher education to instill ethical values has not studied the history of German universities in the Third Reich. A university degree, far from inoculating Germans against Nazism, made them more likely to embrace it. The fall from grace of the German universities was personified by the readiness of Martin Heidegger, the greatest German philosopher of his generation, to jump on the Nazi bandwagon, a swastika pin in his lapel. He was a member of the Nazi Party from 1933 until 1945." [Conclusion by Way of Life: Throughout human history, higher education has tended to be the fountainhead of error, not only anti-semitism but every error. This is

because of man's corrupt fallen nature, the pride of intellect ("the pride of life," 1 Jo. 2:16), and demonic delusion. In these end times, the spirit of apostasy and the mystery of iniquity is nearing full bloom.]

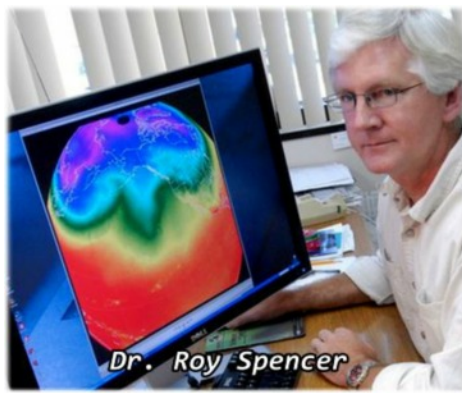
THE GETTYS AND THE RAPPER (Friday Church News Notes, February 2, 2024, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The Gettys featured rapper Shai Linne at their Sing! 2022 conference, and he is scheduled to return for Sing! 2024. The Gettys (Keith and Kristyn) are hugely influential. "Up to 100 million people worldwide sing Keith Getty's hymns in church services each year" ("Hitting the right notes," *Belfast Telegraph*, Aug. 11, 2018). The Getty-Townend hymn "In Christ Alone" is hugely popular, with an estimated 40 to 50 million people singing it in church services each year. At least eight of the Gettys' songs are included in Majesty Music's *Rejoice Hymns*. Twenty-nine of their songs are featured in *Hymns Modern and Ancient* compiled by Fred Coleman who heads up Bob Jones University's Department of Church Music. Both Crown Baptist College and West Coast Baptist College have performed Getty-Townend material in their services. Typically, the lyrics to the Getty-Townend contemporary hymns are



Scriptural and the tunes are *fairly* conservative, but the Gettys have no boundaries in music or in association. Their concerts featured a mixture of traditional hymns mixed with out-and-out rock & roll, blues, jazz, rap, Irish jigs, anything. They don't believe in separation. They are positive-only, non-judgmental. Keith Getty says to the large mixed multitude crowds at the Sing! conferences, "We are one in Christ; the things that unite us are far greater than the things that divide." Yet the vast majority of these people are strangers to him. He doesn't know who most of these people are, whether they have actually been born again, how they live, what churches they attend, if any, or what doctrines they hold. The Gettys are representative of evangelicalism today, at the heart of which is "a renunciation of separatism," as Harold Ockenga stated in the 1940s. The Gettys don't draw clear lines as the Bible requires. They don't speak out against error and issue warnings as the Bible demands. They don't contend for the faith once delivered unto the saints or mark and avoid those who teach false doctrine, as God's Word clearly demands. Because of the lack of boundaries, the Gettys are a bridge to the exceedingly dangerous world of the "broader church" with all of its sins and heresies, as surely as Hillsong or any of the other contemporary worship groups. See the report "The Gettys - Pied Pipers of Contemporary Worship Music" and the video presentation "Bob Jones, Majesty Music, New Calvinism, and the Gettys."

https://www.wayoflife.org/reports/the_gettys_pied_pipers.html
https://www.wayoflife.org/s3/satanic_attack_on_sacred_music.php

THE CLIMATE MODELS ARE WRONG (Friday Church News



Notes, February 2, 2024, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

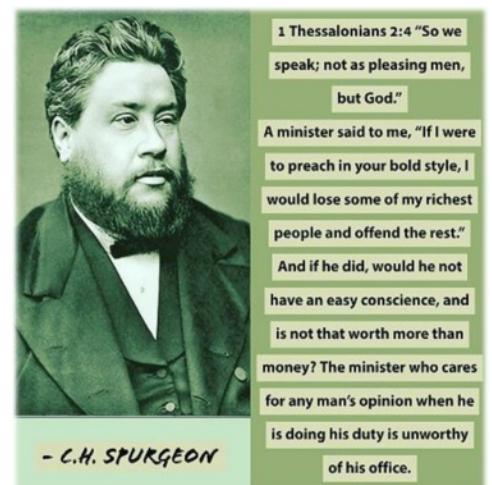
- The following is excerpted from "The Climate Models," PowerLineBlog.com, Jan. 27, 2024: "Dr. Roy Spencer, a top scientist specializing in climate [he helped design the NASA temperature tracking satellites], wrote a report for [the Heritage Foundation] which he summarized on his own web site. Spencer compared observed warming in the U.S. corn belt during the summer, between 1973 and 2022--a 50-year period--with the warming that was predicted by the major climate models. He found that all of the models yielded more warming than actually occurred, most to an absurd degree. The chart shows the results. It should not need to be said that a model is not evidence of anything. A model is a hypothesis. Like any scientific hypothesis, it is confirmed or refuted by observation.

A model that is refuted by observation is worthless. And yet, these models, which have repeatedly been shown to be wrong, are the basis for enormously destructive policies that have been adopted across much of the western world. Someone pointed out with respect to these data--I would credit him, but I can't now find the reference--that if it were simply a matter of mathematical errors or

inconsistencies, one would expect some models to err on the 'hot side' and others on the 'cold side' of actual observations. But that isn't the case: all of the models run hot. **That suggest that global warming alarmism is a political, not a scientific, movement."**

Roy Spencer's web site - <https://wattsupwiththat.com>

SPURGEON AND A REGENERATE CHURCH MEMBERSHIP (Friday Church News Notes, February 2, 2024, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The Metropolitan Tabernacle, from its earliest days under the pastorates of William Rider and Benjamin Keach (1640-1704), was careful to maintain a regenerated church membership. This continued under Charles Spurgeon's leadership. Prospective candidates for baptism and membership were required to go through a multi-step process. First, the enquirer met with one of the elders or deacons to share his or her testimony. Second, if the elder or deacon was satisfied with the testimony, the enquirer was recommended to meet with Spurgeon. Third, if Spurgeon was satisfied, he nominated a church member to visit the candidate "to enquire as to the moral character and



repute.” Fourth, if the visit was satisfactory, the candidate was invited to attend a special congregation meeting to appear before the church family. There the candidates would again give their testimonies and answer any questions from church members. These meetings were not rushed and could last several hours, beginning at 2pm and “lasting till a late hour at night.” Fifth, the church then voted whether to receive the candidate as a member. Sixth, if approved by the vote of the church, the candidate was baptized and received into membership and participated in the next communion service. Members who were not present and active were removed from membership. In his final message to the Pastors’ College, Spurgeon said, “Let us not keep names on our books when they are only names. ... Keep your church real and effective ... A merely nominal church is a lie. Let it be what it professes to be.”

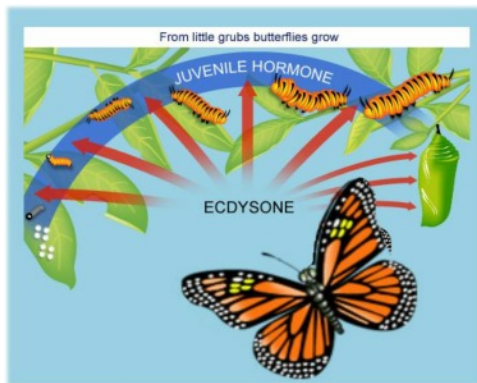
PLANTS SKILLED IN ANIMAL HUSBANDRY (Friday Church News Notes, February 2, 2024, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is from CreationMoments.com, Jan. 23, 2024: “It occurred to scientists only about 30 years ago that insect pests might be controlled through hormones. If, for example, a hormone that prevented a destructive insect from reaching

maturity was applied to a crop, the interrupted lifecycle of the insect might prevent damage to the crop. Yet, the hormone would be a safe, natural substance. However, scientists found that synthesizing such hormones was much more difficult than they thought. Several years into the research, Japanese scientists discovered that certain plants were already making these hormones for self-defense. In fact, many of the plants were manufacturing what they called “super-hormones.” ‘Super-hormones’ are hormones that work in far lower concentrations than the juvenile hormones made by the insects themselves. These juvenile hormones prevent insects from reaching their adult, and usually most destructive, stage. Among those plants that make juvenile insect hormones are ferns and certain evergreens. One result of this research is the development of a mosquito juvenile hormone. This hormone can be time-released from briquettes in swamps, preventing mosquito wigglers from ever maturing to their flying, biting, adult stage. Again, the incredible design and balance that could only have been built into the world by a wise Creator are evident in the creation. How else could plants have gained such skill in animal chemistry? Ref.: *Science Digest*, March, 1979, page 67.”

A WORLD UNDER DELUSION, WITHOUT EXCUSE, ON THE VERGE OF JUDGMENT (Friday Church News Notes, February 9, 2024, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - According to the Bible, the entire world totters on the very brink of eternal judgment. The good news of God’s gracious offer of salvation in Jesus Christ, a salvation that was



purchased by the suffering and death of the very Son of God, has been proclaimed to the ends of the earth for 2,000 years; it has been translated into most languages; it is available on the internet at the click of a mouse or the swipe of a smartphone. For the most part, it has been callously rejected. The law of God is written on man’s very conscience and will condemn him in the day of judgment (Romans 2:14-16). Man instinctively knows there is a God, and he knows that this God is a holy Judge, and he tries to hide himself from that God as our forefather Adam did when he sinned. The universe shouts out its infallible testimony to an Almighty Creator. “The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament showeth his handiwork. ... *There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard. Their line is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world*” (Psalm 19:1-4). “[T]he invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse” (Romans 1:20). **2 Thessalonians 2 is a major Bible prophecy about the Antichrist. His coming and reign will be accompanied by global delusion, the cause of which is man’s willful rejection of God’s Word.** This delusion is already happening, and it will be brought to perfection in the Great Tribulation,



which is imminent. It is the only explanation for man's stupidity in believing that everything came from nothing, that the utter chaos of a "big bang" produced a well-ordered universe, that life arose from non-life and intelligence from non-intelligence, that DNA has no maker and light just happened, that a hyper complex amoeba popped into existence and then became a butterfly, an elephant, a man, and an oak tree. Global delusion explains such things as the broad acceptance of transsexualism, the mutilation of brainwashed children, same sex "marriage," diapers on cows, the destruction of farming, sympathy for vicious terrorists, Marxist thugs, police killers, baby killers, shoplifting gangs, and drug addled indolent encouraged to take over beautiful cities. The following Bible prophecy explains these insanities and much more: **"And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; BECAUSE THEY RECEIVED NOT THE LOVE OF THE TRUTH, THAT THEY MIGHT BE SAVED. AND FOR THIS CAUSE GOD SHALL SEND THEM STRONG DELUSION, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned WHO BELIEVED NOT THE TRUTH, but had pleasure in unrighteousness"** (2 Thessalonians 2:8-12). The hour is very, very late.

CALIFORNIA TO PAY \$200,000 TO SETTLE GENDER LAWSUIT FROM CHRISTIAN



PRESCHOOL (Friday Church News Notes, February 9, 2024, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from "California to Pay," *Christian Headlines*, Jan. 31, 2024: "The state of California has agreed to pay a Christian preschool and its attorneys some \$200,000 as part of a settlement to a lawsuit that began when the state tried to force the school to change its biblical beliefs on gender and sexuality. The controversy began when the California Department of Social Services, citing new federal and state rules, told The Church of Compassion in El Cajon, Calif., that its preschool, Dayspring Learning Center, could only participate in the government-assisted food program if it agreed with a nondiscrimination policy that includes 'sexual orientation' and 'gender identity.' The state even told the church it must stop 'requiring Church employees to sign or abide by' a handbook that includes a statement of faith and affirms biblical teaching on gender and sexuality, according to court documents. Dayspring filed suit, alleging violations of the U.S. Constitution's Free Exercise, Free Speech, Free Association, and Establishment Clauses. The suit also claimed the state was violating the Religious Freedom Restoration Act and Administrative Procedure Act. 'While the Church and Preschool

serve all families, they will not teach or promote all messages,' the suit said. Following the lawsuit, the state agreed to settle. ... The school was represented by Alliance Defending Freedom, the National Center for Law & Policy, and Advocates For Faith & Freedom. ... The church's beliefs on gender and sexuality, the suit said, were 'uncontroversial for more than 2,000 years and continue to be held by most major world religions.'"

EVANGELIST RETURNS TO CHURCH AFTER BEING SHOT WHILE STREET PREACHING

(Friday Church News Notes, February 9, 2024, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from "Evangelist Hans," *Christian Post*, Jan. 30, 2024: "Hans Schmidt, the 26-year-old military veteran and outreach director of Victory Chapel First Phoenix in Arizona, who was shot in the head while street preaching last November and wasn't initially expected to recover, has returned to his church, his wife announced Sunday, saying, 'he walks, he talks, [and] he even plays the drums.' In a fresh update on her husband's 'miracle' recovery, Zulya Schmidt, who shares two young children with the preacher, published videos and photos in an Instagram post ... 'God has done an incredible work in Hans' life, and every day, he continues to improve. Please continue to pray for a full restoration.' ... Schmidt, a



former military medic, was shot in the head on the evening of Nov. 15, 2023, at the intersection of 51st Ave and Peoria in Glendale, Arizona, while doing church outreach before a Wednesday night service. ‘Single entry point on the side on the left temple. The bullet traveled through his brain. ... No one heard the shot or saw where it came from,’ family friend Brad Currell wrote in a GoFundMe campaign that has raised more than \$78,000 as of Tuesday on behalf of the Schmidt family.”

18TH CENTURY BAPTISTS AND A REGENERATE CHURCH MEMBERSHIP (Friday Church News Notes, February 9, 2024, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is from *A Treatise of Church Discipline*, 1798: “[T]hey should be careful in the admission of members. Let there be pretty clear evidence of a work of grace. Slackness, or inattention here, has been the bane of the church, in all ages. ... **The prerequisites for baptism and admission into the church are, godly experience, soundness in the faith, and a regular life.** Knowledge of the first will be best obtained, by letting persons declare, in their own way, the gracious dealings of the Lord with

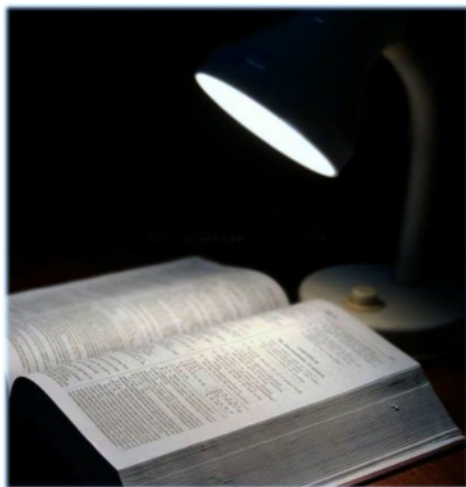
them, such questions being put occasionally as will assist and lead them on. 1 Peter 3:15. The second should be confined to the essentials of religion. ... And we attend to the last, as the necessary fruit, without which, their pretension to religion must be vain. Titus 2:12, 14; 3:8.”

TWO HOUSES: THE CHURCH AND THE HOME (Friday Church News Notes, February 9, 2024, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - We see two houses in 1 Timothy, and they are to work together. First, we see the “house of God” (1 Ti. 3:15). This is the New Testament church. The context is a church with pastors and deacons. Its purpose is to nurture, protect, train, equip, prepare, and discipline God’s people. The church is the pillar and ground of the truth (1 Ti. 3:15). It is tasked with being the headquarters of world evangelism and discipleship in this age. Second, we see thine “own house” (1 Ti. 3:4, 12; 5:8). This is the Christian home. Its purpose is to raise up a godly seed for God’s glory. Children do not belong to parents; they belong to God. “Behold, all souls are mine; as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is mine...” (Eze. 18:4). Malachi 2:15 says that the Lord seeks “a godly seed” from the homes. We don’t need a “home church,” so to speak. We need a church that ministers *to* the home and works together *with* the home. The church should build up the home, and the home should build up the church. An example of how this works in practice from the home side is Mr. and Mrs. Castleman of the Clear Creek Baptist Church in Clear Creek, Kentucky, in the early 19th century. They were saved and baptized at the same time. Pastor John Taylor testified of them as follows:



“They have raised many children. A number of them are in the Baptist church, also their grandchildren in different parts of our commonwealth. ... The old gentleman has long kept a great tannery. His apprentices have been numerous. Many of them have become professors of religion, so that **this family has been a great nursery to the Baptist church for near half a century.** The old lady being truly a mother in Israel and a fine tutoress of children...” (Taylor, *A History of Ten Baptist Churches*).

PERVERSION OF THE AMERICAN JUSTICE SYSTEM (Friday Church News Notes, February 16, 2024, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - *Innocent: The Price One Man Paid for Doing What Is Right* is the sad account of the perversion of the American justice system to convict those who honor God’s law. The following is from the back cover: “On December 5th, 2018, an innocent man, who broke no laws, was incarcerated into a U.S. federal prison to begin a three-year prison sentence. His crime? As an act of compassion, he drove a distraught mother from Virginia to New York as she sought refuge for her young daughter whom she had learned was being sexually abused, and the courts refused to protect her daughter in the matter. After the drive, the mother and daughter disappeared, having left the country. Because the former partner



HIGH ALTITUDE ENGINEERING (Friday Church News Notes, February 9, 2024, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from Answers in Genesis, *Answers 15*, No. 1, Jan.-Feb. 2020: “The atmosphere at 24,000 feet (7300 m) contains only 30–50% of the oxygen at sea level--barely enough for most humans and animals to stay conscious. But scientists have recorded bar-headed geese regularly crossing the Himalayas at that altitude on their annual migration. Some observers have even reported seeing the geese as high as 29,000 feet (8800 m). How the geese not only survive but also vigorously flap their wings without losing a beat has been a mystery for decades. To solve this mystery, researchers decided to place trained geese in a wind tunnel and cover their faces with oxygen masks. (How they managed to fit geese with oxygen masks is a mystery for another day.) The study showed that bar-headed geese can slow their metabolism and cool their blood for high-altitude flight. Colder blood stores more oxygen. Unlike



Bar-Headed Geese

low-flying birds, bar-headed geese also have extra capillaries surrounding their chest muscles. More oxygen in the blood and more blood to the flight muscles mean higher flying without overexertion. In love for his creation, God gave these birds the ability to adapt to extreme situations. His eye is on the sparrow--and the bar-headed goose.”

was a lesbian and the mother was a former lesbian (now a converted Christian believer), the story received attention from the LGBTQ movement and was soon being portrayed as a hate crime against a homosexual. The FBI became involved and eventually tracked down Philip Zodhiates and a Mennonite pastor, both who were brought to trial and convicted of aiding and abetting an ‘international parental kidnapping’ even though the mother and daughter had every right to leave the country according to the statute under which the men were convicted. During Philip’s 30-month incarceration, he wrote daily in a journal about life in prison. What began as a terrifying experience for this Christian husband, father, philanthropist, and businessman (the son of the well-known Hebrew/Greek Bible scholar, Spiros Zodhiates) became a journey of faith--not just

for Philip but also for many of the inmates who met Philip and whose lives were changed forever. What could have been a collapse of faith for an innocent man--falsely accused of a crime he never committed and thrown into prison--turned into just the opposite for Philip. He had always cherished God’s Holy Word, but now it became his life line and the Holy Spirit his comfort and peace in a deeper way than ever before. *Innocent* not only tells the story of



the injustice that took place in a country that has lost its moral foundation but is also a wake-up call that persecution may be right around the corner for those who are trying to do the right thing.”

MARXISM AND THE INSANITY ON COLLEGE CAMPUSES

(Friday Church News Notes, February 16, 2024, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The following is excerpted from “The root cause,” *Fox News*, Nov. 15, 2023: “Americans are finally catching on that the oppressor-oppressed narrative being taught in our schools and universities is not a conspiracy theory disseminated by conservatives. It’s real. Jewish students having to barricade themselves in a college to escape a mob in Manhattan, of all places, has opened people’s eyes to the threat woke ideology represents to civilization. Too bad it took a



grotesque massacre and mass rapes in the Holy Land to do it. But now that we have people's attention, let's connect the dots. The oppressor-oppressed worldview that paints democratic Israel as the 'oppressor' and Palestinian terrorists as the 'oppressed,' so prevalent on college campuses, is pure Marxism. In the first page of *The Communist Manifesto* of 1848, Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels explain that 'The history of all hitherto existing society is the history of class struggles.' ... In a democracy, one party or side seldom gets all it wants. And if the system is correctly structured, as the founders strived to do with the American system of government, there are checks and balances. The legislature, the executive, and the judiciary check each other's powers (and the legislature itself is divided into two chambers). Not so in Marx's 'oppressor and oppressed' view. There you end up with a 'revolutionary reconstitution,' which Marx himself promised would be ruthless. 'This cannot be effected except by means of despotic inroads,' he averred in the manifesto. A few months later, Marx wrote, more ominously, 'There is only one way in which the murderous death agonies of the old society and the bloody birth throes of the new society can be shortened, simplified and concentrated, and that way is

revolutionary terror.' Blood will run - it's a feature, not a bug, of Marxism."

ISAAC WATTS EXHORTS PARENTS TO GUARD CHILDREN'S "FURNITURE OF THE MINDS" (Friday Church News Notes, February 16, 2024, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is from the Preface to *Divine Songs: attempted in easy language for the use of children*, Isaac Watts, 1715: "It is an awful and important charge that is committed to you. The wisdom and welfare of the succeeding generation are intrusted with you before hand, and depend much on your conduct. **The seeds of misery or happiness in this world, and that to come, are oftentimes sown very early; and, therefore, whatever may conduce to give the minds of children a relish for virtue and religion ought in the first place, to be proposed to you.** ... What is learned in verse is longer retained in memory, and sooner recollected. The like sounds and the like number of syllables exceedingly assist the remembrance. And it may often happen that the end of a song, running in the mind, may be an effectual means to keep off some temptations, or to incline to some duty, when a word of scripture is not upon their thoughts. **This will be a constant furniture for the minds of children, that they may have something to think upon when alone, and sing over to themselves.** This may sometimes give their thoughts a divine turn, and raise a young meditation. Thus they will not be forced to seek relief for an emptiness of mind out of the loose and dangerous sonnets of the age."

ARE CHRISTIANS THE CAUSE OF THE HOMOSEXUAL'S

PAIN? (Friday Church News Notes, February 16, 2024, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Many homosexuals blame Christian teaching on sexuality for their problems. The British newspaper *The Independent* calls this "psychological torture ... imposed from a supposedly godly environment" ("Christian Rock Star 'I'm Gay,'" *The Independent*, Aug. 16, 2014). Consider Vicky Beeching, mentioned in the "Christian rock star" report. Beginning in Sunday School, she was taught that homosexuality is such a great sin that Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed for it. After becoming a contemporary Christian musician at age 16, she hid her homosexuality, and she believes that the resulting stress caused psychological and physical problems. When she was diagnosed with a disease at age 35 and had to take chemotherapy, she said, "I looked at my life, and thought, 'I have to come to terms with who I am.'" She determined to "come out" and stop "living as a shadow of a person." While the stress of living a lie and abiding in unconfessed sin will doubtless cause problems in an individual's life, the stress cannot be blamed on "the church." The cause of the stress is not the law of God but the sin. It is like being in the habit of running red lights because you are "a red-light runner by nature" and blaming the resulting anxiety and potential crash



on the naughty light. The confusion of “Christian homosexuality” is prophesied in Scripture. “This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away” (2 Timothy 3:1-5).

THE HIGH PRIEST’S BELLS

(Friday Church News Notes, February 16, 2024, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - In 2011, a small golden bell with a tiny loop at its top was found by archaeologists excavating the ancient drainage channel that ran beneath the Pilgrim’s Way from the Pool of Siloam to the western side of the Temple Mount. The bell is very likely one that was made for the high priest’s robe. There is no mention in the Bible or in extra-biblical Jewish historical records of a golden bell like this used in any other fashion. Attached to the hem of the high priest’s beautiful blue robe were pomegranates of blue, purple, and scarlet, and golden bells (Ex. 28:33-35). **The gold bells signify, first, Christ’s deity.** He is God and He is



man and as such He can be the Mediator between God and man. This work was signified on the day of atonement when the high priest carried the blood of the sacrifice into the holy of holies and applied it to the ark and the mercy seat (Leviticus 16). **Second, the bells signify the Father’s delight in the Son.** The bells related particularly to the high priest’s work in the Holy Place which was *to* the Father. Of Christ, the Father said, “This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased” (Mt. 17:5). **Third, the bells signify Christ’s present ministry in heaven for His redeemed people.** Jewish tradition says there were 71 bells, so the sound would be heard clearly as the high priest moved about his business in the Tabernacle. As the bells enabled the people to hear the High Priest ministering in the holy of holies even though they couldn’t see him, so Christ’s present ministry in heaven can be “heard” by the witness of the Word of God and the testimony of the Holy Spirit (Joh. 16:12-15; Heb. 7:24-25; 1 Jo. 2:20). **Fourth, the gold bells announce Christ’s imminent return.** As the people outside the Tabernacle heard the tinkling of the bells, they knew the high priest would soon return to pronounce God’s blessing on them. “Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord *is* at hand” (Php. 4:5). (excerpted from *Mastering the English Bible*, “Old Testament History from Genesis to the Silent Years,”

<https://www.wayoflife.org/mastering/index.php>)

WARNING FROM READER ABOUT SPREAD OF NEW REFORMED CALVINISM

(Friday Church News Notes, February 23, 2024, www.wayoflife.org,

fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - “I appreciate your ministry. I almost always read your Friday Church News Notes. I often consult your statements on numerous topics that I want to know about, understand, or that I’m dealing with personally. Recently, I have been stunned at the rapid and influential growth of several trends within Christianity. Oftentimes, these are in far off places and do not affect the area that I am in too strongly. However, very unaware of what I was getting myself in to, I recently came into contact with several movements that are spreading like wildfire thru out the U.S. I had personal contact with individuals in their churches, and I was even in a counseling situation with one of their ministers, unaware of the theological position he was coming from. I tended to be trusting because it was Baptist. I finally figured out what these networks were and have distanced myself from them. But their popularity is stunning. I live in a relatively small metro area of about 120,000 people, but there are at least 6 churches that are part of these networks operating in my area, with huge influence. Please continue to warn people about these movements. The movements that I am talking about are the following: New Reformed Calvinism, Acts 29 Network, 9 Marks Network, The Gospel Coalition. The Biblical Counseling movement (Association of Biblical Counselors) on the surface seems to have a very Bible based focus. However, what I have discovered is that almost every counselor that is part of this group has a strong adherence to Calvinist theology, both old and new, or either/or. John MacArthur, Voddie Baucham, Steve Lawson, Justin Peters, and Mark Dever are often cited. I was fortunate to have discovered a lot of this stuff before I got in too deep and taken in by them.”

THOSE ASTONISHING BEE ENGINEERS

(Friday Church News Notes, February 23, 2024, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is from CreationMoments.com, Feb. 9, 2024: “The amazing structure of the honeycomb has fascinated scientists for thousands of years. In the third century, the astronomer and geometer Pappus of Alexandria became the first to offer an explanation for why the honeycomb has a hexagonal shape. Pappus explained that only three shapes could serve as candidates for a honeycomb cell--the triangle, the square and the hexagon. Any other shape would leave wasteful open spaces between the cells. Pappus noted that the hexagon holds more honey in the same space than either a square or a triangle. It also takes less wax to build, and the shared sides of the hexagonal cells reduce wax usage even further. It was not until the development of modern calculus that scientists could fully appreciate the shape of the caps at the end of the honeycomb cells. Each cell is capped with a pyramid composed of three rhombuses. Complex mathematics shows that this shape, too, requires the



least amount of wax for construction. It also allows honeycomb cells to be butted up against each other without wasting space. Modern scientists who accept evolution talk about the design of the honeycomb as a great accomplishment by the bees. However, the more sensible conclusion is obvious. The ten-sided prism of the honeycomb cap is magnificent testimony to the mathematical wisdom of the Creator Himself! Ref: ‘The mathematics of the honeycomb.’ *Science Digest*, June, 1985. p. 74.”

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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