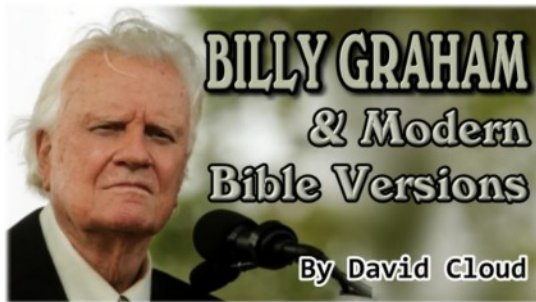


O Timothy

“Keep that which is committed to thy trust...”

A Monthly Newsletter for Spiritual Protection and Edification

Volume 41 - Issue 4 - April 2024



“By promoting the multiple version philosophy, Graham had a large role in weakening the authority of God’s Word. A sure ‘thus saith the Lord’ has been replaced by ‘my version says this, what does yours say?’ The modern versions speak with multiple, conflicting voices.”
Page 5.

Digging in the Walls: A month’s worth of news items, republished from Friday Church News Notes. **Page 9.**



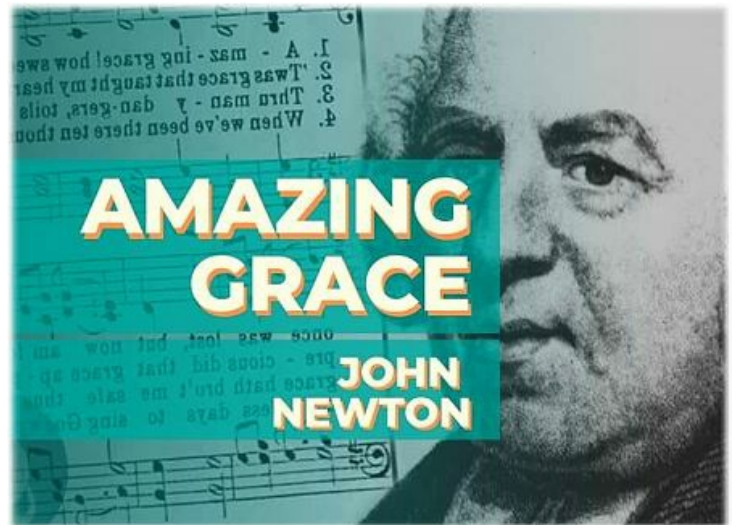
HYMNS - JOHN NEWTON AND HIS STUDY ~ By David Cloud

John Newton (1725-1807), author of “Amazing Grace,” lived an amazing life which reads like an adventure novel.

His godly mother, a non-conformist, died when he was seven, and after only two years of formal schooling he joined his unbelieving father at sea at age 11, starting on a career of wickedness and blasphemy and infidelity.

In an attempt to forget the God his mother taught him and quiet his conscience, he moved from deism to atheism. Later he said, “I believed my own lie.”

He endured a terrible flogging for attempting to desert from the Royal Navy. Captured by a slave trader in West Africa, he became a slave to this man’s African wife who treated him like a dog, forcing him to live in filthy rags with barely enough food to survive. After being rescued by an agent of his father, Newton became a master of a slave ship.



He was converted in 1748 at age 23. This was in connection with a fierce storm that almost sank his ship, but it was doubtless an answer to the prayers of his long-deceased mother and those of Mary “Polly” Catlett, the godly girl he had wanted to marry from the time she was

14 and who waited for him to come to Christ. They married in 1750.

“Though Newton continued in his profession of sailing and slave trading for a time, his life was transformed. He began a disciplined Bible study, prayer, and Christian reading schedule and tried to be a Christian example to the sailors under his command” (Christianity.com).

Six years later, he came under the influence of George Whitefield and the Wesley brothers and began to study for the ministry. Over the next nine years, he studied the Scriptures diligently, improved the little Latin he had learned in his childhood, and learned Hebrew and Greek.

Eventually the old slaver became an ardent abolitionist, joining hands with William Wilberforce and others who would be instrumental in banning the British slave trade in 1807 and slavery in 1833.

In 1764, Newton was appointed the pastor of the Anglican church at Olney, Bucks, in Buckinghamshire. When he began his pastorate, Newton had only a handful of sermons, but he was encouraged that God would supply his need.

“On taking up his abode at Olney, when he had preached six sermons, he thought he had told them

his whole stock, and was considerably depressed thereby; but, walking one afternoon by the side of the river Ouse, he says: ‘I asked myself, How long has this river run? Many hundred years before I was born, and will certainly run on many years after I am gone. Who supplies the fountain from whence this river comes? God. Is not the fund of my sermons equally inexhaustible? The Word of God? Yes, surely, I have never been afraid of running out since that time’” (“John Newton,” *The Baptist Particular*, Jan. 24, 2024, citing *The Sower*, 1896).

At Olney, Newton made the acquaintance of William Cowper, author of “There Is a Fountain Filled with Blood.” Cowper was converted here while living with a pastor friend, Morley Unwin, whose house was next door to Newton’s parsonage. In fact, Cowper lived with Newton and his wife for 14 months. Newton was Cowper’s pastor, confidant, friend, and fellow hymn writer.

The two men collaborated on a hymnal, Newton writing 280 of the 348 hymns. The *Olney Hymnal* was published in 1779.

Newton often wrote hymns to accompany his sermons, to further educate his people in biblical theology. In those days, hymn singing was a major part of theological education.

In the last four years of his ministry at Olney (1775-1779), Newton had close fellowship with John Sutcliff, pastor of the Baptist church at Olney. Newton joined the Baptists in several of their meetings, including the ordination of William Carey. Together with Andrew Fuller and John Ryland, Sutcliff was prominent in the Baptist revival and the founding of the first British Baptist missionary sending organization.

“We have the evidence of Newton’s diary that they were years of deep brotherly fellowship between the two men. On several occasions Newton deferred an engagement at the Parish Church in order to attend a special meeting ‘at Mr. Sutcliff’s.’ ... Before Sutcliff had been in Olney six months there was a gathering of Baptist Ministers here; Newton was present, welcomed and loved by them all” (“John Sutcliff of Olney,” *Baptist Quarterly*, July 1952).

O TIMOTHY Magazine
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The pastor's house or vicarage at Olney was enlarged for Newton by William Legge, Earl of Dartmouth (1731-1801). He was England's Secretary of State for the Colonies from 1772 to 1775, returning to England at the dawn of the American War of Independence. He was the major donor for the founding of Dartmouth College, one of nine colleges chartered before the revolution.

Newton's study at Olney was in the attic on the third floor. It featured a dormer window, which is a window that protrudes from a sloped roof to give light and air to an attic. Here, John Newton labored for 15 years, in prayer, in study, in meditation, in correspondence, and in writing sermons and hymns.

Newton's Study: There was spiritual blessing and glory there.

In this study, Newton wrote his part of the *Olney Hymns*. There, he wrote such words as the following:

“Amazing Grace”
Olney Hymns, Book 1, No. 41

The Lord has promised good to me,
His Word my hope secures;
He will my Shield and Portion be,
As long as life endures.

Yea, when this flesh and heart shall fail,
And mortal life shall cease,
I shall possess, within the veil,
A life of joy and peace.

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow,
The sun forbear to shine;
But God, who called me here below,
Will be forever mine.

“Zion, or the City of God”
Olney Hymns, Book 1, No. 60

1 Glorious things of thee are spoken,
Zion, city of our God.
He whose Word cannot be broken
formed thee for His own abode.
On the Rock of Ages founded,
what can shake thy sure repose?
With salvation's walls surrounded,
thou may'st smile at all thy foes.

2 See, the streams of living waters,
springing from eternal love,
well supply thy sons and daughters
and all fear of want remove.

Who can faint while such a river
ever flows their thirst to assuage?
Grace, which like the Lord, the Giver,
never fails from age to age.

3 'Round each habitation hov'ring,
see the cloud and fire appear
for a glory and a cov'ring,
showing that the Lord is near.
Thus deriving from their banner
light by night and shade by day,
safe they feed upon the manna
which He gives them on their way.

4 Savior, since of Zion's city
I through grace a member am,
let the world deride or pity,
I will glory in Thy name.
Fading is the worldling's pleasures,
all his boasted pomp and show;
solid joys and lasting treasures
none but Zion's children know.

“Behold the Throne of Grace”
Olney Hymns, Book 1, No. 33

Behold the throne of grace!
The promise calls me near:
there Jesus shows a smiling face,
and waits to answer prayer.

That rich atoning blood,
which sprinkled round we see,
provides for those who come to God
an all prevailing plea.

My soul, ask what thou wilt;
thou canst not be too bold;
since his own blood for thee he spilt,
what else can he withhold?

“Approach, My Soul, the Mercy Seat”
Olney Hymns, Book 3, No. 12

1 Approach, my soul, the mercy seat,
where Jesus answers pray'r;

there humbly fall before His feet,
for none can perish there.

2 Thy promise is my only plea,
with this I venture nigh;
Thou callest burdened souls to Thee,
and such, O Lord, am I.

3 Bowed down beneath a load of sin,
by Satan sorely pressed,
by wars without, and fears within,
I come to Thee for rest.

4 Be Thou my shield and hiding place,
that, sheltered near Thy side,
I may my fierce accuser face,
and tell him Thou hast died.

5 O wondrous love, to bleed and die,
to bear the cross and shame,
that guilty sinners such as I,
might plead Thy gracious name.

6 Poor tempest-tossed soul, be still,
my promised grace receive;
'tis Jesus speaks; I must, I will,
I can, I do believe.

“The Name of Jesus”
Olney Hymns, Book 1, No. 57

How sweet the name of Jesus sounds
in a believer's ear!
It soothes our sorrows, heals our wounds,
and drives away our fear.

It makes the wounded spirit whole
and calms the troubled breast;
'tis manna to the hungry soul,
and to the weary, rest.

“The Saints Emmanuel’s Portion Are”
Olney Hymns, Book 3, No. 99

The saints Emmanuel’s portion are,
Redeemed by price, reclaimed by power;
His special choice and tender care,
Owns them and guards them every hour.

He finds them in a barren land,
Beset with sins and fears and woes;
He leads and guides them by His hand,
And bears them safe from all their foes.

Newton’s Study: There was spiritual warfare there.

After leaving Olney, Newton wrote to a successor as follows:

“Methinks I see you sitting in my old corner in the study. I will warn you of one thing--that room (do not start) used to be haunted. I cannot say I ever saw or heard anything with my bodily organs, but I have been sure there were evil spirits in it, and very near me--a spirit of folly, a spirit of indolence, a spirit of unbelief, and many others--indeed, their name is legion. But why should I say they are in your study, when they followed me to London, and still pester me here?”

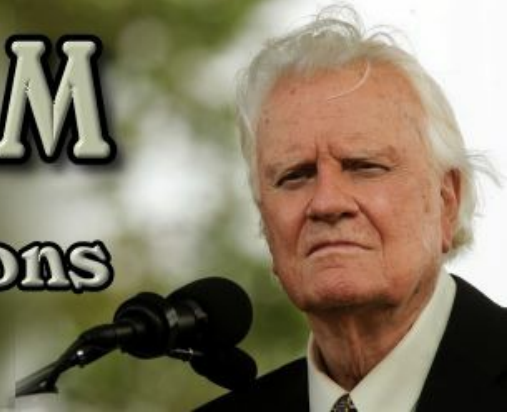
This is a description of the spiritual warfare that is the lot of every born again believer and in particular those who are at the forefront of preaching God’s Word and leading God’s people.

“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints”
(Ephesians 6:10-18).

BILLY GRAHAM

& Modern Bible Versions

By David Cloud



Billy Graham (1918-2018), the most influential Evangelist of the 20th century, had a major role in the popularizing of the modern Bible versions. He exemplifies evangelicalism's capitulation to the endless stream of versions.

Though there is no evidence that Graham had made the effort to understand even the ABCs of the Bible text/version issue, he put his imprimatur on practically every new version, no matter how corrupt and even flippant. He never warned of the ultra-liberal bent of the prominent textual critics who produced the Greek New Testament underlying the modern versions, or of the terrible corruption of the Vaticanus and Sinaiticus manuscripts (the so-called "oldest and best") favored by the textual critics, or of the unbelieving principles of textual criticism. Graham largely treated the modern version issue as that of updating language and making the text "easier to understand."

Graham had zero warnings about the Bible text/version issue, but he did warn about those who cause divisions over this issue. He said, "Do not get caught up into a divisive and fruitless controversy over which of many good translations is best. Instead, consider using a number of them in your study and reading" ("Billy Graham Answers," June 1, 2004).

Since God has exalted His Word above all His name (Psalm 138:2), and since Jesus said man lives by every word of God (Matthew 4:4) and since Paul warned that many would corrupt the Word of God (2 Corinthians 2:17), it is definitely not a fruitless matter to make sure that we have the infallible Word of God.

By promoting the multiple version philosophy, Graham had a large role in weakening the authority of God's Word. A sure "thus saith the Lord" has been replaced by

"my version says this, what does yours say?" The modern versions speak with multiple, conflicting voices.

In 1952, Graham enthusiastically accepted a copy of the **REVISED STANDARD VERSION** and told a crowd of 20,000, "These scholars have probably given us the most nearly perfect translation in English. While there may be room for disagreement in certain areas of the translation, yet this new version should supplement the King James Version and make Bible reading a habit throughout America" (Graham, cited by Perry Rockwood, *God's Inspired Preserved Bible*, Halifax, N.S., p. 15).

The "scholars" to whom Graham referred were the most liberal theologians in America. None of them believed in the divine inspiration of Scripture, calling it "folklore," "legend," "reverent imagination," "popular tales," "superstitious ideas," and "conjecture." For example, Millar Burrows said, "We cannot take the Bible as a whole and in every part as stating with divine authority what we must believe and do" (*Outline of Biblical Theology*). Many of the RSV translators rejected Christ's deity, virgin birth, sinlessness, infallibility, bodily resurrection, and ascension. Henry Cadbury said, "He [Jesus Christ] was given to overstatements" (*Jesus, What Manner of Man?*). James Moffatt said, "But what is common to all the tales of the resurrection is the belief that the personality of Jesus passed into life eternal, that he lived again and lived as Lord of life and death" (*Everyman's Life of Jesus*, 1925, pp. 221-223). Clarence Craig said, "The resurrection of Jesus did not mean the reanimation of a corpse ... It meant that the new age of God had already begun. ... Paul was not talking about an event which could be photographed by eye-witnesses, but an event in the world of spiritual perception. ... It was not to be demonstrated by appeal to graves that were empty. It was a proclamation that must appeal to religious faith" (Craig, *The Beginning of Christianity*, pp. 135, 36). William Irwin said the phrase

“thus saith the Lord” “is an almost unfailing mark of SPURIOUSNESS” (*The Problem of Ezekiel*, p. 273). Fleming James said, “What REALLY happened at the Red Sea WE CAN NO LONGER KNOW” (*The Beginnings of Our Religion*). Willard Sperry said, “Plainly no divine fiat compounded man out of the dust of the earth and the universal spirit on a Friday in the year 4004 B.C. It is harder than once it was to see God walking in that garden in the cool of the evening” (*Signs of These Times*, 1929, p. 110).

These are just a few examples of the wicked unbelief of the RSV translators. Not surprisingly, they corrupted many major passages dealing with Messianic prophecy. For example, in Isaiah 7:14, instead of, “Behold, a virgin shall conceive,” they came up with, “Behold, a young woman shall conceive and bear a son,” which, of course, is no miracle at all.

Graham promoted the **PHILLIPS NEW TESTAMENT IN MODERN ENGLISH**. In his autobiography, modernist Bible paraphraser J.B. Phillips (1906-1982) stated that Billy Graham spoke highly of his work: “I think it was in 1952 that I received a visit from Dr. Billy Graham with his charming and intelligent wife. ‘I want to thank you, Dr. Phillips,’ he began, ‘for *Letters to Young Churches*’” (J.B. Phillips, *The Price of Success*, 1984, p. 116). Phillips taught a form of universalism and the Fatherhood of God, denied hell fire and the existence of Satan and demons, rejected the verbal inspiration of Scripture, claimed that Jesus conformed His teaching to the ignorance of His day, was a skeptic in regard to supernatural miracles, and believed that Christ’s ascension was a parable.

Graham single-handedly rescued the **LIVING BIBLE** from oblivion. “The Living Bible might be called ‘The Billy Graham Bible,’ for it was he who made it the success that it is. According to *Time* magazine, July 24, 1972, Billy Graham ordered 50,000 copies of the Epistles, and a short time later ordered some 450,000 more, and still later ordered 600,000 special paperback versions for his autumn television crusade in 1972. From that time on, orders began to pour in” (M.L. Moser, Jr., *The Case Against the Living Bible*, Little Rock: Challenge Press, p. 9).

That was only the beginning of Graham’s love affair with the Living Bible. At Amsterdam ‘86, Graham allowed Living Bibles International to distribute free copies of the Living Bible in 40 languages to the 8,000 evangelists in

attendance (*Light of Life*, Bombay, India, Sept. 1986, p. 23). Graham distributed 10,000 copies of the Living Bible to attendees of his Mission England Crusade (*Australian Beacon*, No. 241, Aug. 1986). In 1987, Graham appeared in television ads for *The Book*, a condensed version of the Living Bible. He said it “reads like a novel.” He also said it reads like the morning newspaper. In an ad that appeared in a 1991 issue of *Charisma* magazine, Graham said, “The Living Bible communicates the message of Christ to our generation” (*Charisma*, March 1991, p. 98).

The original Living Bible reads like the morning newspaper, because it is not the Word of God.

Ken Taylor, translator of the original Living Bible, said, “I felt such a thrill at my own privilege of stripping away some of the verbiage ... being a co-worker with God in that respect ... I flipped open my Bible and began to experiment with this new method of translation” (*The Living Bible*, Trinitarian Bible Society, p. 1). Thus, the infallible, living words of the eternal God are mere “verbiage” that Taylor felt free to strip away and experiment with.

Consider just a few examples of the frightful way that Kenneth Taylor handled the Word of God. These are from the original Living Bible that was promoted heavily by Billy Graham.

1 Kings 18:27

KJV “Cry aloud: for He is a god: either he is talking, or he is pursuing.”

LB “Perhaps he is talking to someone or else is out sitting on the toilet.”

Job 3:26

KJV “I was not in safety, neither had I rest, neither was I quiet: yet trouble came.”

LB “I was not fat and lazy yet trouble struck me down.”

Psalms 34:20

KJV “He keepeth all His bones: not one of them is broken.”

LB “God even protects him from accidents.”

The Messianic prophecy of Psalm 34:20 is destroyed through the Living Bible’s shocking perversion. That not one of Christ’s bones were broken was a fulfillment both

of direct prophecy (Ps. 34:20; Joh. 19:36) and of the typology of the Passover lamb (Ex. 12:46).

Billy Graham also helped popularize the perverted **GOOD NEWS FOR MODERN MAN (Today's English Version)**. He “called it an excellent translation over nationwide television from his campaign in Anaheim, California.” It was distributed by the Grason Company of Minneapolis, the distributors of Billy Graham materials (M.L. Moser, Jr., *The Devil's Masterpiece*, Challenge Press, 1970, p. 80). The *Good News for Modern Man* replaces the word “blood” with “death” in speaking of the atonement of Jesus Christ and corrupts practically every passage dealing with the deity of Jesus Christ. The translator of the *Good News for Modern Man*, Robert Bratcher, did not believe that Jesus Christ is God.

Graham endorsed the **NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION**. “In the late 70's, the New International Version was published for the first time. From this time forward, Billy Graham began referencing the NIV in his writings instead of the KJV, even though he continued to use the KJV in his sermons” (“Which Bible Did Billy Graham Use?” *Inspiring Tips*, April 20, 2020)

Graham endorsed the **ENGLISH STANDARD VERSION**. An ad stated, “The ESV is the preferred Bible translation for many international ministries, including the Gideons International, the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, Awana, and others” (“10 Things You Should Know about the ESV,” Crossway.org, Feb. 18, 2021).

Graham printed his own edition of Eugene Peterson's **THE MESSAGE**. It is called a “translational-paraphrase” and is said to “unfold like a gripping novel.” In fact, it IS a novel! It is filled with new age terms and concepts. It even uses the term “as above, so below,” which is a New Age expression for the unity of God and man, heaven and earth. In the book *As Above, So Below*, the editors of the *New Age Journal* say: “This maxim implies that the transcendent God beyond the physical universe and the immanent God within ourselves are one. Heaven and Earth, spirit and matter, the invisible and the visible worlds form a unity to which we are intimately linked” (quoted from Warren Smith, *Deceived on Purpose: The New Age Implications of the Purpose-Driven Church*, 2004). (For more about *The Message*, see “Eugene Peterson and the Message,”

https://www.wayoflife.org/reports/eugene_peterson_and_the_message.html)

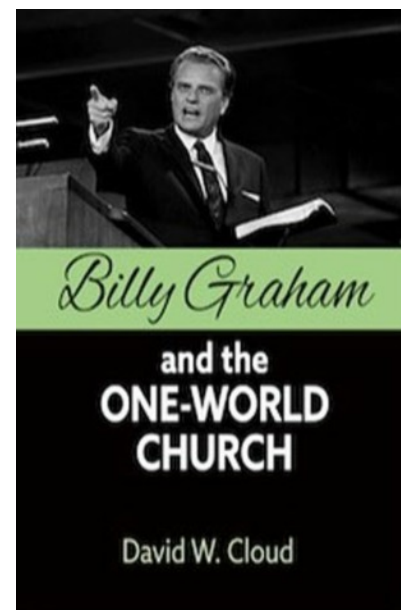
For more about the deep corruption of the modern Greek texts and versions, see the free eBook [The Modern Bible Version Hall of Shame](https://www.wayoflife.org/free_ebooks/modern_bible_version_hall_of_shame.php),

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



See also the free eBook [Billy Graham and the One World Church](https://www.wayoflife.org/free_ebooks/billy_graham_and_the_one_world_church.php). It is impossible to understand “evangelical” Christianity today without being educated in regard to Billy Graham, and “evangelicalism” in its myriad forms is probably the one greatest danger to thorough-going Biblicist, fundamentalist homes and churches. Evangelicalism today is so enticing: so *seemingly* doctrinally sound, yet so fun-oriented, so broadminded, so non-judgmental, so broad tent, so easy-going, so tolerant, so multifaceted, so intellectual. Yet evangelicalism is the path to the New Calvinism, immodesty, rock & roll worship, contemplative mysticism, the Church Fathers, C.S. Lewis (and his multitude of heresies), Mere Christianity, cultural relativism, Chuck Colson's tolerant grace, out-and-out Protestant-Baptist-Roman Catholic ecumenism.

Billy Graham and the One-World Church



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



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." "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

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 (Deuteronomy 22:5).

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?



FURNITURE FOR THE MINDS OF CHILDREN (Friday Church News Notes, March 1, 2024, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - In the 18th and 19th centuries, Baptists and Protestants typically understood the power of odly hymns to assist in child training. Consider Isaac Watts' *Divine Songs for Children* (1715). Writing to parents in the Preface, he said, "The wisdom and welfare of the succeeding generation are intrusted with you, 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 temptation, 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." Charles Spurgeon learned Watts' hymns and metered psalms as a child. And these are hymns of great substance. Watts' *Divine Songs for Children*, #2, was "I Sing the Mighty Power of God." Guarding children's minds requires filling their minds with truth and godliness. It also requires protecting their minds from error, ungodliness, and foolishness. Wise parents will reject the mindless entertainment of this age (Ec. 7:5-6) and everything else that is not good "furniture for the minds of children."

THE RETURN OF MOLECH'S FURNACE (Friday Church News Notes, March 1, 2024, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from "The Return," *The BridgeHead*, June 6, 2023: "In 2017, Dr. Jerry Coyne of the University of Chicago complained that the residual effects of Christianity



were holding Western civilization back. How? It was Christian ethics, he said, that were preventing legal infanticide from making a comeback. He wrote, 'When religion vanishes, as it will, so will much of the opposition to both adult and newborn euthanasia.' ... Princeton bio-ethicist Peter Singer argues that only religious superstition is keeping us from killing infants, a practice he believes to be perfectly ethical. As he wrote in *Practical Ethics*: 'Killing a defective infant is not morally equivalent to killing a person. Sometimes it is not wrong at all.' ... Canadian cognitive psychologist Steven Pinker of MIT doesn't go quite as far as Singer, but likely shares his views. In 1997, Pinker wrote in the *New York Times* that laws against infanticide were difficult to defend. ... In his test balloon essay, Pinker quotes the Michael Tooley's 1972 essay 'Abortion and Infanticide.' ... Tooley himself noted that he would establish 'some period of time, such as a week after birth, as the interval during which infanticide will be permitted.' ... On August 2, 2020, a study titled 'Healthcare professionals' attitudes towards termination of pregnancy at viable stage' released by the Research Foundation Flanders and Ghent University found that 89.1% of medical professionals and 93.6% of Belgian medical professionals indicated that infanticide is acceptable in certain circumstances. Of those surveyed, 87.9% 'agrees that Belgian law should be changed to make this possible.' ... Infanticide has already been de facto legal in limited circumstances in the Netherlands for some time. Children under the age of one with a terminal prognosis can be euthanized under the 2004 Groningen Protocol, which one journal described as an attempt 'to regulate the practice

of actively ending the life of newborns and to prevent uncontrolled and unjustified killing.' ... On October 7, 2022, Dr. Louis Roy of the Quebec College of Physicians told the Canadian House of Commons' Special Joint Committee on Medical Assistance in Dying that, in the view of his organization, euthanasia for infants under the age of one should be legal if the baby in question has 'grave and severe syndromes' or 'severe malformations' or 'prospective of survival is null, so to speak.'"

ISLAMIC STATE CALLS FOR MURDER OF ALL CHRISTIANS AND JEWS AND NON-SUNNI MUSLIMS (Friday Church News Notes, March 1, 2024, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - On January 4, 2024, the Islamic State (ISIS or IS) issued an audio recording entitled "And Kill Them Wherever You Find Them" which is Koran 9:5. Watch your back, because these boys take their religion seriously. The following is the last segment of this recording: "Lions of Islam: Chase your preys whether Jewish, Christian or their allies, on the streets and roads of America, Europe, and the world. Break into their homes, kill them and steal their peace of mind by any means you can lay hands on. Understand that you are the arm of the Islamic State hitting in the kuffar's [infidels]"

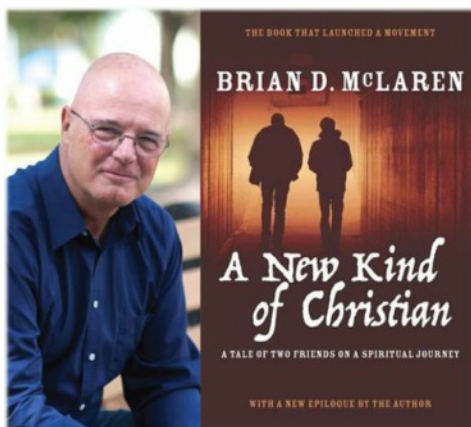


homelands, and are avenging the Muslims in Palestine, Iraq, Sham, and other Muslim countries. Solidify your plans and diversify the attacks: detonate explosives, burn them with grenades and fiery agents, shoot them with bullets, cut their throats with sharp knives, and run them over with vehicles. A sincere person will not lack the means to draw blood from the hearts of the Jews, the Christians, and their allies, and thus ease the suffering in the hearts of the believers. Come at them from every door, kill them by the worst of means, turn their gatherings and celebrations into bloody massacres, do not distinguish between a civilian kaffir, and a military one, for they are all kuffar and the ruling against them is one. ... Intentionally seek easy targets before hard ones, civilian targets before military one, religious targets like synagogues and churches before others, for this will satisfy the soul and will demonstrate the characteristics of the battle, as our battle with them is a religious one and we kill them wherever we come upon them in response to Allah Almighty's command" (cited from "Islamic State," *PJMedia*, Feb. 23, 2024).

PASTOR'S TESTIMONY ABOUT WAY OF LIFE MATERIALS (Friday Church News Notes, March 1, 2024, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - "I would like to commend Way of Life Literature for the excellent materials that you have put together over the many years. We have used the Way of Life materials for the last 24 years in our church for Sunday School, our Youth program, our Bible Institute and even in our preaching services. We have that the materials to be well put together, methodical, but most importantly true to the Word of God. This is such a rarity in this

great day of compromise! They are easy to implement in any setting whether Sunday School, institute programs, and even as an outline for preaching. Any church that is looking for good, solid, uncompromising Bible materials to use in any setting will find these materials very helpful. Thank you for your faithfulness to God's Word and your dedication to the Lord!"

EMERGING CHURCH CHANGE AGENTS (Friday Church News Notes, March 1, 2024, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Emerging church leaders like Brian McLaren are very effective change agents. His popular book *A New Kind of Christian* presents theological liberalism in the guise of a wiser, kinder, gentler type of Christianity called "Postmodern." The book recounts a pastor's journey from a position of holding the Bible as the absolute standard for truth, a position in which doctrine is either right or wrong, to a pliable stance in which "faith is more about a way of life than a system of belief, where being authentically good is more important than being doctrinally right" (from the back cover of *A New Kind of Christian*). Chameleons like McLaren can talk like Bible believers when it suits their purpose, as he did in an interview with me at the 2009



National Pastor's Conference in San Diego. But he has publicly rejected (by re-definition and foggy language) such fundamentals of the faith as the inerrancy of Scripture, the necessity of the new birth, the substitutionary blood atonement, the literal return of Christ, and eternal judgment. In other words, he has rejected the New Testament Christian faith and has become its enemy. He is a dangerous man, but he is clever and patient, and he is by no means alone in his war against biblical Christianity. He is joined by thousands of "new thinkers" who are leavening individuals, homes, churches, and schools with heresy. McLaren has indicated that he is targeting the children and grandchildren of today's "fundamentalists," and he will doubtless win in a large number of cases because today's "fundamentalists" aren't well enough grounded in the truth to recognize error nor are they spiritual enough to care.

WHO SAID THE EARTH IS FLAT? (Friday Church News Notes, March 1, 2024, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is from CreationMoments.com, Feb. 13, 2024: "Many of us have heard the old legend about why Christopher Columbus was told he could not sail too far west. According to the legend, Columbus was repeatedly told that he could not sail west to India because the Earth was flat. If he sailed too far, he would fall off the edge. That story was a piece of fiction cooked up by Washington Irving in the 1830s. Only one writer can be found in Western history who believed the Earth was flat--that writer was Lactantius in the third century AD. All the others--for example, Pythagoras, still noted today for his mathematical proofs



--simply assumed the Earth was spherical. Two hundred years later, the Greek mathematician Eratosthenes, also assuming that the Earth was round, calculated that the Earth was 25,000 miles in circumference. He was off by only 200 miles. A century later, using Eratosthenes' figure for the Earth's diameter, Hipparchus calculated that the moon was 240,000 miles away from the Earth. He was off by only 100 miles--less than half a percent! Nor does the Bible teach that the Earth is flat. Isaiah 40:22 tells us how God looks down on the inhabitants of a round Earth. Job 26:7 talks about the Earth floating in space, hung on nothing. Today we have exposed two myths. One is the myth that most people used to think the Earth was flat. The other myth is that the Bible is not accurate when it describes the same creation that modern science talks about. Isaiah 40:22, 'It is he that sitteth upon the circle of the earth, and the inhabitants thereof are as grasshoppers; that stretcheth out the heavens as a curtain, and spreadeth them out as a tent to dwell in.' Ref: Lemonick, Michael D. 'Measuring the earth.' *Science Digest*, July 1985. p. 72."

TRUMP'S MAR-A-LAGO HOSTS "GAY WEDDING"; TRUMP GIVES THUMBS UP IN PHOTO SHOOT (Friday Church News Notes, March 15, 2024, www.wayoflife.org



fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)
 - On Feb. 23, two homosexual men had a “marriage” ceremony at Donald Trump’s Mar-a-Lago estate in south Florida. The men, dressed in matching black pants, white blazers, and bow ties, cut a three-tiered cake and danced the first dance. The forum featured multiple U.S. flags. One of the partners, John Sullivan, is an official in the Tennessee Log Cabin Republicans (pro-homosexual Republicans). The Log Cabin’s facebook page announced, “An amazing time was had by all at John Sullivan and Dan Medora’s unforgettable wedding at Mar-a-Lago in Palm Beach, FL. A celebration of love and style that will be cherished forever.” We suspect that Trump is as much a judgment on America as Biden. There is no “Godly Party” in America. God’s redeemed people must guard their hearts and not allow themselves to care more about economics than morality. We must beware of being emotionally captured by wicked men parading as “conservatives.” “If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, *who is* our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory” (Colossians 3:1-4).

FRANCE BECOMES FIRST COUNTRY TO ENSHRINE

ABORTION IN CONSTITUTION; APPLAUDS MURDER OF THE UNBORN

(Friday Church News Notes, March 8, 2024, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)
 - The following is excerpted from “France Becomes,” *Christian Post*, Mar. 5, 2024: “France became the first nation to enshrine abortion in its national constitution in an overwhelming vote that prompted a standing ovation from the French Parliament in Versailles on Monday. French lawmakers overwhelmingly voted 780-72 in favor of the bill to amend Article 34 of the French constitution. ... When the final vote was announced, the room in Versailles Palace erupted with sustained applause, and many who were gathered in Paris’ Trocadéro Square to watch the vote on a large screen also cheered as the amendment passed, according to *The New York Times*. On Monday evening, the Eiffel Tower was emblazoned with the words ‘My body, my choice.’” **CONCLUSION:** The legalization of abortion is a fulfillment of Bible prophecy. “This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves ... Without natural affection ... incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good ... lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God” (2 Timothy 3:1-4). What could better illustrate “without natural affection,” what



could better illustrate incontinence and fierceness, what could better illustrate “lovers of pleasures” than a mother conceiving a child and killing it and a nation applauding the act? The hour is very late.



JEWISH RABBIS EXPECTING THE MESSIAH IMMINENTLY

(Friday Church News Notes, March 8, 2024, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)
 - A report in 2022 stated that “biggest rabbis are afraid to leave the country lest they miss Messiah’s coming” (*Israel Today*, Sept. 29, 2022). Rabbi Chaim Kanievsky, one of two or three top rabbis of the ultra-orthodox, “claimed to be in direct contact with the Messiah and had been tasked with informing the public of the Messiah’s imminent arrival” (Ibid.). Rabbi Yaakov Zisholtz told *Radio 2000*, “The process of redemption is about to start happening very quickly and at a fast pace. It is important that people remain calm and steady to act properly in the right time. ... Getting the word out now that the Messiah is closer than ever is a matter of life and death. Haven’t you heard of Gog and Magog? That is what is going to happen very soon.” Decades ago, Rabbi Yitzhak Kaduri and Rabbi Menachem Schneerson predicted that Benjamin Netanyahu would be Israel’s last prime minister prior to the Messianic Age (“Netanyahu Holding the Keys for the Messiah,”

Israel365News, Nov. 19, 2018). Rabbi Levi Sudri suggests that Netanyahu is the Jonathan who is preparing for the return of the house of David. He bases this on a rabbinical interpretation by Rabbi Shmuel Bornsztain from the early 1900s (“Netanyahu Will Hand Scepter to Messiah,” *Israel365News*, May 28, 2018). Rabbi Schneerson, who died in 1994, was considered the Messiah by hundreds of thousands of Jews in the 1980s and 1990s. Even since his death, many are waiting for his resurrection, and some don’t believe that he is dead. Schneerson was the seventh rebbe or rabbi leader of a kabbalistic ultra-orthodox Jewish sect called Lubavitch (also called Chabad and Habad), a sect that focuses on the return of the Messiah. Schneerson “transformed it from a small movement into the largest and most widespread Jewish movement in the world today.” Schneerson’s photo is plastered on signs and walls in many parts of Israel. It is often accompanied with a crown and the Hebrew word *Mashiach* (*Messiah*). According to ultra-Orthodox thinking, the Messiah is the man who will build the third temple. Rabbi Nachman of Breslov (1773-1810), who lived in Uman, Ukraine, taught a mantra based on his own name that is supposed to help bring the Messiah into the world. It is *Na Nach Nachma Nachman MeUman*. The movement that follows Nachman is called “Na Nach” after this mystical chant. Tens of thousands of Jews make an annual pilgrimage to Nachman’s gravesite, even in the midst of the Russian-Ukraine war (32,000 visited in 2023). The recital of certain psalms (Psalms 16, 32, 41, 42, 59, 77, 90, 105, 137, 150) at his gravesite is thought to bring “general remedy” for sins and damages and salvation from hell. What most Jews do not know, because their minds are blinded by rabbinical tradition, is that the next “messiah” is

the anti-christ who will step forth as a man of extraordinary ability with an unprecedented peace plan. He will indeed build the third temple (we see it being measured in Revelation 11), but he will reveal his true character by entering it and declaring himself God. “... the son of perdition; Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshiped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God” (2 Thessalonians 2;3-4). See also Daniel 9:27; Matthew 24:15-22; Revelation 13:5-8.

ANOTHER ANCIENT SYNAGOGUE FOUND IN MAGDALA (Friday Church News Notes, March 8, 2024, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- In 2009, the foundation of a large first century synagogue was discovered in ancient Magdala on the northwestern shore of the Sea of Galilee, about four miles north of Tiberius. Mary Magdalene got her name from this city and Jesus preached here. “And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues...” (Mt. 4:23). In one room of the synagogue a coin was discovered dating to AD 29, which was at or near the time of Jesus’ public ministry. The synagogue had pillars and mosaic floors. One of the surviving images depicts a Galilee fishing boat with a sail and three oars.



Also found in the synagogue was a carved stone that appears to be a depiction of the temple in Jerusalem. On the front is the image of a seven-branched menorah. In December 2021, the announcement was made that a second synagogue had been discovered in Magdala about 100 meters west from the first one. It is smaller and less elaborate. “The newly excavated synagogue is a simple, square-shaped building, constructed out of basalt and limestone. It consisted of a central hall with a bench along one side and two small rooms. One room is thought to have been used to store scrolls. Each of the rooms and the bench were coated with plaster” (“Archaeologists Discover New First-century Synagogue,” *Biblical Archaeology Society*, Dec. 15, 2021). Josephus, the Jewish warrior leader turned historian, who operated out of Magdala, said the city had a population of 40,000 and a fishing fleet of 230 vessels.

FEDERAL COURT RULES BIDEN ADMIN CAN’T FORCE CHRISTIAN DOCTORS TO PERFORM TRANS SURGERIES

(Friday Church News Notes, March 8, 2024, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from “Biden can’t force,” *Christian Post*, Mar. 5, 2024: “A federal court has ruled that Christian healthcare workers cannot be forced to perform elective, body-disfiguring surgeries for individuals who identify as trans despite a mandate from the Biden administration. In an order released on Monday, the United States District Court of the District of North Dakota granted partial summary judgment in favor of the Christian Employers Alliance. At issue were two mandates from the U.S. Equal Employment



Opportunity Commission and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services that interpret Title VII antidiscrimination protections based on 'sex' to include sexual orientation and self-declared gender identity. It would require religious employers to provide health insurance that covers body-mutilating trans surgeries and force surgeons with religious objections to perform such procedures as castration for males and elective double

mastectomies for females or face charges of discrimination based on gender identity. The court concluded that 'CEA will succeed on the merits,' adding that 'if CEA had to comply with these mandates, its members would have to violate their sincerely held religious beliefs which is an impermissible exercise under the First Amendment and [the Religious Freedom Restoration Act].' 'CEA's sincerely held religious belief is that male and female are immutable realities defined by biological sex and that gender reassignment is contrary to Christian Values,' reads the order."

FORMER DUTCH PM AND WIFE DIE BY DUO EUTHANASIA (Friday Church News Notes, March 15, 2024, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from



"Former Dutch PM," TheBridgehead.ca, March 4, 2024: "On February 5, 2024, former Dutch Prime Minister Dries van Agt died holding hands with his wife Eugenie in his hometown of Nijmegen. Both were 93; the elderly couple chose to die by euthanasia. The Rights Forum, an organization founded by van Agt, released a statement on February 9: 'He died together and hand in hand with his beloved wife Eugenie van Agt-Krekberg ... with whom he was together for more than seventy years,

THE SEA MONSTER WITH 24 ARMS AND 15,000 FEET (Friday Church News Notes, March 8, 2024, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is from CreationMoments.com, Feb. 21, 2024: "A real monster prowls the ocean floor from the Aleutian Islands to Southern California. It is a terror to even relatively large bottom dwellers. It eats many things, including hermit crabs, clams, sea cucumbers, sea urchins and even abalone. This monster goes by the seemingly innocent name of the Sunflower Star. It begins life as a microscopic larva, much like other sea stars. But as it grows, it surpasses anything that other sea stars can achieve. Its five arms become more arms as it grows until it finally has 24 arms. By this time it can be 39 inches across. But its size does not limit its speed. It uses 15,000 tube feet to move over 5 feet per minute. This is possible because, like other sea stars, the Sunflower Star's skeleton is made up of just a few pieces of skeletal mesh, making it more flexible. It is such a terror to other creatures that when they sense its approach they flee at surprising speed. Even the Northern



Abalone, which normally moves sluggishly, flees in the hope that the Sunflower Star will not capture it. The Bible urges vigilance on our part because our spiritual enemy is a monster who seeks to entrap us in sin. We can be thankful that Jesus Christ has provided both deliverance and protection from this monster. Ref: Royal British Columbia Museum, Victoria, British Columbia, "The Sunflower Star."

and whom he always continued to refer to as *my girl*.' ... Andreas 'Dries' van Agt served as prime minister of the Netherlands from 1977 until 1982 ... A few decades ago--when van Agt was prime minister, for example--an elderly statesman and his wife committing suicide together with the assistance of a doctor would have horrified the country. Now, it is portrayed as a peaceful sendoff--a downright Dutch way of doing things. That may well be the case. On April 1, 2002, the Netherlands became the first country in Europe since Nazi Germany to legalize euthanasia. Since then, the Dutch euthanasia regime has persistently expanded: in 2004, the Groningen Policy laid out the framework for euthanizing infants (who cannot consent); and, the rules have since been expanded to permit euthanasia for all children. Dutch people have been euthanized for alcoholism, blindness, depression, tinnitus, and even dementia--in that case, the woman could not remember having asked for euthanasia and had to be physically held down for the lethal injection. ... Twenty-nine couples opted for the paired death in 2022, up from 16 who chose it in 2021 and the 13 pairs the year before. In 2018, a Canadian couple opted for 'duo euthanasia'; they did cheery interviews about the decision scarcely a week before they died by lethal injection, also hand in hand." CONCLUSION: The Bible says death is not an end; it is a journey. "And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried; And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments..." (Luke 16:22-23).

NUMBER OF MODERN SLAVERY VICTIMS REACHES

RECORD HIGH (Friday Church News Notes, March 15, 2024, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Slavery has been practiced since the fall of man. It is not a product of "racism"; it is not an issue of skin color; it is a product of man's sinful heart. The Lord Jesus Christ described man's condition with perfect accuracy and uncovered the fundamental issue of slavery: "And he said, That which cometh out of the man, that defileth the man. For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: All these evil things come from within, and defile the man" (Mark 7:20-23). When men believed the devil's lie and chose sin over God, they became slaves, slaves not only to sin but slaves physically. History is filled with the sad accounts of men being enslaved by their fellow men and treated as mere cattle, from the slaves under the brutal whips of the ancient pharaohs to the serfs of 17th century Europe to the dirt poor classes of modern Asia and Africa. Slavery has been practiced by the white man, the black man, the red man, the yellow man, and every other kind of man. In spite of the abolition of black slavery by Western nations in modern times, slavery has never been totally abolished. **Slavery is still practiced**



widely in Sudan and Mauritania. In the latter, slavery has existed since the Arabs conquered it in the 12th century. Though officially abolished in 1981, the anti-slavery law is not enforced. Estimates of slaves in Mauritania today "range from 100,000 to more than a half-million." Slaves "are used for labor, sex and breeding. The property of their masters, they are passed down through generations, given as wedding gifts or exchanged for camels, trucks, guns or money" ("Arabs Have Black Slaves Today," *Israel National News*, Mar. 29, 2013). The following is excerpted from "Salvation Army urges vigilance," *Premier Christian News*, Mar. 8, 2024: "The number of potential victims of modern slavery reached a record level last year, with 17,004 people referred to the Home Office. A quarter of all those referred (4,088) were female, with children (7,432) making up four in ten referrals. Kathy Betteridge who is The Salvation Army's Director of Anti-Trafficking and Slavery, told *Premier*: 'It's tragic. Criminals who perpetrate these crimes can make a lot of money from a human, and people are very vulnerable at the moment. There are so many war-torn countries and people living in poverty, so the perpetrators target vulnerable people.'"

THE ADDICTIVE MORAL FILTH AND VIOLENCE OF ONLINE GAMING (Friday Church News Notes, March 15, 2024, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from "My Torment as a Gamer Girl," *Unherd*, Feb. 26, 2024: "My obsession is with the cowboy game *Red Dead Redemption 2*. Its world is a microcosm of a late-1800s



[mythical] America, in which you play a gunslinging outlaw ... It is ... one of the prize assets in the stable of independent publisher Rockstar Games, makers of the *Grand Theft Auto* series. ... I played the main, offline, 'story' version of this game for a year, becoming so fixated that one friend tried to stage an intervention to stop me banging on about it. In the main game, you play as a man. In the online version, you may choose a female avatar--and you can create her in your own image (in my case blonde, overly made-up and probably quite vain). ... As you go about your business, posses of male characters--almost certainly men, given their gamer tags ... lurk behind you. They stab you, they shoot you, they bind you in ropes and carry your hogtied, still writhing body on the back of their horse. They dump you in abandoned houses, where they take turns to jump on you ... Until the 2010s, online gaming was still a niche. Then it exploded: *Call of Duty* launched online in 2012, *Grand Theft Auto* (GTA) in 2013, *Red Dead* in 2018. We are now living, one critic said last year, in the 'golden age of the online multiplayer.' ... **You can do, in other words, almost exactly what you want. It is this, the plugging-in of fantasy to real-life social networks, which has created a space for the darkest human urges to be played out, over and over, with wearying predictability, on the usual victims and by the usual suspects.** ... There

are many who think that the explicit content of video games encourages this. In GTA [Grand Theft Auto], players can drive close to prostitutes to engage their services. An encounter boosts the player's health, but costs money; luckily, you can kill your prostitute afterwards and rob it back. ... The next generation--already buffeted towards extreme misogyny by Andrew Tate, incel culture and society's utter saturation in porn--are living out these ideologies in cyberspace; **76% of boys in the UK aged 12-15 game online.**"

MAN'S FALLEN NATURE

(Friday Church News Notes, March 15, 2024, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The most fundamental thing in life is to understand God and man. As for man, he was created in God's image, but he is fallen and corrupt because of his sin against God, beginning with the sin of the first man, Adam. "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned" (Romans 5:12). Men like to think of themselves as good, but they aren't. They are so unrighteous that they must be born again, Jesus said, or they will have their part in the lake of fire rather than the kingdom of God.

"And GOD saw that the wickedness of man *was* great in the earth, and *that* every imagination of the thoughts of his heart *was* only evil continually" (Genesis 6:5).

"The LORD looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, *and* seek God. They are all gone aside, they are *all* together become filthy: *there is* none that doeth good, no, not one" (Psalm 14:2-3).

"The heart *is* deceitful above all *things*, and desperately wicked: who can know it?" (Jeremiah 17:9).

"For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness" (Mark 7:21-22).

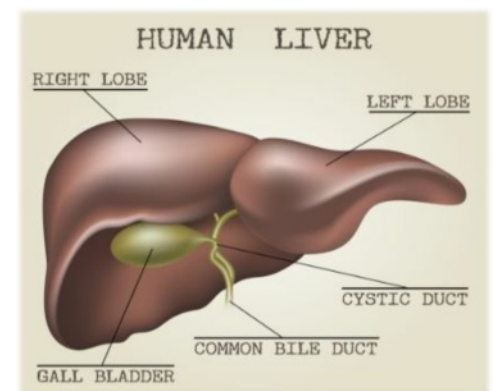
"As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one ... there is none that doeth good, no, not one" (Romans 3:10, 12).

"Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others" (Ephesians 2:3).

"For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, *and* hating one another" (Titus 3:3).

YOUR BUSY LIVER (Friday Church News Notes, March 15, 2024, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The following is from CreationMoments.com, Feb. 12, 2024: "An adult human liver is about the size of a small football. It weighs about three pounds, making it the body's largest internal organ. Tucked neatly beneath the ribs, your liver performs more than 500 different

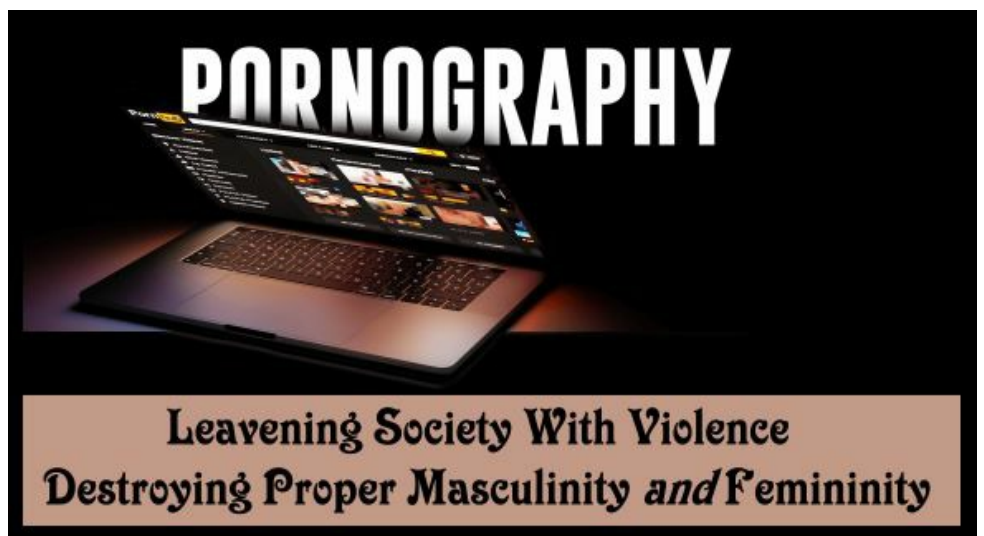


tasks. It is a vital link between your heart, lungs and digestive system. Inside the liver is a bewildering array of microscopic veins in which each drop of blood is processed. Here, blood conditions are constantly monitored to make sure that its chemistry meets strict standards. If more of some substances are needed in the blood, they are supplied. Useless chemicals are broken down into useful chemicals. Your liver makes proteins and corrects blood clotting factors. Your liver also sees to it that hormone balances are maintained and that poisons are neutralized. If substances are needed to fight an infection, your liver makes them and adds them to the bloodstream. Your liver also stores vitamins and minerals and prepares itself to provide your body with quick energy when you need it. In addition, the liver makes bile, which is essential for digestion. Structures like the liver have caused many evolutionists to abandon the idea that life is a result of millions of years of accidents. The liver is just too well-designed and integrated into the body to have been produced by purposelessness and mindlessness. As Scripture says, truly God has formed our inward parts! Ref: 'The liver: the body's refinery,' *Discover*, Apr. 1984. p. 80."

PORNOGRAPHY LEAVENING SOCIETY WITH VIOLENCE, DESTROYING PROPER MASCULINITY AND FEMININITY (Friday Church News Notes, March 22, 2024, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - There is no end to the moral corruption of fallen human nature. It is a bottomless pit of evil. Man's heart is "desperately wicked" (Jeremiah 17:9). Christ said, "For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications,

murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness" (Mark 7:20-22). Yet it is also true that man can guard the heart so that the inherent evil is kept under control. "Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life. Put away from thee a froward mouth, and perverse lips put far from thee. Let thine eyes look right on, and let thine eyelids look straight before thee" (Proverbs 4:23-25). Note the two-fold emphasis on controlling what the eyes see. In all of human history, nothing has amplified man's corrupt nature more than the ready availability of pornography via the internet. It is polluting society in every way at every level. It tends to quickly degrade from "normal" sexuality to perversions of every sort and particularly to violence. The following is excerpted from Jonathon Van Maren, "Is Violent Porn Making Girls Identify as Transgender," *The European Conservative*, Feb. 7, 2024: "**Porn addiction is now ubiquitous among young people, and a generation has grown up with their view of sexuality shaped by the extreme and violent content found on major porn sites such as Pornhub. An increasingly toxic**

sexual environment in which sexual violence has been normalized has been the result. ... Dame Rachel de Souza, Children's Commissioner of England, recently warned that porn-inspired sexual violence is on the rise even among children. 'I will never forget the girl who told me about her first kiss with her boyfriend, aged 12, who strangled her,' de Souza reported. 'He had seen it in pornography and thought it was normal.' He wasn't wrong. A new UK report indicates that 'nearly half of all girls aged 16 to 21 say they've had a partner expect sex to involve physical aggression such as slapping and choking.' **The normalization of sexual violence is the culture-wide consequence of men and boys imagining themselves as the aggressor in millions upon millions of porn scenes. ...** Girls and boys are now coming of age in a dating landscape shaped primarily by pornography. Sexual violence has become normative not just for adults copycatting digital porn and sexual entertainment such as *Fifty Shades of Gray*, but for minors and children as well. Much of the sexual violence that occurs in our society is now simply a part of the way men and women--and boys and girls--treat



each other, and most of this behavior takes place in the ever-growing grey zone between consent, crime, and coercion. ... I've been speaking on the issue of pornography, primarily to students, for over a decade, and I can attest to the fact that many girls are terrified of what they see in pornography. **In the videos they encounter, women are virtually always subjected to grotesque maltreatment and even torture. As this pervasive digital rape culture has bled into their reality, it makes sense that some girls would react to these new sexual expectations by rejecting the female identity.** Indeed, it is significant that a growing number of girls are embracing androgyny and identifying as 'non-binary'--many do not necessarily want to transition into boys, they simply do not want to be girls." **CONCLUSION:** It is essential in this wicked day that Christian parents and church leaders wake up and protect their children and youth from the deadly trap that is only a mouse-click or a screen swipe away. We recommend the book and Bible course [Keeping the Kids in the Social Media Age](https://www.wayoflife.org/publications/books/keeping_the_kids_in_the_Social_Media_Age), https://www.wayoflife.org/publications/books/keeping_the_kids_in_the_Social_Media_Age.

CANADIANS FINALLY FIGHT BACK AGAINST THE TRANS AGENDA (Friday Church News Notes, March 22, 2024, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from "Canadians Finally Fight Back," Thebridgehead.ca, Mar. 4, 2024: "For the better part of a decade, Canada remained one of the only Western countries where gender ideology remained entirely unquestioned, promoted as state dogma by the Trudeau government, and passively



accepted by conservative politicians skittish about social issues. ... Last June, that began to change. **New Brunswick Premier Blaine Higgs** announced that going forward, children under 16 seeking to change their gender at school by switching names and pronouns would first need to get their parents' permission. Many Canadians had been unaware that over the past several years, it has become standard policy in the public school system to hide such information from parents by default, even though parental permission is required for matters as trivial as dispensing Tylenol. LGBT activists accused Higgs of violating LGBT 'human rights,' but Higgs refused to back down. Polling highlighted the popularity of the policy. As it turns out, claiming that Canadian parents pose a danger to their kids is not politically persuasive. Higgs' move attracted the attention of other premiers, and on August 22, **Saskatchewan announced an almost identical policy** mandating that parental consent must be acquired before students are 'socially transitioned' before the age of 16. Again, the political allies of the LGBT movement--including Saskatchewan's 'Advocate for Children and Youth,' Lisa Brodack, claimed that involving Canadian parents in life-changing decisions about their children is dangerous. **Premier Scott Moe, following**

Higgs' lead, defended the policy, highlighting a poll that proved broad public support: 'A new poll from [the] Angus Reid Institute shows strong support in Saskatchewan and across Canada for Parental Inclusion and Consent in education with 86% in Saskatchewan supporting some level of notification for parents when children want to change their gender identity in school. Just 10% agree with the NDP position that parents should not be informed.' ... **Ontario's education minister Stephen Lecce** hosted a press conference on **August 28, announcing that it is the view of the Ford government that 'parents must be fully involved and fully aware of what's happening in the life of their children.'** Overnight, 'parental rights' went from a political no-go zone to a popular campaign point—and all it took was one premier having the guts to make the move. ... on January 31, **Danielle Smith, premier of Alberta**, announced a raft of new policies going substantially further than any other premier. From the Alberta government's website: 'All gender reassignment surgeries for minors aged 17 and under will be prohibited. - The use of puberty blockers and hormone therapies for the purpose of gender reassignment or affirmation will not be permitted for children aged 15 and under, except for those who have already



commenced treatment. ... - Parents must be notified and opt in to any instance when a teacher provides formal instruction on subject matter involving gender identity, sexual orientation, or human sexuality. - Parents must consent for their child aged 15 and under to alter their name or pronouns used by school teachers, administration, and other educational staff.' ... The LGBT movement and their progressive political allies promptly went nuts. ... Political scientist Dave Snow analyzed the coverage of Saskatchewan's policy by the CBC, Canada's taxpayer-funded state broadcaster, and found that headlines were leading and biased, with 37% of them containing 'attributed criticism' and not a single one of 38 articles containing 'attributed praise of the policy.' So-called 'experts' were handpicked to criticize parental rights. Snow's conclusion: 'The CBC prioritizes allyship over objectivity.' *The Toronto Star* was even less subtle, publishing an op-ed titled 'It's a privilege, not a right, to know your kid's gender identity.'"

A WARNING ABOUT HOW FACEBOOK IS HARMING CHURCHES (Friday Church News Notes, March 22, 2024, www.wayoflife.org)



fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - "Most people in our circles do not have the discernment, discretion or courage to stand against things that are wrong. For instance, when someone leaves a good church and goes down a worldly or wicked road, many people continue to remain friends with them and 'Like' everything they do. They will approve of things on Facebook that their church and pastor plainly stand against including immodest attire, worldly activities, wrong relationships, wrong marriages, rebellion against church, bad doctrine...you name it. They hear these things preached against on Sunday, but Monday morning they approve of them on Facebook. They will not clearly and plainly separate from folks who are going in a direction that contradicts the doctrine of their own church. This encourages the one who is doing wrong, weakens those who would stand against that behavior, and signals to others that these wrong activities are okay. In doing this, they seem to care more about the feelings of rebels than they do the feelings and concerns of a pastor who loves and cares for them. From that standpoint, I believe that Facebook has done untold damage to churches. I have friends in independent, fundamental churches around the world and I have observed that this takes place everywhere."

SUPREME COURT REFUSES TO HEAR CASE OF TRANSGENDER CHILD REMOVED FROM PARENTS (Friday Church News Notes, March 29, 2024, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from "Transgender child forcibly removed," *Premier Christian News*, Mar. 21, 2024: "The US Supreme



Court has declined to hear an appeal from a Catholic couple who lost custody of their child after refusing to acknowledge his self-identified female gender. The court did not provide a reason for its refusal to hear the case. ... Mary and Jeremy Cox, devout Catholics from Indiana, began legal proceedings after their teenage son informed them he identified as a girl. The couple's Christian beliefs about gender and sexuality meant they could not agree to their son's request of acceptance. ... In 2021, two years after the couple's son began identifying as female, the Indiana Department of Child Services investigated the Coxes and eventually removed their son from their custody. He was placed into a home that affirmed his self-declared identity."

ABANDONED WIFE DESCRIBES HOW HOMOSEXUAL LUST DESTROYED HER MARRIAGE AND FAMILY (Friday Church News Notes, March 29, 2024, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from "'I Refuse to Be Silent': Writer Says Homosexuality Shattered Her Marriage, Family," *Christian News Network*, Oct. 13, 2014: "A mother and writer has generated much discussion following the publication of an article in which she shares her personal story of how homosexuality

A CAGE OF LIGHT (Friday Church News Notes, March 22, 2024, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is from CreationMoments.com, Mar. 7, 2024: “Ask any evolutionist, and he will tell you that the Venus Flower Basket is one of the least-evolved animals. This animal is actually a sponge that is made up of a colony of creatures, and it does some amazing things. The Venus Flower Basket builds a basket-like skeleton made up of glass-like silica covered only by a thin layer of cells. The intricate internal structure of this skeleton is reinforced to provide the greatest strength using the least amount of material. The resulting skeleton turns out to be a fiber optic network whose sophistication has been compared to modern fiber optics used for telecommunications networks. Symbiotic luminescent microorganisms make a home inside the base of the sponge, sending their light throughout the Flower Basket’s fiber optic skeleton. The Flower Basket traps shrimp inside this skeleton, where they spend their entire lives. The food they drop feeds those luminescent microorganisms at the bottom of the basket. The purpose of the light pulses is to attract prey to feed



the shrimp, who, in turn, feed the source of the light pulses! All of this is even more impressive, given the fact that the Flower Basket has no nervous system whatsoever. That this beautiful creature with no nervous system is designed and works in such an intricate manner is a powerful testimony to our Creator, the only One Who could design this. Ref: *Discover*, 8/05, pp. 42-47, George M. Whitesides, ‘Illuminated Life.’”

and same-sex ‘marriage’ shattered her own marriage and family. ‘I refuse to be silent,’ wrote Janna Darnelle (a pen name used to protect her family’s identity), who states that behind many of the happy photographs in reports on same-sex ‘marriage,’ there are untold stories of sorrow and pain. ‘I represent one of those real life stories that are kept in the shadows. I have personally felt the pain and devastation wrought by the propaganda that destroys natural families.’ Darnelle recalled that in 2007, her husband



announced to her that he believed he was a homosexual, and that he wanted to file for divorce. ‘In an instant, the world that I had known and loved--the life we had built

together--was shattered,’ she said, advising that she urged her husband to stay and fight for their marriage. ‘But my voice, my desires, my needs--and those of our two young children--no longer mattered to him. We had become disposable, because he had embraced one tiny word (gay) that had become his entire identity.’ She said that when the matter went to court, her husband sought primary custody of the couple’s children, and asserted that he deserved everything that he wanted in the divorce because he was a

homosexual. He was granted his request, and later went on to ‘marry’ his male partner with the children present--a photograph that was featured in *USA Today*. ‘Commenters exclaimed at how beautiful this gay family was and congratulated my ex-husband and his new partner on the family that they created,’ Darnelle recalled. ‘But there is a significant person missing from those pictures: the mother and abandoned wife. ... I am missing. But I am real, and I represent hundreds upon thousands of spouses who have been betrayed and rejected.’ She later expressed concern about the life that the children are now exposed to and how it might affect their psyche as they try to understand their own manhood and womanhood. Her husband and children live in a condo with sixteen other homosexual men. ... ‘My children are brought to gay parties where they are the only children and where only alcoholic beverages are served. They are taken to transgender baseball games, gay rights fundraisers, and LGBT film festivals. [My daughter] needs a dad who will encourage her to embrace her femininity and beauty, but these qualities are parodied and distorted in her father’s world. Her dad wears make-up and sex bondage straps for Halloween. She is often exposed to men dressing as women,’ she continued. ... Darnelle explained that she understands that when a spouse announces that he or she is struggling with same-sex attractions, it may be difficult for

them to resist temptation, but they must--just as a man who lusts for a woman who is not his wife--do what is right for the sake of their own wedding vows.”

EMERGING CHURCH’S “3.0 CHRISTIANITY” DESTROYS BIBLICAL AUTHORITY

(Friday Church News Notes, March 29, 2024, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - In a message presented at the Greenbelt Festival in England in August 2014, emerging church leader Brian McLaren sought to destroy absolute biblical authority by claiming that we have entered a new era of Bible reading. He divided church history into three parts: Bible 1.0 was the Roman Catholic approach to Scripture whereby the Bible “was read and controlled by the religious elite.” Bible 2.0 was the Protestant approach to Scripture by which “the Bible itself was viewed as inerrant” and believers tested everything by it. Bible 3.0 is the new approach recommended by McLaren whereby the multiplicity of interpretations available on the internet allegedly render any one authoritative interpretation invalid. He says that Bible 3.0 is to be “in conversation with everything and everyone.” He says, “Bible 1.0 didn’t give up to Bible 2.0 without a fight. And it’s very difficult for Bible 2.0 to imagine a world of Bible 3.0,” but, “If we are ready, we are going to discover the Bible as better, deeper and richer than before” (“Brian McLaren: ‘We’ve entered a new



era of Bible reading,” *ChristianityToday.com*, Sept. 4, 2014). McLaren’s “deeper and richer” Bible reading is the one-world church’s approach which exalts unity, “social justice,” etc., over doctrinal purity. McLaren grew up in a fundamentalist Christian home, but he rejected the faith of his parents and his godly grandparents, who were Brethren missionaries. He is a dangerous heretic who has robbed many of their biblical faith. In response to the Bible 1.0, 2.0, 3.0 thing, we would observe that McLaren’s view of history doesn’t start early enough. In truth, Bible 1.0 is not the Catholic Church. It is the New Testament churches under the direction of Christ’s apostles. Bible 1.0 is the Christianity of those who believe that one infallible faith was delivered in the New Testament Scriptures and is to be contended for (Jude 1:3). Bible 1.0 is the Christianity of those who take the words of the resurrected Christ seriously when He said that His disciples are to be taught to “observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you” (Mt. 28:20). There is no room for the confusion of multiple interpretations here. Bible 1.0 is the Christianity of those who

believe Paul committed absolute truth to faithful, born again men who were to teach “the same” to others (2 Tim. 2:2). Bible 1.0 is the Christianity of those who are taught to test, beware of, mark, avoid, and reject false teachers and heretics (Ro. 16:17-18; Eph. 4:4; Php. 3:2, 17-18; Col. 2:8; 1 Ti. 4:1-4; 2 Ti. 3:5; Tit. 3:10-11; 1 Jo. 4:1). This is impossible for those who believe in a variety of acceptable interpretations. By McLaren’s scheme, no one is a heretic. Rather, all are sincere seekers with different “perspectives.” Further, Bible 1.0 is the Christianity of those who are taught to study to show themselves approved unto God by “rightly dividing the word of truth” (2 Ti. 2:15) and who “have an unction from the Holy One” to know the truth (1 Jo. 2:20, 27). This means that the Spirit of God leads His redeemed people to the correct interpretation of Scripture. (For more on this see “Beware of Brian McLaren” by using the search engine at www.wayoflife.org.)

EMERGING CHURCH SPREADING BY “SEASONING”

(Friday Church News Notes, March 29, 2024, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Brian McLaren says that the emerging church is growing in influence, “not by creating a new slice of the pie, but by seasoning nearly all sectors of the pie” (“More on the emergent conversation,” BrianMcLaren.net, Nov. 17, 2014). He is exactly right, and the “seasoning” extends even to many “fundamentalist” churches. What McLaren calls “seasoning,” the Bible calls “leaven,” and it twice warns that “a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump” (1 Co. 5:6; Ga. 5:9). The church at Corinth and the churches in Galatia were being careless about

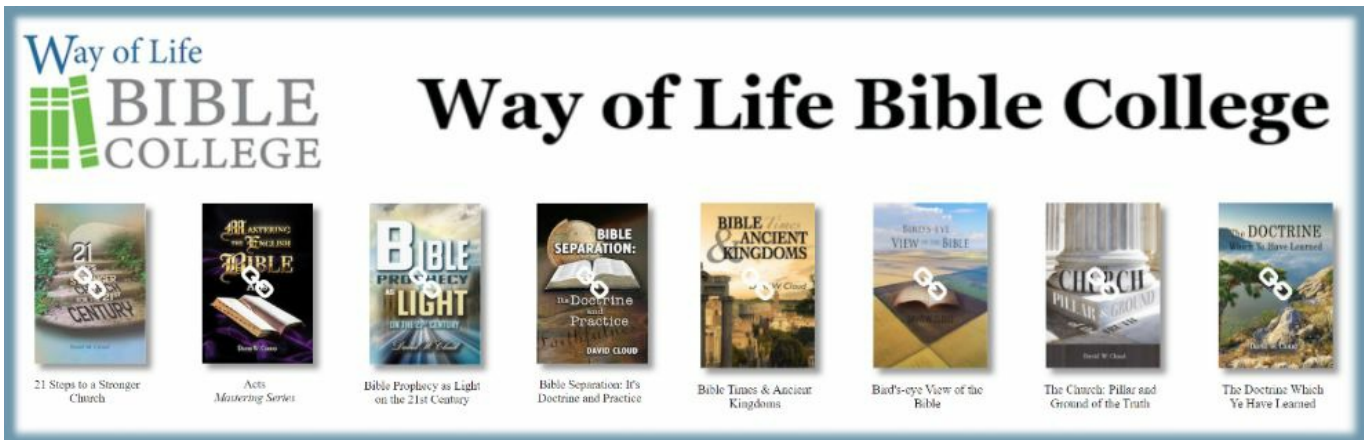


error. They were entertaining it, countenancing it. They were “bearing with it” (2 Co. 11:4). But if a small amount of error is countenanced, it will eventually leaven everything. This is why we have warned that most fundamental Baptist churches will be emerging within 20 years. Large numbers of them are entertaining error. They haven’t capitulated to it, but they are playing with it. They say, “This is just a small thing; let’s ‘major on the majors.’” They are playing with contemporary worship music, which even in its most “conservative” form is a definite bridge to the one-world church of the Getty’s and Townend’s and Redman’s and Kendrick’s and Zschech’s.

TINY TIME BOMBS (Friday Church News Notes, March 29, 2024, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)



- The following is from CreationMoments.com, Jan. 26, 2024: “The discovery of tiny pollen grains in rock shows just how inflated the billions of years claimed by evolutionists really are. This discovery, by a creation scientist, has turned those pollen grains into tiny time bombs that continue to damage the theory of evolution. In 1964, Dr. Clifford Burdick devised a new, better way to collect pollen samples, and he used this method to gather samples in the Grand Canyon. These pollen samples, when viewed under the microscope, allowed scientists to identify what kinds of trees they came from. The Hakatai shale, dated by evolutionists at 600 million years old, was among the layers Dr. Burdick examined for pollen. According to evolutionary dating, this layer would not have contained pollen from conifer trees. Conifers supposedly hadn’t yet evolved. When conifer pollen was discovered in the samples, evolutionists quickly claimed that they were modern pollen grains that had contaminated the sample. The problem with the evolutionists’ explanation is that pollen is resistant to staining. Yet, this pollen was stained with red from the shale itself. It must have been there a long time. The experiment was repeated in 1970. Not only were grains of conifer pollen again found, but pollen from oak trees and evidence of other flowering plants were found as well. The discovery of these pollen grains offers scientific evidence that evolution’s time scale and story of history is wrong. The evidence does support the accuracy of the Bible that tells us that all life began during the first week of the Earth’s history a few thousand years ago. Ref: Burdick, Clifford L. ‘Pine pollen in the Grand Canyon,’ *Bible-Science Newsletter*, June 1981, p. 1.



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