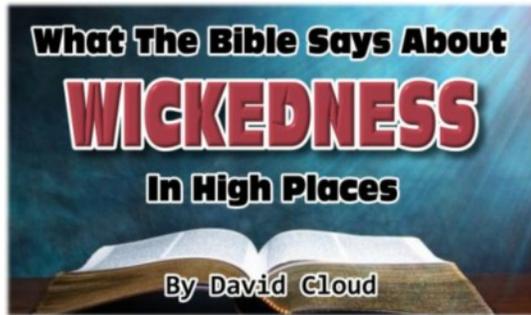


O Timothy

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

A Monthly Newsletter for Spiritual Protection and Edification

Volume 41 - Issue 5 - May 2024



“... why dirty politics and conspiracies and corrupt schemes in high places can never long prevail and why the righteous should not fret at the prosperity of the wicked. God’s people are to trust in their God and do good and wait for Him, for He is the King who ruleth over all.” **Page 8.**

Digging in the Walls: *A month’s worth of news items, republished from Friday Church News Notes.* **Page 12.**



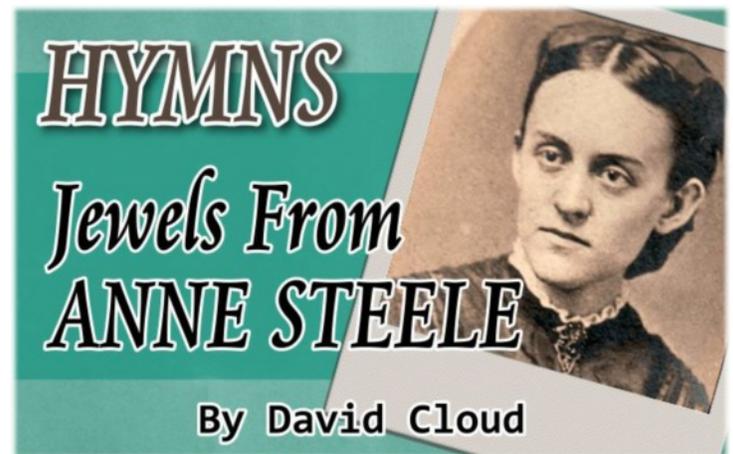
HYMNS - JEWELS FROM ANNE STEELE ~ *By David Cloud*

The following is excerpted from [Transforming Congregational Singing in the 21st Century](https://www.wayoflife.org/bc/course.php), <https://www.wayoflife.org/bc/course.php>

Anne Steele (1717–1778) was a pioneering Baptist female hymn writer of the First Great Awakening era. Called “the female poet of the Sanctuary” and “the mother of the English hymn,” she published 144 hymns, 34 psalms versified, and 30 poems.

Yet we will see that Anne Steele’s hymns have dropped out of most Baptist hymnals since the turn of the 20th century.

Anne’s father and grandfather were pastors. The Steeles were from a long line of non-conformists that were persecuted for their faith. John Rede, founder of Anne’s church, was imprisoned in the Tower of London for a number of years in the early 1660s.



“Though, after the Glorious Revolution of 1688, Dissenters were granted relative freedom of worship, they still had not been given full equality of citizenship. Nonconformists were ‘still excluded from the universities and from civic and political life’” (Joseph Carmichael, *The Sung Theology of the English Particular Baptist Revival*).

Anne's maternal grandfather was a representative of the Baptist General Assembly of 1689 that published the Second London Baptist Confession. The leaders of this gathering were William Kiffin, Hanserd Knollys, and Benjamin Keach. (This Baptist confession was based on the Protestant Westminster Confession, but modifications included adding "hymns and spiritual songs" to the topic of "Religious Worship." The Westminster only mentions psalms.)

Anne Steele was "a poet from a family of poets" and corresponded "with a circle of witty and gifted writers that included both men and women." It was a godly, cheerful atmosphere. "Each member of her immediate family appears to have been skilled in various aspects of literature, particularly poetry, and for edification and entertainment they shared their writings within the family circle many a night around a peat fire. The evidence shows that Steele both inherited her gift of poetry and cultivated it through constant interaction with those whom she loved. She was also involved in a literary circle with friends and family in which constant mutual sharpening of literary talents was the norm" (Joseph Carmichael, *The Sung Theology of the English Particular Baptists*).

Anne worked hard on perfecting her hymn poetry. She sent drafts to such people as James Fanch, Baptist minister, classical scholar, and poet. Before she began to

publish, Fanch said, "Her poetical compositions, both of the serious and amusing kind are almost inimitable, much beyond anything I have yet seen since those of Dr. Watts. ... I have several of them in my hands which she desired me to review, all of which are truly delightful" (Carmichael, *The Sung Theology*).

Anne was greatly influenced by Isaac Watts. "Steele grew up from childhood singing out of Watts' hymnbook in the Particular Baptist congregation at Broughton. J.R. Broome says, 'It is clear that Watts' *Psalms and Hymns* ... was the primary influence in her hymns and paraphrases of the Psalms'" (Carmichael).

"Even though Steele displayed an affinity and fondness for poetry from a young age, her original intent for writing hymns was for her own private devotional use. Anne's father was so pleased with her compositions that he introduced them as congregational songs at his pastorate in Broughton. Because metrical psalm singing had been the traditional congregational practice during this era, the introduction of Anne's hymns into corporate worship indicated a significant change. It was with great reluctance—and only at the suggestion and encouragement of family and friends—that she agreed to introduce them to the public" (Holly Farrow, *The Hymn*, vol. 70, no. 4).

Anne was very close to her father, William, who was also her pastor; she called him "honored father," and he called her "Nanny." When some of Anne's hymns were being prepared for print, her father wrote in his diary, "Today Nanny sent part of her composition to London to be printed. I entreat a gracious God, who enabled and stirred her up to such a work, to direct in it and bless it for the good of many. I pray God to make it useful, and keep her humble."

We see that Anne's father was a wise man who cared more for his children's spiritual condition than any worldly acclaim.

Anne suffered much with recurring malaria, painful stomach issues, and other maladies.

She chose to remain single, declining multiple marriage proposals, including one from Baptist pastor and hymn writer Benjamin Beddome. After the death of her father in 1769, she lived with her brother and was "essentially house-bound" for the last six years of her life.

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On “Thoughts in Sickness, and on Recovery,” she wrote, “Of what a feeble texture is this mortal tabernacle! and how much is the tenant mind (though of an immortal nature) pained and depressed by its weakness, and hurt by the storms which shake this tottering frame” (Carmichael, *The Sung Theology of the English Particular Baptist Revival*). At age 45, she wrote, “I know that faintness and dejection of spirit often attends long-protracted pain and weakness, but while the Eternal God is our Refuge, and underneath are the Everlasting Arms, we can never be utterly cast down. It was a good saying of Dr. Watts in his sickness, ‘The Business of a Christian is to bear the will of God as well as to do it.’”

Her poems were published in 1760 as *Poems, On Subjects Chiefly Devotional*.

She gave all of the profits of her hymns to charity.

Her last words were, “I know that my Redeemer liveth.”

Inscribed on her tombstone are the words,

Silent the lyre, and dumb the tuneful tongue,
That sung on earth her great Redeemer’s praise;
But now in heaven she joins the angelic song,
In more harmonious, more exalted lays.

She published her hymns under the pseudonym *Theodosia*, which means “God’s Gift.”

Anne Steele was a prominent voice in Baptist hymnology. her hymn poems were sung widely in Baptist churches in England and America in the 18th and 19th centuries.

The *Bristol Collection* (first published 1769) included 62 of her hymns.

Rippon’s *Selection* (first published 1787), the first influential Baptist hymnal, featured 52 of her hymns, Approximately 200,000 copies of Rippon’s were sold in England and over 100,000 in America. John Taylor and other prominent Baptist preachers in America spoke of Rippon’s *Selections* in their diaries.

The hymnal published by Trinity Church, Boston, in 1808, featured 59 of Steele’s hymns (out of a total of 152).

The *Gadsby Hymnal*, 1814, featured 27 of her hymns.

Some of her hymns were published in the *Sacred Harp* shape-note hymnals.

The *Baptist Hymnal* of 1847, published by the Southern Baptist Convention, had 48 Steele hymns.

In 1888, Henry Burrage (*Hymn Writers and Their Hymns*) said over 100 of her hymns could be found in hymnals of that day.

In the 20th century, Anne Steele’s hymns largely dropped out of Baptist hymnals. In England, the *Baptist Church Hymnal* (British Baptist Union) of 1900 had five, and that was reduced to two in the editions of 1933 and 1962. In America, the *Baptist Hymn and Praise Book*, 1904 (Southern Baptist Convention) had 19 Steele hymns, but the *Broadman Hymnal* of 1940 had no Steele hymns. This was the hymnal that was used in the Southern Baptist church I grew up in. The *Baptist Hymnal*, 1956, also had no Steele hymns.

The hymnals used among most independent Baptist churches have no hymns by Anne Steele. This includes *Soul-Stirring Hymns*, 1973, *Great Hymns of the Faith*, 1968, *Bible Truth Hymns*, 2008, *Living Hymns*, 1972, and *Majesty Hymns*, 1997.

Psalms and Hymns and Spiritual Songs, Melody Publications, 2020 features 13 Anne Steele hymns. See the chapter “The Hymnal.”

<https://melodypublications.com>

Psalms and Hymns of Reformed Worship (1991, Metropolitan Tabernacle, features nine of Steele’s hymns. This continues in the pattern set by Charles Spurgeon in *Our Own Hymn Book* of 1866.

<https://metropolitantabernacle.org/worship-publications/>

The loss of Anne Steele hymns is no small thing. The first time I recall hearing an Anne Steele hymn was when I was about 69 years old and had been saved for 45 years. On a visit to the Metropolitan Tabernacle, London, I was so amazed by the Steele hymn we sang that Sunday morning that I made a point of looking it up online.

Returning to the study on Anne Steele, it has been said that “No one has excelled Anne Steele in her tender, memorable, sensitive expression of the heart feelings of a tempted, exercised, tried Christian” (J.R. Broome, *A Bruised Reed: Anne Steele, Her Life and Times*).

Many of the Steele hymns focused on various aspects of Christ's ministry from His eternal Sonship to His eternal Kingship.

Christ From Incarnation To Eternal Glory

“Redeeming Love”

Anne Steele

Common Meter 8.6.8.6.

This amazing 39-stanza hymn begins with man's awful fallen condition, then describes Christ's complete ministry of “salvation's glorious plan”: His departure from heaven, His virgin birth and incarnation, His healing ministry and Messianic signs, His rejection by Israel, His unjust trial, His vicarious suffering on the cross, His resurrection, His victory over the devil, His ascension, His high priestly intercession, and His glorious eternal reign.

1 Come heavenly love, inspire my song
With thy immortal flame,
And teach my heart, and teach my tongue
The Savior's lovely name.

2 The Savior! O what endless charms
Dwell in the blissful sound!
Its influence every fear disarms,
And spreads sweet comfort round.

3 Here pardon, life, and joys divine
In rich effusion flow,
For guilty rebels lost in sin,
And doomed to endless woe.

4 In our first parent's crime we fell;
Our blood, our vital breath,
Deep tinged with all the seeds of ill,
Sad heirs to sin and death.

5 Black o'er our wrath-devoted heads
Avening justice frowned
While hell disclosed her deepest shades
And horrors rose around.

6 Wrapt in the gloom of dark despair,
We helpless, hopeless lay:
But sovereign mercy reached us there,
And smiled despair away.

7 God's only son, (stupendous grace!)
Forsook his throne above;
And swift to save our wretched race,
He flew on wings of love.

8 Th' Almighty former of the skies
Stooped to our vile abode;
While angels viewed with wondering eyes,
And hailed the incarnate God.

9 The God in heavenly strains they sung,
Arrayed in human clay:
Mysterious love! what angel tongue
Thy wonders can display?

10 Mysterious love, in every scene,
Through all his life appears:
His spotless life exposed to pain,
And miseries and tears.

11 What blessings on a thankless race?
His bounteous hand bestowed!
And from his tongue what wondrous grace,
What rich instruction flowed!

12 The dumb, the deaf, the lame, the blind
Confessed his healing power;
Disease and death their prey resigned,
And grief complained no more.

13 Infernal legions trembling fled,
Awed by his powerful word;
And winds and seas his voice obeyed,
And owned their sovereign Lord.

14 But man, vile man, his love abused
Blind to the noblest good
Blasphemed his power, his word refused,
And sought his sacred blood.

15 Still his unwearied love pursued
Salvation's glorious plan;
And firm the approaching horrors viewed
Deserved by guilty man.

16 What pain, what soul-oppressing pain,
The great Redeemer bore;
While bloody sweat, like drops of rain,
Distilled from every pore!

17 And ere the dreadful storm descends
Full on his guiltless head,
See him by his familiar friends
Deserted and betrayed!

18 While ruffian bands the Lord surround,
Relentless, murderous foes;
Meek, as a lamb for slaughter bound,
The patient sufferer goes

19 Arraigned at Pilate's impious bar,
(Unparalleled disgrace!)
See spotless innocence appear
In guilt's detested place!

20 When perjury fails to stain his name,
The mob's envenomed breath
Extorts his sentence,
"Public shame And painful lingering death."

21 Patient, the cruel scourge he bore;
The innocent, the kind!
Then to the rabble's lawless power
And rudest taunts consigned

22 With thorns they crown that awful brow,
Whose frown can shake the globe;
And on their king in scorn bestow
The reed and purple robe.

23 Ah! see the fatal cross appears,
Heart-wounding, dreadful scene
His sacred flesh rude iron tears,
With agonizing pain.

24 Exposed with thieves, to public view
Could nature bear the sight?
The blushing sun his beams withdrew,
And wrapped the globe in night!

25 Then, Oh! what loads of wrath unknown
The glorious sufferer felt;
For crimes unnumbered to atone,
To expiate mortal guilt!

26 The Father's blissful smile withdrawn,
In that tremendous hour;
Yet still the God sustained the man
With his almighty power,

27 'Tis finished,' now aloud he cries,
'No more the law requires'
And now, (amazing sacrifice!)
The Lord of life expires.

28 Earth's firm foundation felt the shock,
With universal dread;
Trembled the mountain, rent the rock,
And waked the sleeping dead!

29 Now breathless in the silent tomb,
His sacred body lies:
Thither his loved disciples come,
With sorrow-streaming eyes.

30 But see the promised morn appear
Their joy revives again;
The Savior lives; adieu to fear,
To every anxious pain.

31 His kindest words their doubts remove,
Confirm their wavering faith;
He bids them teach the world his love,
Salvation by his death.

32 Triumphant he ascends on high,
The glorious work complete
Sin, death, and hell, low vanquished lie
Beneath his awful feet.

33 There, with eternal glory crowned,
The Lord, the conqueror, reigns;
His praise the heavenly choirs resound
In their immortal strains.

34 Amid the splendors of his throne,
Unchanging love appears;
The names he purchased for his own,
Still on his heart he bears

35 Still with prevailing power he pleads
Their cause for whom he died;
His Spirit's sacred influence sheds,
Their comforter and guide.

36 For them, reserves a radiant crown,
Bought with his dying blood;
And worlds of light, and joys unknown,
For ever near their God.

37 O the rich depths of love divine!
Of bliss, a boundless store:
Dear Savior, let me call thee mine;
I cannot wish for more.

38 I yield to thy dear conquering arms,
I yield my captive soul:
O let thy all-subduing charms
My inmost powers control!

39 On thee alone my hope relies:
Beneath thy cross I fall,
My Lord, my life, my sacrifice,
My Savior and my all

Christ's Atonement

"A Dying Saviour"

Anne Steele

Meter: Long 8.8.8.8.

1 Stretch'd on the cross the Saviour dies;
Hark! his expiring groans arise!
See, from his hands, his feet, his side,
Runs down the sacred crime!

2 But life attends the deathful sound,
And flows from every bleeding wound;
The vital stream, how free it flows,
To save and cleanse his rebel foes!

3 To suffer in the traitor's place,
To die for man, surprising grace!
Yet pass rebellious angels by —
O why for man, dear Saviour, why?

4 And didst thou bleed, for sinners bleed?
And could the sun behold the deed?
No, he withdrew his cheering ray,
And darkness veil'd the mourning day.

5 Can I survey this scene of woe,
Where mingling grief and wonder flow;
And yet my heart unmov'd remain,
Insensible to love or pain!

6 Come, dearest Lord, thy power impart,
To warm this cold, this stupid heart;
Till all powers and passions move,
In melting grief and ardent love.

Music score

<https://patrick.calvin.edu/hymn/BHB1847/a81>

Christ's Exaltation

"Now Let Us Raise Our Cheerful Strains"

Anne Steele

1 Now let us raise our cheerful strains,
And join the blissful choir above;
There our exalted Savior reigns,
And there they sing His wondrous love.

2 While seraphs tune th' immortal song;
O may we feel the sacred flame;
And every heart and every tongue
Adore the Savior's glorious name.

3 Jesus, who once upon the tree
In agonizing pains expired,
Who died for rebels—yes, 'tis He!
How bright! how lovely! how admired!

4 Jesus, who died that we might live,
Died in the wretched traitor's place—
O what returns can mortals give,
For such immeasurable grace?

5 Were universal nature ours,
And art with all her boasted store,
Nature and art with all their powers,
Would still confess the offerer poor!

6 Yet tho' for bounty so divine,
We ne'er can equal honors raise,
Jesus, may all our hearts be Thine,
And all our tongues proclaim Thy praise.

Christ's Intercession

"He Lives, the Great Redeemer Lives"

Anne Steele

1 He lives! the great Redeemer lives!
What joy the blest assurance gives!
And now, before his Father, God,
Pleads the full merits of his blood.

2 Repeated crimes awake our fears,
And justice armed with frowns appears;

But in the Saviour's lovely face
Sweet mercy smiles, and all is peace.

3 In every dark, distressful hour,
When sin and Satan join their power,
Let this dear hope repel the dart,
That Jesus bears us on his heart.

4 Great Advocate, almighty Friend!
On him our humble hopes depend,
Our cause can never, never fail,
For Jesus pleads, and must prevail.

Music Score

Midi BROOKFIELD

https://hymnary.org/tune/brookfield_southgate

Tune BROOKFIELD

<https://hymnary.org/page/fetch/SH1925/85/high>

Tune ROTHWELL

<https://hymnary.org/page/fetch/NBH1926/88/high>

For the lyrics and music score to four of Steele's hymns see "A Treasure Chest of Little Known Hymns." These are "Father of Mercies, in Thy Word," "He Lives, the Great Redeemer Lives," "Dear Father, to Thy Mercy Seat," and "Redemption by Christ Alone."

https://www.wayoflife.org/reports/a_treasure_chest_of_little_known_hymns.php

NEW COURSE ON THE KING JAMES BIBLE ISSUE

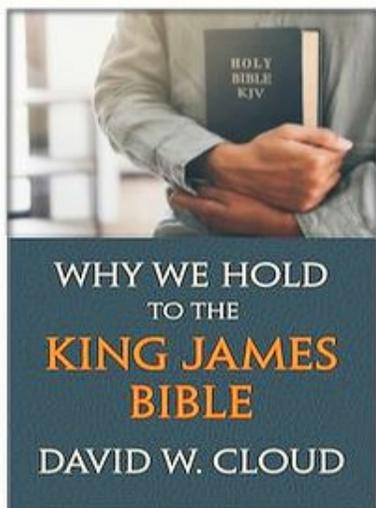
WHY WE HOLD TO THE KING JAMES BIBLE.

The November 2023 edition of this book/Bible course is enlarged and improved with new material and a thorough re-editing.

It is a reading book, but it is also designed to be a Bible course, with the textbook, 17 video classes, a syllabus to guide the teacher or individual student through the course, review questions, sectional tests, a final test, and test scoresheets.

In this course we examine five reasons for holding to the KJV: (1) because of the doctrine of divine preservation, (2) because of the heretical theories of textual criticism supporting the modern Greek New Testament, (3) because the modern texts and versions are a product of end-time apostasy, (4) because the King James Bible's doctrine is superior, and (5) because of its unmatched heritage and character.

Section # 5 in the video and the PowerPoint, "The Unmatched Heritage of the King James Bible," is a fascinating pictorial study on the history of the English Bible from Wycliffe to the KJV featuring photos from prominent museums and extensive on location research at sites pertaining to John Wycliffe, William Tyndale, and the King James translators.



There are also studies on:

"Ruckman Still Rides"

"What about the New King James Version?"

"My Journey from Contemplative to the KJV"

"Transitioning Churches away from the King James Bible"

"Billy Graham and the Modern Bible Versions,"

A Timeline of the Bible Text/Version Issue"

"A Basic Bible Version Library."

If you are new to the Bible Version issue and want to understand it, or if you want to increase your knowledge, we believe this is the book/course for you.

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

What The Bible Says About **WICKEDNESS** In High Places

By David Cloud

Enlarged May 15, 2024 (first published May 19, 2021)
The previous name of this report was “What the Bible Says about the Wicked?”

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

“For evildoers shall be cut off: but those that wait upon the LORD, they shall inherit the earth. For yet a little while, and the wicked *shall not be*: yea, thou shalt diligently consider his place, and it *shall not be*. But the meek shall inherit the earth; and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace. The

wicked plotteth against the just, and gnasheth upon him with his teeth. The Lord shall laugh at him: for he seeth that his day is coming. The wicked have drawn out the sword, and have bent their bow, to cast down the poor and needy, *and* to slay such as be of upright conversation. Their sword shall enter into their own heart, and their bows shall be broken” (Psalm 37:9-15).

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

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

“Thy tongue deviseth mischiefs; like a sharp razor, working deceitfully. Thou lovest evil more than good; *and* lying rather than to speak righteousness. Selah. Thou lovest all devouring words, O *thou* deceitful tongue. God shall likewise destroy thee for ever, he shall take thee away, and pluck thee out of *thy* dwelling place, and root thee out of the land of the living. Selah. The righteous also shall see, and fear, and shall laugh at him: Lo, *this is* the man *that* made not God his strength; but trusted in the abundance of his riches, *and* strengthened himself in his wickedness” (Psalm 52:2-7).

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

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

lo, thine enemies shall perish; all the workers of iniquity shall be scattered” (Psalm 92:7-9).

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

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

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

“For their feet run to evil, and make haste to shed blood. Surely in vain the net is spread in the sight of any bird. And they lay wait for their *own* blood; they lurk privily for their *own* lives. So *are* the ways of every one that is greedy of gain; *which* taketh away the life of the owners thereof” (Proverbs 1:16-19).

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

“A naughty person, a wicked man, walketh with a froward mouth. He winketh with his eyes, he speaketh with his feet, he teacheth with his fingers; Frowardness *is* in his heart, he deviseth mischief continually; he soweth discord. Therefore shall his calamity come suddenly; suddenly shall he be broken without remedy” (Proverbs 6:12-15).

“Treasures of wickedness profit nothing ... a prating fool shall fall ... The fear of the wicked, it shall come upon him ... As the whirlwind passeth, so *is* the wicked no *more* ... the years of the wicked shall be shortened ... the expectation of the wicked shall perish ... destruction *shall be* to the workers of iniquity ... the wicked shall not inhabit the earth ... the perverseness of transgressors shall destroy them ... Riches profit not in the day of wrath ... the wicked shall fall by his own wickedness ... transgressors shall be taken in *their own* naughtiness ... the hope of unjust *men* perisheth ... *he that is* cruel troubleth his own flesh ... he that pursueth evil *pursueth it* to his

own death ... *Though* hand *join* in hand, the wicked shall not be unpunished ... the expectation of the wicked *is* wrath ... he that seeketh mischief, it shall come unto him ... Behold, the righteous shall be recompensed in the earth: much more the wicked and the sinner ... A man shall not be established by wickedness ... The wicked are overthrown, and *are* not ... The wicked is snared by the transgression of *his* lips” (Pr. 10:2, 8, 24, 25, 27, 29, 30; 11:3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 17, 19, 21, 23, 27, 31; 12:3, 7, 13).

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

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

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

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

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

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

“The LORD will take vengeance on his dversaries, and He reserveth *wrath* for his enemies” (Naham 1:2).

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

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

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

The verb “passeth” is present indicative. The present tense is a continuous tense, and the indicative mood “asserts

something which is occurring while the speaker is making the statement.” So the world is passing away at this time.

This present world system seems to be permanent, but it is even now in the process of passing away. That’s what God says. But he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

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

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

Daniel’s interpretation explains that Rome continues in various forms until the return of Christ, at which time the world system will be crushed and replaced with Christ’s righteous kingdom.

“Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet *that were* of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces. Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshingfloors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth” (Da. 2:34-35).

Bible commentator Robert Lenski says:

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



The CHOSEN

10 Critical Concerns

Excerpted from “New Booklet: The Chosen Series - 10 Critical Concerns”

<https://www.lighthouse trails.com/book-review-booklets/2417-booklet-the-chosen-series-10-critical-concerns.html>



The incredibly popular series *The Chosen* is being described as a “global phenomenon” and growing “movement” that is creating the groundwork for world “revival.” However, there are some critical concerns about this series and where it is heading. The following are ten of these concerns

1) The Chosen and Its Mormon Influencers

“Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?” (2 Corinthians 6:14).

The Chosen series was initiated and inspired from a partnership between Dallas Jenkins, an evangelical filmmaker, and three Mormon businessmen, Jeffrey and Neal Harmon and Derral Eves after the three men viewed a film written and directed by Jenkins called *The Shepherd*. The Mormon influence on *The Chosen* is considerable: the executive producer is Mormon, the distributor is Mormon, certain episodes were shot on a special Mormon set in Utah, and the crowdfunding and media expertise is provided by Mormons.

...

2) Are the Biblical Jesus and the Mormon Jesus the Same?

“For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him” (2 Corinthians 11:4).

The apostle Paul warns that some will present a “Jesus” to the church who is not the Jesus of the Bible but is one who brings a spirit that is not the Holy Spirit and a gospel that is not the one that can save men’s souls. Paul’s concern is that some members of the church will embrace and “bear with” a false Christ.

The Chosen’s director, co-writer, and chief publicist, Dallas Jenkins, has gone on record stating that the Mormon Jesus is the same as the Bible’s Jesus. ...

Below is a list of some of the “attributes” of the Mormon Jesus:

- Jesus is Lucifer’s brother.
- Jesus is a spirit child conceived through physical means

between an exalted man (Heavenly Father) and the virgin Mary.

- Jesus is not eternal and had a beginning (i.e., not part of an eternal Trinity).
- Jesus was not always God but earned his way to godhood just as we will become gods someday. ...

4) “95% of the Content Isn’t From the Bible”—Dallas Jenkins

Dallas Jenkins told one interviewer that “95% of the content [of *The Chosen*] isn’t from the Bible.” This means that *The Chosen* is almost completely man’s word—not God’s Word.

The Chosen writers do not hesitate to add their own ideas and opinions to actual Bible events. For example, Mary Magdalene backsliding is not in the Bible; Matthew portrayed as autistic—not in the Bible; Jesus rehearsing His sermon on the mount—not in the Bible (John 12:49-50; John 17:8). ... the apostle Peter had a gambling debt that pressured him to fish overtime on the Sabbath to pay back what he owed ...

5) Jonathan Roumie’s Spiritual Affinities and His Influence on Millions

Jonathan Roumie, the actor who plays Jesus in *The Chosen*, is a fervent Catholic with a strong affinity toward the New Age. He is a Knight’s Templar, and in 2020, he was nominated for papal knighthood; he also claims to have had “personal interactions” with a deceased Catholic “saint.” Roumie “credits his Catholic faith as the foundation of his portrayal of Jesus.” And now, because of his newfound celebrity status playing the role of Jesus, Roumie has gained a significant global platform through interviews, live events, YouTube, TV, radio, and social media - a platform he is using to draw his fans and followers to his Catholic beliefs and his New Age propensities.* ... Roumie has also become a popular voice on Hallow, the number one Catholic contemplative meditation, prayer, and sleep app. ... Roumie’s recommended reading list on Amazon includes *The Jesuit Guide to Almost Everything* by Jesuit priest and New Age sympathizer, James Martin. The book openly teaches the pantheistic New Age doctrine of God “in” everyone and everything as the following quotes from that book illustrate: “God can be found in everything. And everyone too”; “We’ll look at how to find God in everything and everything in God”; “...goal: finding God in all things...encountering God...in all things. And in all people.”

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 CHOSEN WATCHED BY 200 MILLION (Friday Church News Notes, April 5, 2024, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - *The Chosen*, a multi-season historical drama television series about Jesus, has been watched by more than 200 million people worldwide. It is being translated into many languages. Season 4 launched in Brazil this month with a nighttime video projection onto the Christ the Redeemer monument. The following is excerpted from "The Chosen: 10 Critical Concerns" by Lighthouse Trails.com. This booklet is available for purchase. "*The Chosen* series was initiated and inspired from a partnership between Dallas Jenkins, an evangelical filmmaker, and three Mormon businessmen, Jeffrey and Neal Harmon and Derral Eves after the three men viewed a film written and directed by Jenkins called *The Shepherd*. The Mormon influence on *The Chosen* is considerable: the executive producer is Mormon, the distributor is Mormon, certain episodes were shot on a special Mormon set in Utah, and the crowdfunding and media expertise is provided by Mormons. ... *The Chosen's* director, co-writer, and chief publicist, Dallas Jenkins, has gone on record stating that the Mormon Jesus is the same as the Bible's Jesus. ... But following is a list of some of the 'attributes' of the

Mormon Jesus: (1) Jesus is Lucifer's brother. (2) Jesus is a spirit child conceived through physical means between an exalted man (Heavenly Father) and the virgin Mary. (3) Jesus is not eternal and had a beginning (i.e., not part of an eternal Trinity). (4) Jesus was not always God but earned his way to godhood just as we will become gods someday. ... Dallas Jenkins told one interviewer that '95% of the content [of *The Chosen*] isn't from the Bible.' This means that *The Chosen* is almost completely man's word—not God's Word. ... For example, Mary Magdalene backsliding is not in the Bible; Matthew portrayed as autistic—not in the Bible; Jesus rehearsing His sermon on the mount—not in the Bible (John 12:49-50; John 17:8). ... the apostle Peter had a gambling debt that pressured him to fish overtime on the Sabbath to pay back what he owed [not in the Bible]... Jonathan Roumie, the actor who plays Jesus in *The Chosen*, is a fervent Catholic with a strong affinity toward the New Age. ... he claims to have had 'personal interactions' with a deceased Catholic 'saint.' ... Roumie's recommended reading list on Amazon includes *The Jesuit Guide to Almost Everything* by Jesuit priest and New Age sympathizer, James Martin. The book openly teaches the pantheistic New Age doctrine of God 'in' everyone and everything as the following quotes from that book illustrate: 'God can be found in everything. And everyone too'; 'We'll look at how to find God in everything and everything in God.'"

PARENTS REFUSED TO GIVE UP ON BABY WITH NO NOSE (Friday Church News Notes, April 5, 2024, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from



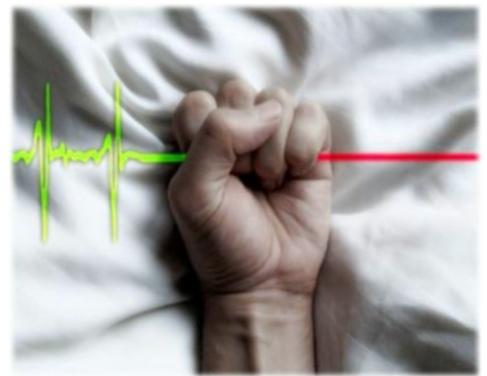
John, Mary Jo & Gray Canales

“Doctors Thought He’d Never Survive,” *Christian Headlines*, Mar. 15, 2024: “Harrison ‘Gray’ Canales has been defying medical odds for 22 years, and with a brand new nose, he’s planning a bright future. One, no doubt, filled with major accomplishments! Gray Canales is one of two sons of John and Mary Jo Canales of Flower Mound, Texas. John and Mary Jo learned they were expecting their first child in 2001, and everything seemed to be going fine until the day of the sonogram at 20 weeks. ... Doctors told the couple that the images did not show a nose. They did not expect the baby to breathe on his own, and they feared he would not survive. Additional tests confirmed that Baby Canales did indeed not have a nose, had problems with his legs and feet, and likely would be born with some degree of brain damage. For John and Mary Jo, a minister and church secretary, respectively, terminating the pregnancy was not an option. Mary Jo told *People*, ‘We thought, This baby is still our gift and our joy, and you don’t turn down a gift. But I cried constantly. I had no idea if I’d get to meet my son.’ Born five weeks early via an emergency C-section, Gray faced a myriad of medical challenges. As expected, Gray had no nose and was born without eyelids. Gray’s little legs were turned in more than 90 degrees, his feet were missing toes, and he’d been born without a right frontal lobe. ... Once

home, Gray’s care required tremendous time and energy. The couple exercised their son’s legs, cleaned and dressed his nasal area, and constantly lubricated his eyes until he was given eyelids through surgery at six months ... Gray Canales is now 22 years old, and he has had nearly 30 surgeries. Eleven were connected with his nose reconstruction alone. Despite all of this, Gray is a healthy and happy young man. He enjoys baseball, listening to music, and helping at his church. ... Gray’s parents have instilled determination and resilience in their son. Reverend Canales says, ‘We taught him not to feel sorry for himself,’ because many other people deal with disabilities too. We told him, ‘This is the way God made you. That’s all.’”

CALGARY JUDGE RULES THAT AUTISTIC WOMAN CAN KILL HERSELF (Friday Church News Notes, April 5, 2024, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The following is excerpted from *The Canadian Independent*, Mar. 25, 2024: “Calgary judge rules 27-year-old woman with autism can kill herself through medical assistance in dying (MAID). Due to a publication ban, the individuals involved can only be referred to as MV, a 27-year-old woman approved by two doctors for medical assistance in dying (‘MAID’), and WV, identified as MV’s father. The father, WV, expressed concerns about his daughter’s vulnerability and her competence in deciding to end her own life. He argued that MV, who lives with him and has autism and ADHD but no other health issues, may not be capable of making such a decision. ... Today, a Calgary judge, Justice Colin C.J. Feasby,



ruled in favor of MV, saying, ‘I do not know you and I do not know why you seek MAID. Your reasons remain your own because I have respected your autonomy and your privacy. My decision recognizes your right to choose a medically assisted death.’ Justice Feasby did issue a 30-day stay of his decision to allow WV to appeal to the Alberta Court of Appeal, maintaining the interim injunction for the next month.”

SMITHSONIAN TO PAY \$50,000 TO OUSTED TOURISTS WEARING PRO-LIFE ATTIRE (Friday Church News Notes, April 5, 2024,

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

- The following is excerpted from “Smithsonian to Pay,” *CBN News*, Mar. 25, 2024: “A national museum in Washington, D.C. has agreed to pay tourists visiting their facility \$50,000 after they were kicked out for wearing pro-life apparel. The National Air and Space Museum agreed to pay the settlement to cover



National Air and Space Museum

attorney's fees, expenses, costs, and interest for the students of Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic School in Greenville, South Carolina, and their parents. The group of 12 plaintiffs filed a lawsuit after visiting the museum on the day of the March for Life rally on Jan. 20, 2023. They were all wearing beanies featuring the words 'Rosary PRO-LIFE' as they toured the museum. According to the American Center for Law and Justice, which represented the plaintiffs, 'Museum staff mocked the students, called them expletives, and made comments that the museum was a *neutral zone* where they could not express such statements.' An employee 'ultimately forced the students to leave the museum...rubbing his hands together in glee as they exited the building.'"

A SENIOR'S VERSION OF FACEBOOK (Friday Church News Notes, April 5, 2024, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - "For those of my generation who do not, and cannot, comprehend why Facebook exists, I am trying to make friends outside of Facebook while applying the same principles. Therefore, every day I walk down the street and tell passersby what I have eaten, how I feel at the moment, what I have done the night before, what I will do later and with whom. I give them pictures of my family, my dog and of me gardening, taking things apart in the garage, watering the lawn, standing in front of landmarks, driving around town, having lunch, and doing what anybody and everybody does every day. I also listen to their conversations, give them 'thumbs up' and tell them I 'like' them. And it works just like Facebook. I already have four people following me: two police officers, a

private investigator, and a psychiatrist" (Source unknown).

THE WORLD PASSETH AWAY (Friday Church News Notes, April 5, 2024, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - "And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever" (1 John 2:17). God's born again people need to think biblically. They need to have a Biblical mindset. They need to think more like citizens of heaven than citizens of America or some other nation on this present fallen earth. The verb "passeth" is present indicative. The present tense is a continuous tense, and the indicative mood "asserts something which is occurring while the speaker is making the statement." So the world is passing away at this time. This present world system seems to be permanent, but it is even now in the process of passing away. That's what God says. But he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever. God holds the reins. He is using this present world system for His eternal purpose, and it will be finished exactly when God decides, to be replaced by Christ's kingdom. The prophet Daniel described the end of this present world system. In the dream given to Nebuchadnezzar, it was depicted as a great image of a man representing the ruling empires of Babylon, Persia, Greece, and Rome (Daniel 2:31-35). Daniel's interpretation explains that Rome continues in various forms until the return of Christ, at which time the world system will be crushed and replaced with Christ's righteous kingdom. The ruler of the end-time Rome will be the Antichrist. "Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet *that were* of iron



and clay, and brake them to pieces. Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshingfloors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth" (Daniel 2:34-35). Bible commentator Robert Lenski said, "The world is now in the act of passing away. It is its very nature not to last. Its doom is overtaking it. Its glory is fading, its flowers are withering, its promises are failing, its hopes are crumbling. Isaiah 14:11. ... Does the siren voice of the world tickle your ears? Hear the word of truth: 'The world is passing away!' The bank is breaking, it was never solvent--will you deposit in it? The foundation is tottering, it was never solid but only sham--will you build on it? The mountain is rumbling, quaking, it was never anything but volcanic, ready to blow off its head at any time--will you build your city there?"

UCLA MED SCHOOL LECTURER DEMANDS STUDENTS PRAY FOR "MAMA EARTH" (Friday Church News Notes, April 12, 2024, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from



Lisa 'Tiny' Gray-Garcia

"UCLA Med School," *The Washington Free Beacon*, Apr. 2, 2024: "In a mandatory course on "structural racism" for first-year medical students at the University of California Los Angeles, a guest speaker who has praised Hamas's Oct. 7 attack on Israel led students in chants of 'Free, Free Palestine' and demanded that they bow down to 'mama earth,' according to students in the class and audio obtained by the *Washington Free Beacon*. Lisa 'Tiny' Gray-Garcia, who has referred to the Oct. 7 terrorist attacks as 'justice,' began the March 27 class by leading students in what she described as a 'non-secular prayer' to 'the ancestors,' instructing everyone to get on their knees and touch the floor—'mama earth,' as she described it—with their fists. ... So began a long and looney lecture that shocked some students at the elite medical school and has led to calls for an investigation. Wearing a keffiyeh that covered her entire face, Gray-Garcia, a self-described 'poverty scholar,' led the class in chants of 'Free, Free Palestine' as faculty and staff looked on in silence. ... The surreal spectacle is the latest controversy to envelop the 'Structural Racism and Health Equity' class, launched in the wake of George Floyd's death as a part of the medical school's 'anti-racism roadmap.' ... Beyond her anti-Israel posts, Gray-Garcia's writings include a book called *How to Not Call the Po'lice*

Ever and a poem, 'Dear KKKolumbus,' dedicated to black people killed by law enforcement."

FIRST SUCCESSFUL PIG KIDNEY TRANSPLANT (Friday Church News Notes, April 12, 2024, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The following is excerpted from "First Person to Undergo," *The Times of Israel*, Apr. 4, 2024: "The first person to undergo a successful transplant using a genetically modified pig kidney has been released from the hospital, CNN reported on Thursday, two weeks after he underwent the surgery at Massachusetts General Hospital. The patient, 62-year-old Rick Slayman, was found eligible for the first-of-its-kind experimental surgery after a kidney he received in a transplant in 2018 started showing signs of failure after five years and he had to go back on dialysis. ... The four-hour transplant surgery, performed on March 16, 'marks a major milestone in the quest to provide more readily available organs to patients,' the hospital said in an update about Slayman's progress last week. ... The experiment marks the latest development in xenotransplantation, the term for efforts to try to heal human patients with cells, tissues or organs from animals. For decades, it didn't work--the human immune system immediately destroyed foreign animal tissue. More recent

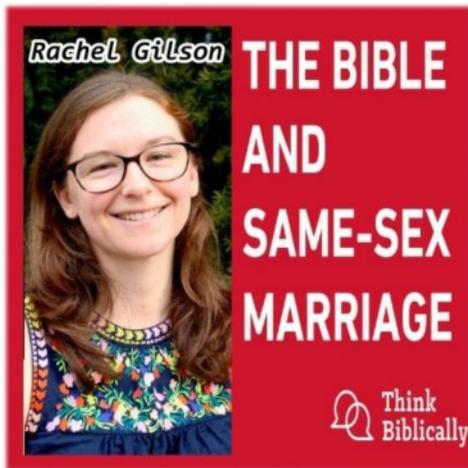


Rick Slayman

attempts have involved pigs that have been modified so their organs are more humanlike--increasing hope that they might one day help fill a shortage of donated organs."

SBC CONFERENCE SPEAKER PROMOTES HOMOSEXUAL IDEOLOGY (Friday Church News Notes, April 12, 2024, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The following is excerpted from "SBC Conference Speaker," *Disnttr*, Mar. 27, 2024: "Rachel Gilson, a self-described same-sex attracted woman who spoke at the Southern Baptist Convention's women's conference in 2023 has now appeared in a promo video released by Preston Sprinkle's Center for Faith, Sexuality, and Gender. The video portrays God as perfectly accepting of homosexual and transgender lifestyles devoid of any true repentance. In the video appear multiple homosexuals, lesbians, and 'transgender' people who argue that one should be able to live out who they really are, including rebelling against the God who created them and feeling welcomed and accepted in the Church. In 2019, during a student conference, Gilson remarked during a sermon that gay married couples who come to Christ can stay together because God hates divorce. Speaking on the topic of homosexuals coming to Christ, after a bit of build-up, Gilson said, 'It's not like if someone in a same-sex marriage comes to know the Lord, it's like, Okay, what we've got to deal with first is your same-sex marriage...' ... Gilson has also been closely associated with Grant Hartley, another former Cru [previously known as Campus Crusade] leader who converted to Roman Catholicism a few years ago. [In 2022], Hartley boasted about his



experience of dancing at a gay bar, stating that it felt like ‘heaven’ to him. In 2019, Hartley quote-tweeted a message from Rachel Gilson while she was preaching a sermon at Cru: ‘There is no command in scripture to be straight; there is a command to be faithfully single or faithfully married, and you can do either of those without being straight.’ ... In 2022, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, which is presided over by Danny Akin, [highlighted] Rachel Gilson’s paper on marriage.”

NAIA BANS TRANSGENDER ATHLETES FROM COMPETING IN WOMEN’S SPORTS (Friday Church News Notes, April 12, 2024, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - We believe these type of victories, which confound and push back the Mystery of Iniquity, are an answer to prayer by a merciful God. The following is excerpted from “NCAA faces calls to ban,” *Fox News*, Apr. 8, 2024: “The NCAA [National Collegiate Athletic Association] was called upon to follow the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) after the collegiate organization for small colleges and universities banned transgender athletes from competing in women’s sports. ... The NAIA’s Council of Presidents voted in favor of the policy

change, 20-0, according to CBS Sports. ... The NAIA said its decision was rooted in ‘fair and safe competition for all student-athletes’ and that ‘Title IX ensures there are separate and equal opportunities for female athletes.’ The organization said only athletes whose biological sex is female may participate in ‘NAIA-sponsored female sports.’ The policy goes into effect on Aug. 1. ... Virginia’s Lt. Gov. Winsome Earle-Sears said: ‘Common sense prevails today. It’s more than time for the @ncaa to do the same.’”

COMEDIANS: COURT JESTERS FOR THE SEXUAL REVOLUTION (Friday Church News Notes, April 12, 2024, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from “Court Jesters,” *TheBridgehead.ca*, Apr. 2, 2024: “The bulk of the comedian class serves as court jesters for the sexual revolution, targeting anyone who dares question its dogmas and, revealingly, scorning the very idea of virtue as impossible. Consider how America’s late-night hosts deal with the issue of pornography. Jimmy Fallon spent an entire segment mocking Oklahoma state senator Dusty Deever, who recently put forward legislation banning pornography and sexting. To uncomfortable laughter, Fallon read out fake texts from



Deevers ... It wasn’t funny, but the point wasn’t humor--it was to mock someone for opposing porn and for advocating public morality. Despite the growing consensus that pornography is addictive, toxic, and ruins relationships (porn is a factor in at least 56% of marriage breakdowns), opposing it is portrayed as a joke. ... Speaker of the House Mike Johnson got similar treatment. When it was reported that Johnson and his family use the accountability software Covenant Eyes, which monitors digital devices in order to break and prevent porn addictions, the media promptly melted down. Sarah Silverman made vile, crude jokes about the names of Johnson’s children ... According to Silverman, the new Speaker ‘just keeps getting weirder and weirder’—not because he’s looking at porn, but because he isn’t. What does that tell you about the comedian class? Jimmy Kimmel concurred and dedicated an entire monologue to making fun of the Speaker...” Isaiah 5:20-21 - “Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! Woe unto *them that are* wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight!”

NAVY VET WHO DESTROYED SATANIC STATUE CHARGED WITH HATE CRIME (Friday Church News Notes, April 12, 2024, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from *American Military News*, Jan. 31, 2024: “Michael Cassidy, a Christian U.S. Navy veteran and former congressional candidate, has been charged with a hate crime after tearing down and beheading the controversial Satanic Temple statue that was displayed in the rotunda of the Iowa

THE MARVELOUS BAT (Friday Church News Notes, April 12, 2024, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is from CreationMoments.com, Feb. 13, 2024: “Bats are among the most under-appreciated creatures in the entire world. Yet, they are most worthy of our appreciation. Nearly all bats eat only insects or fruit. Only one tropical species feeds on blood--usually the blood of cattle. There are thousands of bat species. Incredibly, bats make up one-fourth of all mammal species on Earth. One-half of all mammal species found in the tropics are bats. The smallest bat in the world is the Kitti’s hog-nosed bat, which is no larger than a bumblebee and weighs less than a penny. The largest bats are fruit bats. These completely harmless bats may have a wingspan of several feet. Most bats live in colonies, and some colonies have up to 20 million members. Bats are beneficial to both humans and nature. Many of the bats found in North America, as well as other parts of the world, are responsible for consuming thousands of tons of insects every night. Other bats pollinate flowers. Bats are also an essential link in the ecosystem that makes the rainforest



Kitti’s Hog-nosed Bat

possible. The earliest bats found in the fossil record are like bats today. They are fully formed with fully developed wings for flight. This means that there is not one scrap of fossil evidence to support the claim that bats evolved from some other creature. We can conclude that the scientific evidence says that bats were created pretty much in their present form by God. Ref: ‘Silent screamers.’ *Science Digest*, May 1984. p. 57.”



Michael Cassidy



Satanic Statue

Statehouse in December. According to court documents reviewed by the *Des Moines Register*, Polk County prosecutors have charged the Christian Navy veteran with felony third-degree criminal mischief, claiming that Cassidy’s beheading of The Satanic Temple statue was ‘in violation of individual rights’ under the state’s hate crime laws. Cassidy is scheduled to be arraigned on February 15. ... In December, Cassidy told *The Sentinel* ... ‘I saw this blasphemous statue and was outraged. My conscience is held captive to the word of God, not to

bureaucratic decree. And so I acted.’ As the legal battle between Cassidy and Polk County prosecutors continues, Cassidy has raised over \$98,000 on his GiveSendGo website to cover rising legal costs.” **CONCLUDING COMMENT:** We don’t agree with Cassidy’s actions, because we don’t see any example of this in the churches in Acts and the Epistles. Paul did not break any of the idols in Athens. He preached Christ and the true and living God (Acts 17). At the same time, Cassidy committed no hate crime. He should simply be required to pay the damages.

THE HURKLE-DURKLE GENERATION (Friday Church News Notes, April 19, 2024, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from “Hurkle-Durkle Is the New Way to

Self-Care Ourselves to Death,” *The Free Press*, Mar. 20, 2024: “Every few years, the algorithm latches on to a new justification for doing absolutely nothing. Sometime this winter, I noticed videos about bed rot, which is what it sounds like: plonking down in bed indefinitely. ... Then, more recently, the term *hurkle-durkle* began flashing across my screen. ... on TikTok and Instagram it means to hit snooze, curl up under your duvet, and relax. To hurkle-durkle is to be at rest but not exactly sleeping. Kind of like you’re in a coma. ... These



Hurkle-Durkle Meaning

have dovetailed with various de-productivity trends that don't have a Scandinavian patina but mushroom up nonetheless, like *quiet quitting*, which is about keeping a job but purposely not excelling at it, and *the soft life*, which instructs us to choose comfort and ease over the hustle and grind of getting up and squeezing the most productivity possible out of the day. ... File all of these online trends under the large umbrella of **self-care**, which has become shorthand for just doing whatever you want to. ... Self-care is like self-help, but with no goals or striving. The \$11 billion industry is mostly geared toward women, and while hurkle-durkle might not be associated with a particular product, it smuggles in the same insidious message: **anything you do for yourself is inherently good and you should never feel guilty about it.** ... I think of Japan, and the legions of social hermits called *hikikomori*. There are an estimated 1.5 million hikikomori, or 'shut-ins,' according to the Japanese government. While they're mostly men, the hikikomori take hurkle-durkling to the extreme: to qualify as one, you must stay in your home for six months or longer, sometimes in the same room." 2 Timothy 3:1-2, "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves..."

FRENCH WOMAN ARRESTED FOR DENOUNCING IMMIGRATION AND VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN (Friday Church News Notes, April 19, 2024, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The following is excerpted from *The European Conservative*, Apr. 9, 2024: "A young woman was arrested in the eastern French city of Besançon and taken into custody for



holding up a sign calling for the deportation of foreign rapists. She faces up to a year in prison. Her lawyer has stated that she intends to lodge a complaint for 'infringement of personal freedom.' During Besançon's carnival on Saturday, April 6th, two young women, one of them a 19-year-old, held up signs in the street reading: 'Voleurs étrangers dehors' and 'Libérez-nous de l'immigration' ('Foreign Rapists Away' and 'Free us from immigration'). On one of the facades of the Grande Rue, one of Besançon's main thoroughfares, they also unfurled a banner pointing out that '46 women could have been spared if the OQTFs (Obligation de Quitter le Territoire which is French for Obligation to Leave French Territory) had been applied in 2023'. They both belong to the feminist identity group Némésis, which regularly denounces the increase in violence against women due to the massive influx of immigrants who do not respect the rules of Western society with regard to women. ... The mayor of Besançon, a member of the Ecologist party, denounced the association made 'between migrants and rapists,' and announced that she would be filing a complaint on behalf of the city for 'incitement to hatred.' Following this complaint, one of the

two activists, Yona, was taken into custody. She faces up to a year's imprisonment. A police raid was carried out at her parents' home in an attempt to recover the offending banner, while Yona's computer was placed under seal by a magistrate."

THE MAN WHO DESIGNED THE TRANSGENDER FLAG (Friday Church News Notes, April 19, 2024, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The following is excerpted from "The shocking untold history," *The Bridgehead*, Mar. 22, 2024: "A few years ago, the 'trans flag' started to pop up everywhere. First created in 1999, the banner of alternating pink, blue, and white stripes flew from city halls; at protests; on government buildings; on public schools, Catholic schools, and even some churches. The creator of the flag described it this way: 'The stripes at the top and bottom are light blue, the traditional masculine color. The stripes next to them are pink, the traditional feminine color. The stripe in the middle is white, for those who are transitioning or consider themselves having a neutral or undefined gender.' In the mainstream press, the creator of the now-ubiquitous transgender flag is referred to as 'American trans woman Monica Helms.' But as with so many of the architects of the Sexual Revolution, there is quite a bit more to the story. Helms was born Robert



Hogge and identifies as female or ‘bigender,’ claiming that his brain ‘floats between multiple roles... Sometimes I am a man and a woman at the same time, or I can change in a nanosecond, then change back just as fast.’ Who is Robert Hogge? By his own admission, he was a troubled teen who spent his time stealing his mother’s underwear, sexually experimenting, and cross-dressing. In the 1970s he joined the U.S. Navy and promptly began to steal the underwear of women who lived in his apartment building. ... [He] decided that it was time ‘to rebuild myself in my own image... as a woman.’ He got married without telling his partner, Donna, about his proclivities. Unsurprisingly, she was upset when she found out about his cross-dressing. He continued to do so anyhow, investing large amounts of money into his transgender project and even attending classes on how to act feminine with other men. ... he and Donna divorced in 1997. Helms left his wife and children...”

MAKING SUICIDE CONTAGIOUS (Friday Church News Notes, April 19, 2024, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from “I’m 28, and I’m Scheduled to Die in May,” *The Free Press*, Apr. 1, 2024: “Some right-to-die activists want everyone to have access to euthanasia--even young people with



mental illness. Are they also making suicide contagious? Zoraya ter Beek, 28, expects to be euthanized in early May. ... Ter Beek, who lives in a little Dutch town near the German border, once had ambitions to become a psychiatrist, but she was never able to muster the will to finish school or start a career. She said she was hobbled by her depression and autism and borderline personality disorder. Now she was tired of living--despite, she said, being in love with her boyfriend, a 40-year-old IT programmer, and living in a nice house with their two cats. She recalled her psychiatrist telling her that they had tried everything, that ‘there’s nothing more we can do for you. It’s never gonna get any better.’ At that point, she said, she decided to die. ... I don’t see it [death] as my soul leaving, but more as myself being freed from life. Her liberation, as it were, will take place at her home. ‘No music,’ she said. ‘I will be going on the couch in the living room.’ ... **‘I’m a little afraid of dying, because it’s the ultimate unknown,’ she said. ‘We don’t really know what’s next—or is there nothing? That’s the scary part.’** ... Typically, when we think of people who are considering assisted suicide, we think of people facing terminal illness. But this new group is suffering from other syndromes—depression or anxiety exacerbated, they say, by economic uncertainty, the climate, social media, and a seemingly limitless array of fears and disappointments. ... **In 2001, the Netherlands became the first country in the world to make euthanasia legal. Since then, the number of people who increasingly choose to die is startling.**” John 3:16-18, “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. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.”

IDAHO GOVERNOR SIGNS BILL DEFINING WOMAN

(Friday Church News Notes, April 19, 2024, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from “What Is a Woman?” *The Washington Times*, Apr. 10, 2024: “Idaho Gov. Brad Little has signed without comment legislation that codifies in state law biological definitions for ‘woman,’ ‘man,’ and other sex-based terms, making his state the fifth to exclude men who identify as women from being legally recognized as female. ... House Bill 421, signed into law on Tuesday, takes effect July 1. The measure declares that there are only two sexes, male and female; that everyone is either male or female, and gives biological definitions for sex-related terms including ‘mother,’ ‘father,’ ‘girl’ and ‘boy.’ ‘In no case is an individual’s sex determined by stipulation or self-identification,’ reads the legislation, which passed the House and the Senate with no Democratic votes. Four states--



THE SUN NOT A NUCLEAR REACTOR?

(Friday Church News Notes, April 19, 2024, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is from CreationMoments.com, April 5, 2024: “If we could harness all of the sun’s energy that reaches the Earth, we would have more than enough energy to fill all our energy needs--even if the entire world became as industrialized as the west. Yet, less than 0.10% of all of the sun’s energy output reaches the Earth! What is going on within the sun to create so much energy? Most people have heard that the sun produces its energy through nuclear fusion. And even though most scientists think this is true, they admit that the real answer isn’t that simple--and the full answer is unknown. **If the sun produces its energy by nuclear fusion, one of the results of that process is a tiny particle called a neutrino. But, in fact, the neutrinos that should be coming from the sun are not.** Worse, new calculations of the temperature needed for the sun to ignite into the nuclear fusion process show that the evolutionary theory for how the sun formed does not generate enough heat for fusion. An alternate theory says that the sun’s heat is a result of its powerful gravity pulling the sun in on



itself--called gravitational collapse. This would explain why the neutrinos are missing. But evolutionists have rejected gravitational collapse because if this is where the sun’s heat comes from, the sun could not be billions of years old. Despite our scientific sophistication, many of God’s works still defy our understanding! REF.: DeYoung, Don B., and David E. Rush. 1989. ‘Is the sun an age indicator?’ *Creation Research Society, Quarterly*, v. 26, September. p. 49.”

Kansas, Tennessee, Oklahoma and Nebraska--adopted similar measures last year. Five states--Alabama, Arizona, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, and Mississippi--are considering such legislation.”

SOUTHERN BAPTIST CHURCH WORSHIPS TO HOMOSEXUAL ROCK ANTHEM

(Friday Church News Notes, April 26, 2024, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from “SBC Megachurch Starts New Sermon Series,” *Disntr*, Apr. 15, 2024: “David Hughes, the president and CEO of Church ... by the Glades in Coral Springs, Florida, has successfully turned the organization into a highly profitable carnival act. Rather than providing spiritual



sustenance through the gospel, Hughes is preoccupied with putting on a spectacle. Week after week, we have reported that this church, which remains in fellowship with the Southern Baptist Convention and the powers that be, blasphemes God with its worldly performances and secular music. This past weekend, Church by the Glades opens a new sermon series on ‘Family’ by worshiping to a popular anthem that is used to open

the vast majority of ‘pride’ festivals around the nation. According to one article in *Rhino*, the band Sister Sledge openly embraced the fact that their song had become such a popular LGBTQ anthem. ‘When Joni Sledge died in 2017, the website TheOutFront.com opened their obit of the singer by saying, ‘Every gay man who’s ever been on a dance floor or attended a Pride Parade knows the words to *We Are Family*. In fact, it’s practically required for getting one’s *official Gay Card*.’”

NATIONAL CENTER ON SEXUAL EXPLOITATION’S “DIRTY DOZEN”

(Friday Church News Notes, April 26, 2024, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from



Christian Headlines, Apr. 12, 2024: “Roblox, Spotify, and Meta’s Instagram are popular among children, and they’re also popular among sexual predators according to a new report by the National Center on Sexual Exploitation that placed all three companies on its 2024 Dirty Dozen List of mainstream contributors to sexual abuse and exploitation. The game-playing app Roblox, according to the report, exposes children to ‘highly sexualized content and themes’ and has been used by countless predators to sexually abuse and exploit minors. ... The music service Spotify includes ‘sexually explicit images, sadistic content, and networks trading child sex abuse material,’ ... Meta’s platforms--Instagram, Facebook, Messenger and WhatsApp--have consistently been ranked as ‘the top hotspots for a host of crimes and harms,’ including pedophile networks sharing child sex abuse material, exploitative algorithms promoting children to adults, sex trafficking and image-based sexual abuse, the report says. ... Apple also made the list. It abandoned plans to detect child sex abuse material on iCloud, the report says. Further, it refuses to ‘turn on Communication Safety for teens by default.’”

RUSSIA TARGETING UKRAINIAN CHRISTIANS; HUNDREDS OF CHURCHES

DESTROYED (Friday Church News Notes, April 26, 2024, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from the Baptist Press, Apr. 9, 2024: “[Southern Baptist leaders in America have joined Ukrainian Baptist leaders in issuing] a letter urging House Speaker Mike Johnson to ‘consider the plight of Christians’ suffering brutality at the hands of invading Russian forces in Ukraine. The Ukrainian leaders are Yaroslav Pyah, president of Ukrainian Baptist Theological Seminary, and Valerii Antoniu, president of The Baptist Union of Ukraine. ‘The Russian government’s decision to invade Ukraine and to target Baptists and other evangelical Christians in Ukraine has been a tragic hallmark of the war,’ the letter noted. A systematic erasure of ‘faithful Christians in occupied areas of Ukraine’ has included threats, torture and the removal of pastors, even retired ones who are considered too Western and not sufficiently pro-Russia. ... At least 270 houses of worship, religious educational institutions and sacred sites were either destroyed or damaged during the first five months of the war that began in February 2022. Experts believe it is not a case of collateral damage, but a step toward Russia eventually weaponizing religion and using it as a propaganda tool. Religious organizations are allowed



to exist once they ‘fully and publicly support the authorities, namely their military actions,’ said Ruslan Khalikov, a Ukrainian religious expert...”

BACKLASH AGAINST WIND/SOLAR (Friday Church News Notes, April 26, 2024, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The following is excerpted from Robert Bryce, “Backlash,” *Fox News*, Apr. 5, 2024: “All around the world, big solar and wind projects are being rejected. From rural England to the Osage Nation in Oklahoma, local communities are rejecting alt-energy development ... As I have documented in the *Renewable Rejection Database*, there have been at least 639 rejections or restrictions of wind or solar projects in the U.S. alone since 2015. ... Last December, a French court ruled that a wind project in southern France near the town of Luna must be dismantled due to ‘noise complaints from residents and the effect it is having on birds.’ ... In March, a judge in Ireland sided with local landowners and ruled that the noise pollution generated by a wind project in County Wexford built near their properties amounted to a ‘nuisance to the plaintiffs.’ ... In England, the solar rejections are piling up so fast it’s challenging to keep track. Since January, local authorities have rejected a 102-acre project in Cambridgeshire, a 198-acre project in Holbeach, a 66-acre project in Kent, a 96-acre project in Herefordshire, and a 103-acre project in Coventry. ... In January, an Australian court rejected an application for a 10-megawatt solar project proposed near Mudgee in New South Wales. ... Last year, in Canada, regulators in Alberta imposed a moratorium on all wind



and solar projects. In February, provincial officials announced updates to their regulations, including a ban on alt-energy projects on prime agricultural land. ... The binding constraint on the growth of solar and wind around the world is that fewer and fewer communities are willing to accept the landscape destruction that comes with large alt-energy projects. And no amount of PR or spin can change that fact.”

GOD’S PEOPLE HAVE THEIR MARCHING ORDERS AND IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH PUBLIC SCHOOLS (Friday Church News Notes, April 26, 2024, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - We publish many facts about the terrible educational, moral, and spiritual condition of America’s public schools, but we don’t give these facts so that Bible-believing Christians will engage in “saving the schools.” There is no possibility of redeeming the public school system in America (or any other nation). It is godless and filthy beyond belief. It is the mystery of iniquity in near full bloom. But the government school system should never have been supported by God’s people even

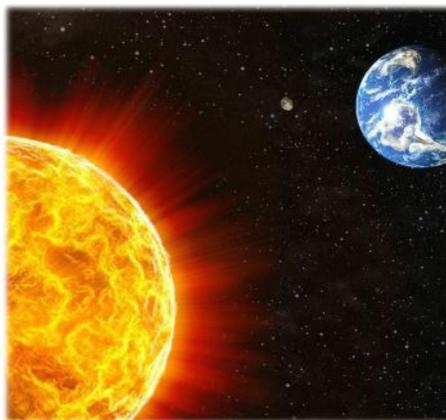
in its more benign condition at its inception in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. It is never right and biblical for Christian parents to send their children to be educated in a mixed multitude by unregenerate and/or doctrinally unsound teachers in an atmosphere permeated with humanistic “enlightenment” philosophy (2 Co. 6:14-18; Col. 2:6-8; 2 Ti. 3:5) and the world (1 Jo. 2:15-17). We are instructed to teach our children the whole Word of God (De. 6:4-9; 2 Ti. 3:15-17). They are to be taught to observe all things that Christ has given by divine revelation (Mt. 28:19-20), which is the whole Bible. They are to be prepared for salvation and a surrendered life in Christ as priests (1 Pe. 2:5), ambassadors (2 Co. 5:20), soldiers (Eph. 6:10-19), ministers of spiritual gifts (Ro. 12:3-8), builders of the church (1 Co. 3:9-15 Eph. 4:16), and builders of the home (Eph. 5-6). That requires a lot of godly education, and the church, which is the pillar and ground of the truth (1 Ti. 3:15), is the only institution that can give it. The church and home are to operate together in harmony for the great work of raising a godly seed for Christ. God’s instructions for the Christian home are given in the church epistles. The church is to build up the home, and the home is to disciple the children. The pastors and other ministry-gifted men are to be the chief educators (Eph. 4:11-16). The fathers are to be engaged personally and energetically in this business (Eph. 6:4). The mothers are to be the



keepers and guides of the home (1 Ti. 5:14 Tit. 2:4-5). God’s people are to live as pilgrims in a foreign world. The Captain’s marching order is to focus like a laser on fulfilling the Great Commission until He comes, and this is emphasized by repetition (Mt. 28:18-20; Mr. 16:15-16; Lu. 24:44-48; Joh. 20:21; Ac. 1:8). He promised to be with those churches that obey this command “even unto the end of the world” (*aion*, age). The church at Thessalonica got it right and is a model church until the end. “For they themselves show of us what manner of entering in we had unto you, and how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God; And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, *even* Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come” (1 Th. 1:9-10).

THE SUN: A GIGANTIC MULTI-FREQUENCY BELL SINGING THE PRAISES OF GOD (Friday Church News Notes, April 26, 2024, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is from CreationMoments.com, March 28,

2024: "In Psalm 148:3, the sun, moon and stars are specifically encouraged, along with the rest of creation, to praise God. And truly, God, as our Creator and our Savior through Jesus Christ, is worthy of all praise. But perhaps many Christians have been a little too ready to accept this biblical language as figurative. Based on scientific principles discovered by Isaac Newton, a creationist, a new science has developed today that studies sound waves on the sun. The vibrations on the sun's surface can be measured as the surface of the sun moves. Scientists studying these movements on the seething



surface of the sun have learned with the help of computers that the sun actually rings like a bell! They have found that the sun rings over so many frequencies that there are several million resonances going on all at the

same time. Truly, the sun is making a glorious sound to the Lord! Scientists have long known that the Earth does the same thing. And we have learned that the moon, too, has its own song. So next time you read in Scripture about the creation--the sun, moon and Earth--praising God, don't dismiss the words as figurative! And once more, when the scientists finally arrived at some knowledge, they found that the Bible had already been there--for thousands of years. That alone is a great reason for us to join the sun, moon and Earth in praising our wonderful Creator!"

"Praise ye the LORD. Praise ye the LORD from the heavens: praise him in the heights. Praise ye him, all his angels: praise ye him, all his hosts. Praise ye him, sun and moon: praise him, all ye stars of light. Praise him, ye heavens of heavens, and ye waters that be above the heavens. Let them praise the name of the LORD." (Psalm 148:1-5)

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- Challenging Christian workers to uphold the truth and resist the apostasy of our times. (1 Timothy 6:20-21)
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