

O Timothy

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

A Monthly Newsletter for Spiritual Protection and Edification

Volume 41 - Issue 9 - September 2024



"Those who renounce the Christian faith tend to make the point of saying that everything is wonderful now that they have rejected the Bible. It is nonsense. It is whistling in the dark. Christian rock is worldly music produced by professing Christians who love the world." Page 4.

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



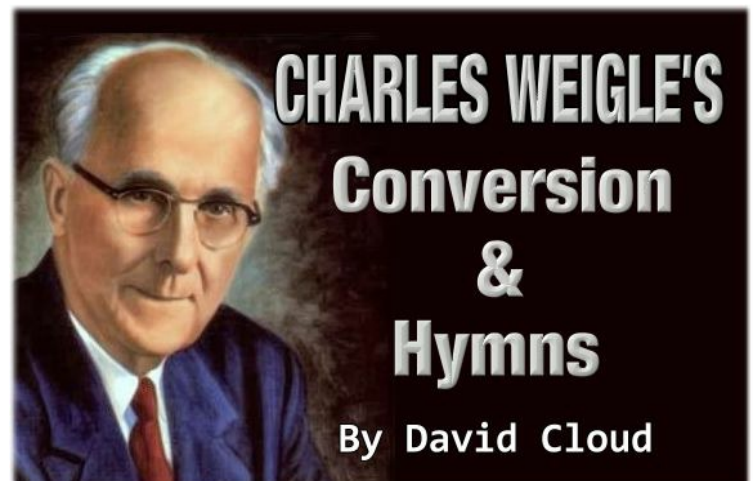
CHARLES WEIGLE'S CONVERSION AND HYMNS ~ By David Cloud

Dr. Weigle was a Baptist evangelist and noted hymn writer of more than 1,000 hymns. He entered heaven's gates December 3, 1966 at age 95, from Chattanooga, Tennessee.

After he was called to be an evangelist, his wife came to him one day and said, "I'm leaving, Charlie. I don't want to live the life you are living. I want to go the other way--to the bright lights." Their only child, a daughter, left with her. That very night Charles saw them off on a train to the other side of the country. Five years passed before he wrote another song, but God healed him. His wife died as a consequence of a life of sin a few years after she left. He remarried and continued in evangelism and hymn writing.

The following is from *The Victorious Life: Sermons by Dr. Charles Weigle*, with a conclusion about his last years at Highland Park Baptist Church in Chattanooga.

On the banks of the Walbash River stands the prosperous



Midwestern city of LaFayette, Indiana, county seat of Tippecanoe County, and hometown of Purdue University. When Purdue was a young, growing school just two years old, Charles Frederick Weigle was born, November 20, 1871, into the family of a God-fearing, German-Lutheran baker and his wife. The Weigle family was composed of twelve members, five boys and seven girls; it was a typical

German family. As a boy, young Charles Weigle was accustomed to hearing his father pray; and Bible reading was observed at family worship every morning immediately following breakfast. Charles Weigle was converted at the age of twelve after being under conviction for quite some time. The Methodist Church of LaFayette was having a series of revival meetings in a little frame church where his parents attended. A great number of his friends and playmates came under conviction and were going forward during the progress of the meeting. This made an indelible impression upon young Charles Weigle, even though he resisted longer than most of the others. Then one night a strong overpowering realization that he was lost came over him. The testimony of his conversion is as follows:

"I was born and reared in a Christian home. Every member of our family attended church services and went to Sunday School. We had family worship in the home every morning. I suppose I was about as good as the average boy of my age. I had a bad temper, however; and by the time I was 12 years of age, I was fighting with my brothers and the neighbor boys. While having trouble with an older brother, I cut him with a knife very seriously. I knocked a neighbor boy down with a ball bat "because he didn't play to suit me." On another occasion, while ringing a heavy dinner bell in a political parade, a young

fellow who did not like the crowd I was marching with ordered me to put down the bell; and I brought it down on top of his head, and they carried him home to recuperate. My parents punished me severely for these misdeeds and warned me to stop fighting lest I be arrested and sent to prison, but I paid little attention to them.

"There came a day when I was arrested for my misdeeds and taken to court. As I sat alone and saw the crowd in the room waiting to see what the judge would do with me, I realized the seriousness of the situation. It appeared as if I were doomed to go to prison, for I was guilty. When the judge came in and took his place behind the bench, he looked down at my shrinking form and said with a voice that sounded like the knell of doom to me, 'Young man, have you an attorney?' I said, 'No sir, I haven't got anybody.' He looked over the courtroom and then motioned to a handsome young man to come forward, and said to him, 'You will kindly act as his attorney.' That handsome young lawyer came and sat down beside me and took charge of my case. "One thing that brought a little hope to my heart was the attitude of my attorney. He sat close to me and spoke to me with a voice that was full of tender sympathy. I felt that he was my friend and that he cared for me and wanted to help me. When I told him of all the mean things I had been doing and for which I had been arrested, he assured me that he would help me. All I had to do was to tell the truth and leave the rest with him. That seemed to relieve my mind some what.

"After the trial began, however, and one witness after another testified against me, I began to lose hope. One of them said I knocked him down with a ball bat and almost killed him. My attorney said to me, 'Did you do that?' I said, 'Yes Sir'. The next witness accused me of having seriously injured him with a heavy dinner bell, and my attorney again said, 'Did you do that?' I said, 'Yes Sir'. My own brother came to witness against me, declaring that I had used a knife on him and had almost taken his life. My attorney turned to me and asked, 'Have you been guilty of all these acts?' and I said, 'Yes, Sir, and a lot of other things they don't even know about.' He tried to

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relieve my fears by saying, 'Trust me - I'll help you.' "Finally, the prosecuting attorney rose up and, speaking to the judge, said, 'Your Honor, according to the evidence brought by these witnesses, the defendant is guilty of all charges brought against him. He is a potential murderer and a menace to this community, and we ask that he be placed in prison for a long duration of time.' Then my heart sank within me and I said to myself, 'There is no hope for me.'

"When my attorney arose to speak in my defense, I wondered what He could do for me. Looking at the judge, he said, 'Father.' That one word brought hope for me. Looking at his father, the judge, he said, 'Father, the defendant pleads guilty to every charge brought against him. He asks for mercy; and as his attorney, I plead for him. I believe that if the court will grant my plea, this young man will live a new and a better life.'

"I saw the judge rise to his feet as my attorney spoke. There was a look of love and kindness as he said, 'But my Son, the defendant is guilty. There is a penalty that must be paid, according to the law.'

"I'll take care of that and suffer the penalty,' said my attorney. And then, to my joy and amazement, the judge said, 'It is the decision of the court that, in response to the plea made by the attorney for the defendant, he be pardoned and set at liberty, with the understanding that he show by his manner of life a due respect for the law and a kindness toward his neighbors.'

"I was free! My heart was filled with joy as I clasped the hand of my attorney and, with moist eyes, tried to express my gratitude. He placed his arms about me and, in a voice that sounded like the music of an angel's harp, he said, 'You and I will be friends forever. We'll be brothers; and whenever you need any help, you may come to me and I'll help you.' Since that day he has never forgotten me. We've been as close as brothers can be down through the years.

"Let me explain to you the fact that the courthouse where I had this wonderful experience was a little frame church during the

progress of a revival, where the great truths of the Bible were being preached. One night, as I sat on a rear seat, the Holy Spirit, the High Sheriff of Heaven, arrested me and led me to the front in sight of all the people present. I was convicted and condemned, and confessed my guilt to Almighty God. There seemed no hope for me. My sins towered up before me. Then Jesus came and quieted my fears. He paid the penalty for all my sins and guilt. He pleaded my case in the high court of heaven and won my pardon. When this great truth dawned upon my mind, my heart was filled with gratitude and praise. There came a great love into my heart for my Saviour. That love has grown until He has the chief place in my life. Some day I expect to see Him face to face. That will be heaven for me. "We sing at times, 'What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear.' You will find this to be a reality when you put your trust in Him as your Saviour. He came into the world to save us from our sins and to bring peace and joy into our lives. He is the Friend you need."

WEIGLE AT HIGHLAND PARK BAPTIST CHURCH

In 1951, when he was 80 years old, Weigle approached Pastor Lee Roberson of Highland Park Baptist Church in Chattanooga, Tennessee, and said he would like to spend his remaining years near a Bible college campus to help train and inspire young people in the Lord's work.

The church provided Weigle with a nice apartment, and he lived there until he died 15 years later.

During those years, Tennessee Temple built a music center and named it the Weigle Center.

Weigle continued to write music in his old age. He wrote "A Garden of Roses" during those years and sang it personally in a service at Highland Park.

In his sermon, "The Key to Spiritual Growth," Roberson said, "I never saw such a man in my life. The last time I saw Dr. Weigle in his room. in the Weigle apartment, he was sitting in his chair reading the Word of God and putting little notations by the side of verses--at 95 years of age!"

On Weigle's 95th birthday, Highland Park hosted a big birthday party for him in the city auditorium in Chattanooga, and he sang "No One Ever Cared for Me Like Jesus" for the large crowd.

He died a few days later.

NO ONE EVER CARED FOR ME LIKE JESUS
by Charles F. Weigle

I would love to tell you what I think of Jesus
Since I found in Him a friend so strong and true;
I would tell you how He changed my life completely,
He did something that no other friend could do.

All my life was full of sin when Jesus found me,
All my heart was full of misery and woe;
Jesus placed His strong and loving arms about me,
And He led me in the way I ought to go.

Ev'ry day He comes to me with new assurance,
More and more I understand His words of love;
But I'll never know just why He came to save me,
Till some day I see His blessed face above.

Chorus:

No one ever cared for me like Jesus,
There's no other friend so kind as He;
No one else could take the sin and darkness from me,
Oh how much He cared for me.

The free eBook [The Life Story and Songs of Charles F. Weigle](https://www.wayoflife.org/free_ebooks/life_and_songs_of_charles_weigle.php) contains 22 little known hymns, with lyrics and full music scores -

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



SILVER TRUMPETS SOUND ON THE TEMPLE MOUNT (Friday Church News Notes, August 23, 2024, www.wayoflife.org/fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from "First in 2000 Years," *Israel365News*, Aug. 14, 2024: "On Tisha B'Av, the day commemorating the destruction of the Jewish Temples in Jerusalem, Josh Wander brought his silver trumpets specially made for use in the Temple to the Machkama building. Built about 700 years ago, it is currently used as a Border Police station. The building faces the Western Wall Plaza but juts out over the Temple

Mount. ... The trumpets were blown at a prayer service held twice a year and overseen by Rabbi Rami Goren, the son of Rabbi Shlomo Goren, who served as the first head of the military rabbinate of the Israel Defense Forces. Rabbi Shlomo Goren oversaw the IDF victory in the 1967 Six-Day War that brought the Temple Mount under Israeli sovereignty." "And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, Make thee two trumpets of silver; of a whole piece shalt thou make them: that thou mayest use them for the calling of the assembly, and for the journeying of the camps" (Numbers 10:1-2).



The apostle Paul was a student to the end of his life. Even when in prison awaiting his death, he said to Timothy, “The cloke that I left at Troas with Carpus, when thou comest, bring with thee, and the books, but especially the parchments.” (2 Timothy 4:13).

Bring the books said the stalwart old warrior! Bring the books said the man whom we are told to imitate. “Wherefore I beseech you, be ye followers of me” (1 Co. 4:16). “Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample” (Philippians 3:17).

Men of God through the centuries have valued the written and printed page.

It has been said, “The man who *doesn't* read is no better off than the man who *cannot* read,” and, “Five years from now you will be the same person except for the people you meet and the books you read.”

The revivalist preacher George Whitefield read Matthew Henry through four times during his lifetime. And this is a man who preached an estimated 18,000 sermons, an average of 500 a year or ten a week.

John Sutcliff (1752-1814) walked 200 miles to attend Bristol Baptist College to save money to buy books (Norman Moon, “Education for Ministry: Bristol Baptist College, 1679-1779). Sutcliff pastored the Baptist church in Olney, Buckinghamshire, for 39 years, and, with William Carey and Andrew Fuller, was one of the founders of the Baptist Missionary Society.

B.H. Carroll (1843-1914), first president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, “read history, all history, ancient, mediaeval, modern, civil, political and religious; biography and autobiography he absolutely

devoured. He read all science, all romance, all poetry. For at least sixty of his seventy-one years, he averaged reading 300 pages a day. ... He always read history with a map before him.” He told one young preacher, “My boy, you are in great danger. You have no library and do not read.”

D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones said, “I have known men in the ministry, and men in various other walks of life who stop reading when they finish their training. they think they have acquired all they need; they have their lecture notes, and nothing further is necessary. The result is that they vegetate and become quite useless. Keep on reading” (*Preaching and Preachers*, p. 177).

Charles Spurgeon (1834-1892) had no advanced education, but he read 6 books a week. He was reading deep theological books by Puritans at age 10.

Spurgeon advised the preachers in his Bible College, “Sell your shirt and buy books.”

Spurgeon did not have a lot of patience with preachers who despise commentaries. He addressed the following statement to his Bible School students:

“Of course, you are not such wiseacres as to think or say that you can expound Scripture without assistance from the works of divines and learned men who have laboured before you in the field of exposition. If you are of that opinion, pray remain so, for you are not worth the trouble of conversion, and like a little coterie who think with you, would resent the attempt as an insult to your infallibility. It seems odd, that certain men who talk so much of what the Holy Spirit reveals to themselves, should think so little of what he has revealed to others. My chat this afternoon is not for these great originals, but for you who are content to learn of holy men, taught of God, and mighty in the Scriptures. It has been the fashion of late years to speak

against the use of commentaries. If there were any fear that the expositions of Matthew Henry, Gill, Scott, and others, would be exalted into Christian Targums, we would join the chorus of objectors, but the existence or approach of such a danger we do not suspect. The temptations of our times lie rather in empty pretensions to novelty of sentiment, than in a slavish following of accepted guides. A respectable acquaintance with the opinions of the giants of the past, might have saved many an erratic thinker from wild interpretations and outrageous inferences. Usually, we have found the despisers of commentaries to be men who have no sort of acquaintance with them; in their case, it is the opposite of familiarity which has bred contempt” (Spurgeon, *Two Lectures Addressed to the Students of the Pastor’s College, Metropolitan Tabernacle*).

Spurgeon advised his Bible students to read the entire multi-volume Matthew Henry commentary set in the

twelve months after they graduated from Pastor’s College.

Spurgeon observed that a good commentary will provide new lines of thought to the student. Of Matthew Henry, Spurgeon said,

“You will find him to be glittering with metaphors, rich in analogies, overflowing with illustrations, superabundant in reflections. ... You will acquire a vast store of sermons if you read with your note-book close at hand; and as for thoughts, they will swarm around you like twittering swallows around an old gable towards the close of autumn.”

It is obvious that many men of God of former times were more studious than the average preacher today, and much wiser about the value of good books.

Challenge to Parents about VIDEO GAMES



(Friday Church News Notes, August 16, 2024, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - We received the following from the Netherlands:

“A couple of years ago I gave my testimony on video games which you used in some of your literature. ... Sadly games get worse and worse and no sin known to man is shunned anymore by developers. I’d like to make a suggestion which could provide a wake-up call to Christian parents. **Maybe it’s a good idea to ask parents through your website to just play the games their children play and watch the in-game advertisements as**

well. After this they can send you the results of their experience through email. My guess the likely result is that a lot of parents are going to be in for a shock. Most parents never watch gameplay videos on YouTube to see for themselves what a game is like or read the ‘name of the game’ fandom.com pages for information on the game. The website fandom.com is a website that collects fan pages of games, movies and series. Seriously, the vast majority of (Christian) parents don’t know what their child is playing nor do they know about the harmful effects of playing video games. They just read the description, which usually is marketing a pack of lies, and think the game is okay.”

The Way of Life Pictorial Bible

The Way of Life Pictorial Bible is an extensive series of multimedia Keynotes/PowerPoints packed with detailed maps, historical backgrounds, treasures from archaeology, carefully selected Bible pictures, reconstructive drawings, audio and video clips, and other visual aids.

The Pictorial Bible covers every major Bible event from Genesis to Acts: the Flood, the Table of Nations, Babel, the Patriarchs, the Exodus, Sinai (the Law, Tabernacle, Levitical offerings, Nadab and Abihu, the golden calf), the Wilderness Wandering, Israel camped on the plains of Moab, the conquering of the Promised Land under Joshua, the Judges, the Kings, the Assyrian destruction of the northern kingdom, the Babylonian destruction of Jerusalem, the 70 Year Captivity, the second temple, the rebuilding of Jerusalem's walls, Esther, the Maccabees, Antiochus Epiphanes, the Talmud, Rome's capture of the Holy Land, Herod the Great, Christ's birth and ministry in great detail, Christ's arrest, trial and crucifixion, Christ's resurrection, Christ's ascension, Pentecost, the Jerusalem Church, and Paul's missionary journeys.

The Pictorial Bible is designed to teach Bible history, Bible geography (detailed maps), Bible customs, and Bible archaeology,

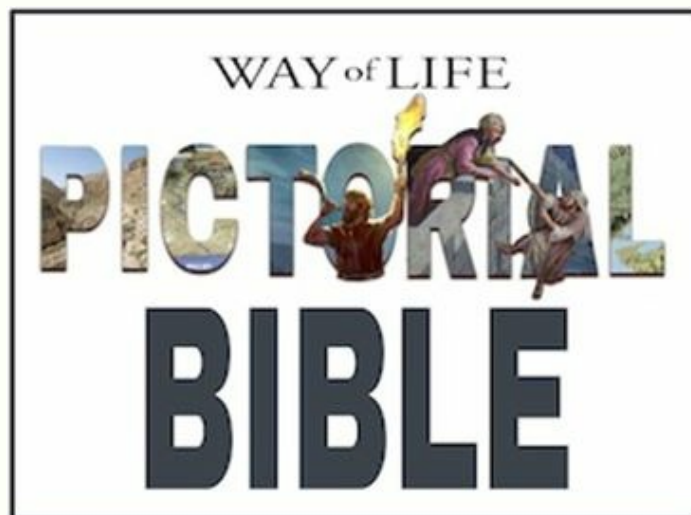
The Pictorial Bible can be used for adults or children, mature Christians and new ones.

Many of the photos and videos were captured by the author in the best archaeological and history museums in America and abroad, plus research trips to Israel, Greece, Turkey, Jordan, Egypt, Europe, and England.

The Pictorial Bible consists of 43 PowerPoint presentations containing more than 6,800 slides.

Available for Apple/Mac (Keynotes) and PC's (PowerPoints)

The Pictorial Bible is designed to be used in conjunction with *MASTERING THE ENGLISH*



BIBLE, an in-depth study of the Old and New Testaments, covering Bible history and every book of the Bible. It is a complete Bible college curriculum in one course. The aim is to educate the student in Bible history, Bible times (e.g., Egypt, ancient Babylon, the Hittites, Assyria, neo-Babylon, Persia, Greece, Rome), Bible interpretation, Bible doctrine, Bible terms, Bible geography, Bible typology (e.g., the Passover, the Tabernacle, the Levitical Priesthood, the Levitical offerings), Bible culture, Bible biography, Bible archaeology, and Bible prophecy. *Mastering the English Bible* aims to give the student a broad comprehension of the Bible as a whole. The Bible is one Book that was planned by God in eternity before it was given by divine inspiration to the holy prophets, and understanding the big picture is necessary to rightly understand the parts. *Mastering the English Bible* consists of 11 segments, each with its own textbook (3,000 pages in total), and we plan to publish one segment per week beginning August 12. Each segment has review questions and tests, and most of the segments have video classes (242 in total).

Mastering the English Bible

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

The Way of Life Pictorial Bible is available for free viewing and downloading

https://www.wayoflife.org/pictorial_bible/



Atheism is on the march in the field of Christian rock and contemporary worship.

In 2007, **George Perdikis**, co-founder of the Christian rock band Newsboys, said he had “renounced Christianity once and for all and declared myself an atheist” (“Co-founder of Newsboys,” standupforthetruth.com, Jan. 22, 2015). Perdikis said, “I always felt uncomfortable with the strict rules imposed by Christianity. All I wanted to do was create and play rock and roll.” Four years earlier, his marriage had “dissolved,” and he turned to “human psychology.” He was also influenced by the writings of Richard Dawkins, Carl Sagan, and other evolutionary atheists. He concluded by saying, “The truth is--from someone who knows what went on then and what goes on now--the Newsboys aren’t as holy as they profess.”

In August 2019, **Marty Sampson**, song writer and worship leader for Hillsong, said he no longer believes in God. That same year, Joshua Harris, author of the best-selling *I Kissed Dating Goodbye*, renounced his faith in Christ. He is divorcing his wife. He says he is following his “heart” and is happy and at peace.

In May 2020, **Jon Steingard** of the Christian rock band Hawk Nelson, declared on Instagram that he is an atheist. Steingard said, “I am stunned by the number of people in visible positions within Christian circles that feel the same way as I do. Like me, they fear losing everything if they’re open about it.”

In 2021, **Kevin Max**, formerly of the Christian rock bands DC Talk and Audio Adrenaline, said that he was

“deconstructing” his Christian faith and believes in a “universal Christ.” He says that he hasn’t given up “the faith,” but it is a “faith” filled with doubts. He calls himself an “exvangelical.” On May 17, 2021, Max tweeted that he is “pro-LGBTQIA, pro-BLM, pro-open mindedness, anti-narrow mindedness...”

In January 2022, Christian rapper **Brady Goodwin** (aka Phanatik) said he was leaving “the universal church” and “denouncing the Christian faith.” Goodwin made the point of saying, “I’m good; I’m where I think I’m going to be.”

In September 2022, **Rhett McLaughlin**, a Christian comedian and singer, announced that he no longer believes the Bible, but is a “hopeful agnostic.” In his album *Human Overboard*, he tells God that they are breaking up.

Those who renounce the Christian faith tend to make the point of saying that everything is wonderful now that they have rejected the Bible. It is nonsense. It is whistling in the dark.

Christian rock is worldly music produced by professing Christians who love the world. In the fourth chapter of his epistle, James pronounced Ichabod and Tekel (1 Sa. 4:21; Da. 5:27) over the entire field of Christian rock with the following words:

“Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God” (James 4:4).

MEMORY VERSE JOURNAL PLAN

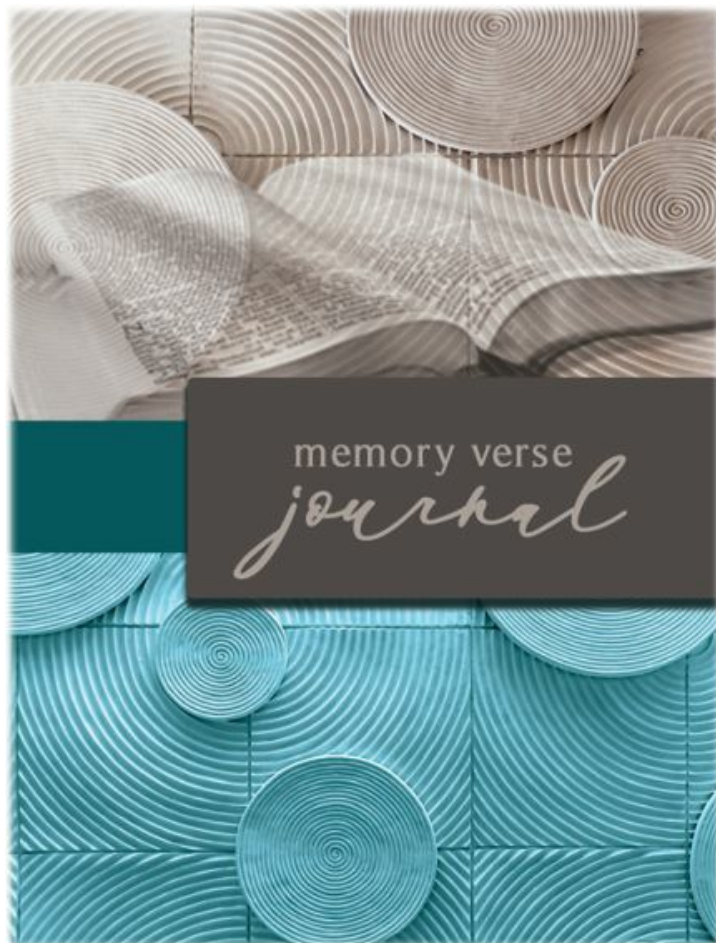
By David Cloud

“**B**lessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper” (Psalm 1:1-3).

If there is any one thing we can do to strengthen the churches (other than maintaining a regenerate church membership) it is to seriously strengthen the biblical depth of the congregation. “For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil” (Heb. 5:13-14). In my experience and observation, the vast majority of church members even in the most conservative churches are not serious Bible students. They are not skillful in God’s Word and do not have their senses exercised. If the people would become skillful in God’s Word, they would be more spiritually minded, more serious in prayer, more faithful to the house of God, more separated from the evil things of the world, wiser in every aspect of living, wiser in building godly homes and training their children, more zealous for the salvation of souls and the fulfillment of Christ’s Great Commission. The Word of God has the power to do all of this.

The goal of the memory verse journal is to help the believer hide God’s Word in his heart (Psalm 119:11) and to meditate on it in an effectual, practical way. God doesn’t want His people to read and memorize the Scriptures in a robotic or parroting fashion. Everything is to be done with understanding. See Psalm 47:7; 1 Corinthians 14:15, 19; Colossians 1:9; 3:16.

Meditating on a verse or passage of God’s Word effectually begins with understanding its meaning. This requires the application of the fundamental principles of Bible interpretation (e.g., context, comparing Scripture



with Scripture, defining the words, literal vs. allegorical, understanding figures of speech) and the wise use of Bible study tools (e.g., dictionary, concordance, *Treasury of Scripture Knowledge*, commentary). A basic education in these things can be obtained from *The Effectual Bible Student*. This 12-hour video course, accompanied by a printed manual, is available for free viewing and download from www.wayoflife.org. It is also available for purchase on DVDs. The more the child of God invests in pursuing this type of education, the better he will understand the Bible.

Memorization and meditation go together. By memorizing a verse, the believer can then meditate on it as he goes about his daily life. He can ask himself, what does this verse mean? What are its main lessons? What does this mean for my daily life?

The journal is accompanied by a five-year weekly memory verse program (one or two verses per week). The verses are carefully selected for edification and exhortation.

The journal and the weekly memory verse program can be used by individuals, families, classes, and churches.

Whoever is overseeing the memory verse journal program should teach the students to do the following things:

1. Print a copy of the worksheet for each week of the program. We print out 52 copies of the worksheet and bind them together with the introduction and memory verse list. That makes a one-year journal.
2. Each week, the first thing is to write out the memory verse. The act of writing has an important role in memorization.
3. Memorize the verse as quickly as possible, the first day preferably. This is so the student can meditate on it throughout the rest of the week. Memorization and meditation aren't the same, but they are intimately associated.
4. Use the journal daily, trying to add more answers to the questions. Don't be content with spending only a few minutes each week answering the questions. The more you put into this, the more you will get out of it.

5. First answer the questions as best as you can on your own. Only after you have done your best should you get ideas from others.

6. After you have tried your best, don't hesitate to seek help if you don't understand something. Take the initiative to learn. Don't be content with not understanding. Be a zealous Bible student, and it will pay great dividends.

7. Get a partner to whom you can repeat your memory verse each week. You can discuss the journal together and learn from one another.

In our church, each week in the main service we have someone read from their journal from the previous week to give the people ideas about how to answer the questions. We choose individuals who are most capable of performing this task. We urge all of the people to bring the journals to the service and jot down new ideas they get from others. Then, as a congregation we repeat together the verse for the coming week several times.



Memory Verse Journal is available as a PDF document, Microsoft Word Document, or Apple Pages document. Download for FREE at:

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



CHRIST, THE ONLY MAN BORN A KING

(Friday Church News Notes, August 23, 2024, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - "Where is he that is born King of the Jews?" (Matthew 2:2). "I remember no one who was born a king except Jesus; and there is emphatic meaning in that verse that we sing—'Born thy people to deliver; Born a child, and yet a king' (Charles Wesley, 'Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus'). The moment that he came on earth he was a king. He did not wait till his majority that he might take his empire; but as soon as his eye greeted the sunshine he was a king; from the moment that his little hands grasped anything, they grasped a sceptre; as soon as his pulse beat, and his blood began to flow, his heart beat royally, and his pulse an imperial measure, and his blood flowed in a kingly current. He was born a king" (Charles Spurgeon, "The Incarnation and Birth of Christ").

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?



U.S. SECRET SERVICE SHOT THROUGH AND THROUGH WITH DEI WOKE NONSENSE

(Friday Church News Notes, July 26, 2024, www.wayoflife.org/fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- Former U.S. President Donald Trump narrowly escaped assassination and a committed husband and father was murdered on July 13 because of the inaptitude of today's Secret Service. By any reckoning, for the Secret Service to allow someone with a rifle to access the roof of a building a mere 130 yards from the man they were tasked with protecting and to allow him to fire multiple times before ending his career, is inaptitude of the highest order. World class. It turns out that the person in charge of the venerable Secret Service is a woman whose previous job was head of security at PepsiCo, which somehow qualified her to lead America's premier agency tasked with "protecting U.S. political leaders, their families, and visiting heads of state or government." It sounds like she is a DEI (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion) hire, and in fact the Secret Service, like practically every branch of the U.S. government today, including the military, is shot through and through with DEI Woke idiocy. Their strategic plan for 2023-2027 is to increase women recruits until they

are 30% of the workforce. (We are all for women in elite military-style agencies if they are former special forces, particularly Seals and Green Berets.) The DEI Woke policy is what Loucious Hires (yes, that's his real name), the Secret Service's "director of equity," boasted of in an official government podcast in Feb. 2023. He said DEI is "mission imperative," the "ultimate goal." He said, "I could talk on and on what the agency is doing to promote diversity, equity and inclusion ... DEI is every action every day" ("Secret Service equity director," *Fox News*, July 18, 2024). The agency attends homosexual "Pride events" to recruit candidates and "has seen more transgender people in the service as a result." Andrew Cannady, a supervisory attorney-advisor for the agency's Office of Chief Counsel, said the Secret Service is educating its workforce on "how to use pronouns." This might be the key to understanding what happened on July 13. The agents could have been confused about what pronoun to use for the attacker and had to run it by headquarters before taking out he/she/it/them. **The point with this little report is that this weird thinking is a judgment on the nation and is not something that can be rooted out by political effort.** Paul described it as being given over to a reprobate mind. "And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient" (Romans 1:28). People can't be this stupid naturally. Jeremiah's description of Israel of old fits America perfectly: "The wise men are ashamed, they are dismayed and taken: lo, they have rejected the word of the LORD; and what wisdom is in them?" (Jer. 8:9). The point is that Trump can't fix this

because he is part of the judgment. No matter what Trump does, if elected, he will not root out the DEI or “drain the swamp.” Florida Gov. Ron Desantis said, “This is where woke goes to die,” but woke is very much alive in Florida, though it is kept a bit under wraps for the time being. Like noxious weeds, if one Woke proponent is uprooted, ten thousand wait in the wings. (Among other things, *woke* typically refers to a hyper alertness to, a kowtowing to, the concerns and offenses of the most radical branches of homosexual/transsexual rights activism, women’s rights activism, black rights activism, climate change activism, etc.) For a very long time, the government funded school system from kindergarten to university has largely been devoted to producing a DEI Woke generation. Most of the nation’s churches promote some type of DEI Woke thinking. The solution is for God’s redeemed people to obey God and be holy pilgrims more than patriots. Charles Wesley was not talking about a carnal political battle when he wrote, “Soldiers of Christ, arise, and put your armor on, strong in the strength which God supplies, thro’ His eternal Son; strong in the Lord of hosts and in His mighty pow’r, who in the strength of Jesus trusts is more than conqueror.”

REPUBLICANS REMOVE OPPOSITION TO ABORTION AND SAME-SEX MARRIAGE FROM PLATFORM UNDER TRUMP’S INFLUENCE (Friday Church News Notes, July 26, 2024, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Donald Trump’s lack of morality has influenced the entire Republican Party, which is supposed to be very “conservative.” He supports the murder of unborn children so long as



they aren’t too old in the womb, and the new Republican party platform supports abortion up to 20 weeks for the first time in its history (“RNC adopts Trump-inspired platform,” *Washington Times*, July 8, 2024). Trump also supports the homosexual rights agenda. He formed a Trump Pride this year consisting of a 21-member LGBT advisory board. Under this influence, the Republican Party has removed its former opposition to this abomination. The following is excerpted from “LGBT Republicans Celebrate,” *Crosswalk*, July 19, 2024: “The president of the nation’s leading LGBT Republican organization is celebrating the party’s new platform, which no longer opposes same-sex marriage. Every GOP platform from 1992 through 2016 included language opposing same-sex marriage--always in unequivocal terms. ... But this year, under direct guidance from Republican nominee Donald Trump and his team, the platform committee removed the platform’s opposition to same-sex marriage, making it neutral on the issue. Trump supports same-sex marriage. Delegates approved the new platform this week. On social media, Charles T. Moran, president of the Log Cabin Republicans, celebrated the news. The Log Cabin Republicans is the nation’s largest GOP organization dedicated to LGBT causes.”

MUSIC’S ROLE IN THE DESTRUCTION OF THE BLACK HOME AND CHURCH (Friday Church News Notes, July 26, 2024, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The world’s music has been a major part of the destruction of the moral character of black churches and homes. Consider the **1969 Harlem Cultural Festival** (documented in “Summer of Soul”). It consisted of six concerts attended by 300,000. It was called a “revolution,” and it was driven by music. There was the mixing of every type of music: filthy blues and boogie woogie and rock (B.B. King, Sly and the Family Stone, Stevie Wonder) with Gospel (Mahalia Jackson “Precious Lord, Take My Hand”; Staple Singers “Help me Lord Jesus I need your power”; Gladys Knight and the Pips “We join our hands and said prayers before going on stage”). The Fifth Dimension mixed “Aquarius” from the filthy new age opera *Hair* with “Let the Sun Shine In,” a gospel song by Stuart Hamblin. Edwin Hawkins Singers “O Happy Day” (“when Jesus washed my sins away; He taught me how to watch and pray and live rejoicing every day”) is a jazzed up version of a godly hymn by Philip Doddridge, 1755. The Edwin Hawkins Singers’ version consists of mindless repetition of the



chorus only; “O Happy Day” is repeated 21 times. The Harlem Cultural Festival was an ecumenical merging of philosophy and religion. There was Black Marxism (Nina Simone shouted to the crowd, “Are you ready to smash White things, to burn things?”); Black Power (Black Panthers); Voodoo (there was a voodoo dance); Black Islam; and Christianity. Jesse Jackson said, “I want us to bow our heads in prayer. It does not really matter who your God is, whether you call him Allah, Buddha, Jehovah, Elohiym, or Yahway” (*Summer of Soul*).

LARGE ANCIENT MOAT DISCOVERED IN JERUSALEM

(Friday Church News Notes, July 26, 2024, www.wayoflife.org

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

- The following is excerpted from “Solving mystery,” *Times of Israel*, July 21, 2024: “Archaeologists have solved a 150-year-old mystery in the City of David, discovering a massive moat that was used to fortify and protect the Temple Mount and the king’s palace in biblical-era Jerusalem, the Israel Antiquities Authority and Tel Aviv University announced on Sunday. The city’s northern fortification eluded archaeologists for a century and a half as they could not trace its full route. But recent excavations of the

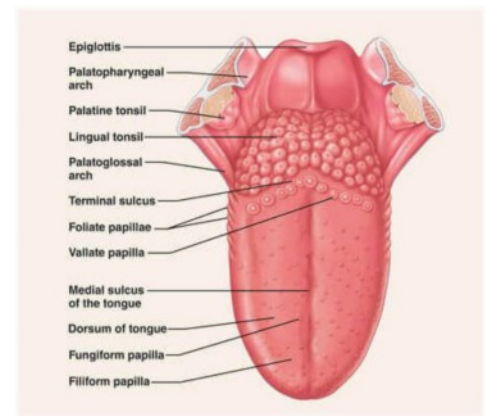


Givati Parking Lot, adjacent to the Old City walls, have revealed a moat that split the City of David in half, separating the palace and Temple Mount from the rest of the city. The vast moat, which was at least nine meters deep and 30 meters wide, the IAA said in a press release, was ‘one of the monumental fortifications that protected the kings of Jerusalem.’ ‘It is not known when the moat was originally cut, but evidence suggests it was used during the centuries when Jerusalem was the capital of the Kingdom of Judah, almost 3,000 years ago, beginning with King Josiah,’ said excavation directors Prof. Yuval Gadot and Dr. Yiftah Shalev. ‘During those years, the moat separated the southern residential part of the city from the ruling Acropolis in the north--the upper city where the palace and the temple were located.’”

GOOD TASTING FACTS (Friday Church News Notes, July 26, 2024, www.wayoflife.org

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

- The following is from CreationMoments.com, July 11, 2024: “Research is showing that we can forget just about everything we ever learned about how we taste food. To begin with, we don’t taste with our tongues but with our brains. Remember those tongue maps that we all learned about in school? They show that we taste sweet on the tips of our tongues, salt and sour flavors on the sides, and bitter tastes at the back of our tongues. In truth, research shows that we taste each of these flavors all over our tongue. And, no, those little bumps on your tongue are not taste buds. Rather, each of those bumps contains many taste buds. Further, the right half of your tongue does not communicate with the left half of your tongue. Each half has its



own nerve that runs to the brain that interprets signals from the tongue as taste. These nerves pass right under your eardrum. That’s why a virus infecting your ear can cause you to lose some ability to taste. Dental Novocaine is often administered very close to these nerves, which is why some people experience phantom tastes when the dentist gives them a shot. Most amazing is the part touch plays in taste. If the right half of your tongue is numbed and you drag a flavor from the right half of your tongue to the left, only the left half will taste it. However, if you drag the flavor from the left half of your tongue to the right, your brain concludes that the left half of your tongue should experience the flavor, and it does, despite being numbed. The ability to taste flavors is a blessing from our Creator. He even invites us to Himself by urging us to taste and see that He is good. Notes: *Discover*, 7/00, pp. 70-75, ‘Tourist is a taste lab.’”

OLYMPICS GLORIFYING HOMOSEXUAL AGENDA

(Friday Church News Notes, August 2, 2024, www.wayoflife.org

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

- The summer Olympic Games in Paris are flaunting the homosexual agenda. Three drag queens (Minima Geste, Nicky Doll, and Miss Martini) participated as torch bearers to bring

the Olympic flame from Greece. The opening ceremony and contests themselves continued this theme. One display at the opening depicted drag queens pretending to be Christ and the apostles in a blasphemous re-enactment of Leonardo Da Vinci's *Last Supper*. "From the moment that the 2024 Paris Olympics launched its opening ceremony ... it became clear that pushing the LGBTQ agenda was at the top of the program with a sequence that made the opening the 'gayest opening ceremony ever.' ... Despite many global sports organizations ruling against allowing transgender and non-binary players to participate, two non-binary competitors will compete in this year's games" (*Breitbart*, July 26, 2024). ("Binary" refers to male and female.) Sodom is mentioned multiple times in the New Testament in the context of the end-times, Christ's return, and God's judgment upon impenitent sinners. "But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed" (Luke 17:29-30). "Even as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire. Likewise also these *filthy* dreamers defile the



flesh, despise dominion, and speak evil of dignities" (Jude 1:7-8).

NEWLY ELECTED PRESIDENT AFFIRMS IRAN'S GOAL TO DESTROY ISRAEL

(Friday Church News Notes, August 2, 2024, www.wayoflife.org fbn@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- "Iran's President-elect Masoud Pezeshkian on Monday reaffirmed Tehran's dedication to destroying Israel, saying its proxies across the region will not allow the Jewish state's 'criminal policies' to continue. 'The Islamic Republic has always supported the resistance of the people of the region against the illegitimate Zionist regime. The support of the resistance is rooted in the fundamental policies of the Islamic Republic,' Pezeshkian wrote in a missive to Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah. ... Pezeshkian's win is not expected to produce any major policy shift in Tehran's nuclear program or support for Hamas in Gaza, Hezbollah in Lebanon, the Houthis in Yemen, or the various militias in Iraq and Syria" ("Iranian president-elect," *Israel Today*, July 9, 2024). **Iran's fervent, persistent, unreasonable desire to destroy Israel is a fulfillment of Bible prophecy. Iran was called Persia until 1935, and according to the prophecy of Ezekiel 38, Persia will be a major part of the Gog Magog (Russia) military coalition that will attack Israel during the day of the Lord.** Even today, Russia is a major player in providing Iran with arms and nuclear technology. In September 2008, Israel's ambassador to the United States, Sallai Meridor, warned that Russian arms sales to Iran and Syria are "destabilizing and dangerous for Israel" ("Israel Irked by Iran-Russia Military Ties," PressTV.ir, Sept. 13, 2008). In 2014,



Russia pledged to build two more nuclear power plants in Iran ("Iran, Russia Agree to Continue Nuclear Cooperation," ITAR-TASS, May 29, 2014). In August 2012, Iranian president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said "the ultimate goal of world forces must be the annihilation of Israel" (*Jerusalem Post*, Aug. 2, 2012). On Nov. 8, 2014, Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei tweeted, "This barbaric, wolflike & infanticidal regime of Israel which spares no crime has no cure but to be annihilated." These threats will turn out to be hot air, because according to Bible prophecy the armies of Persia will suffer destruction with Russia. Jehovah God says, "And I will plead against him with pestilence and with blood; and I will rain upon him, and upon his bands, and upon the many people that are with him, an overflowing rain, and great hailstones, fire, and brimstone. Thus will I magnify myself, and sanctify myself; and I will be known in the eyes of many nations, and they shall know that I am the LORD" (Ezekiel 38:22-23). This will mark the time of Israel's repentance and conversion. "So will I make my holy name known in the midst of my people Israel; and I will not *let them* pollute my holy name any more: and the heathen shall know that I *am* the LORD, the Holy One in Israel. ... And I will set my glory among the heathen, and all the heathen shall see my judgment that I have executed, and my hand that I

have laid upon them. So the house of Israel shall know that I *am* the LORD their God from that day and forward. ... Then shall they know that I *am* the LORD their God, which caused them to be led into captivity among the heathen: but I have gathered them unto their own land, and have left none of them any more there. Neither will I hide my face any more from them: for I have poured out my spirit upon the house of Israel, saith the Lord GOD” (Ezekiel 39:7, 21, 22, 28, 29).

CHRISTIAN TEACHER BANNED FOR MISGENDERING PUPIL LOSES HIGH COURT APPEAL IN BRITAIN (Friday Church News Notes, August 2, 2024, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from “Christian teacher,” *Premier Christian News*, July 26, 2024: “A Christian maths teacher who was banned from teaching after ‘misgendering a pupil’ has lost his High Court appeal against the decision. Joshua Sutcliffe challenged a prohibition order issued in May 2023 by a regulator, which found him guilty of ‘unacceptable professional conduct’ while employed at The Cherwell School in Oxford from 2015 to 2018, the *Oxford Mail* reports. His lawyers argued that the order was an ‘unjustified interference’ with his rights to freedom of speech and religion. However, the Government



countered that Sutcliffe failed ‘to distinguish between his role as a teacher and his activities as a preacher’. In a written ruling on Thursday 25th July, Mr Justice Pepperall dismissed the appeal, stating that Sutcliffe ‘fails to understand or accept the harm that he caused vulnerable children in his class’. The judge found no merit in Sutcliffe’s argument that his human rights had been violated, emphasising that his professional duties to treat children with dignity and respect must be balanced against his right to express his religious convictions. In an interview with *Premier Christian Radio*, Tim Dieppe from advocacy group Christian Concern, who have supported Sutcliffe, said that he was very ‘shocked’ and ‘disappointed’ about the outcome, claiming that this means ‘teachers have compelled speech’. After the judgment, Sutcliffe said: ‘With this ruling, every teacher is at risk if they share their beliefs and views in the classroom.’”

A MUSIC WARNING ABOUT T O L E R A T I N G , A C C O M M O D A T I N G , I N C L U D I N G (Friday Church News Notes, August 2, 2024, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - This is a warning for churches and institutions that are playing with contemporary worship music. A major element of the contemporary sound is the non-resolution of chord tension. **Returning to the key note or tonal center creates a solid, resolved feel to the music.** Pastor Nathan Searle says, “99.99% of all our hymns have perfect resolution. This was a characteristic of all of the great composers, until there were those who started to move away from



the laws. ... **You cannot change the way you write harmony without changing the message of the music. You start to go down a path of no absolutes, and you just write for whatever feels good; you are in dangerous territory.** Most of the modern songs being written lack resolution; they are using 11th chords, and 11th chords by definition can’t resolve. **It creates that kind of mysterious, mystical feel, and that’s in a lot of conservative churches now”** (*A Biblical Philosophy of Music*, Southern Cross Baptist Church, Engadine, NSW, www.scbc.org.au/music.aspx). Only a small percentage of contemporary worship hymns employ a balance in tension and resolution in the chord structure. The lack of resolution, the unresolving chord sequences, create a sensual effect, which is what contemporary worshipers desire. Like secular society at large, they are “hooked on a feeling.” Consider the following warning by David Moss: **“If we use music in our churches or in our personal lives that is contaminated with harmful elements of unresolved tension, even in small doses, our ability to demonstrate the difference between holy and unholy, clean and unclean will be greatly inhibited.** The world thrives on music that is saturated with unresolved tension; it provides an anesthetic to reality. It is a strange paradox that the people of the world

use one form of tension to resolve another form of tension. Yet stranger still is that Christian people who have available to them the real solutions to the pressure points of life would rather follow the faulty solutions of the world. We are in danger of being led away from good music by the Pied Piper of worldliness. Compromise is overwhelming the church of Jesus Christ, and someone must stand up and say it is time to go the other way. When we **TOLERATE**, we begin to **ACCOMMODATE**. When we accommodate, we begin to **INCLUDE**. When we include, we are no longer what we used to be" (David Moss, *God's Song*).

EVANGELICALS AND THE PRAYER CIRCLE (Friday Church News Notes, August 9, 2024, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The prayer circle is a practice adapted from Jewish mysticism and paganism that is growing in popularity within the dangerous waters of "evangelicalism." It was practiced at the 2012 *Revive Our Hearts* conference in Indianapolis. (Conference speakers: Nancy Demoss Wolgemuth, Joni Eareckson Tada, Joy McClain, Janet Parshall, Mary Kassian, and Priscilla Shirer.) A circle was drawn around the speaker's podium in the belief that prayer within the circle brought



special concentration, protection, and power. This is derived from the myth of a Jewish miracle worker rabbi named Honi HaMe'agel that is mentioned in the Jewish Talmud. (There is also an account of Honi sleeping 70 years.) To cause rain, he drew a circle around himself and from within the circle demanded that God

A WARM BLOODED TURTLE (Friday Church News Notes, August 2, 2024, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is from CreationMoments.com, June 4, 2024: "For generations it was a rule that reptiles were cold blooded. And turtles, being reptiles, were therefore called cold blooded as well. Being cold blooded, it was expected that the body temperature of turtles would be close to that of the surrounding water. It was creation scientist Dr. Wayne Frair who first discovered a "warm blooded" turtle in the early 1970s. He and two other scientists published their historic research in the journal *Science* in 1972. They reported the discovery of a giant leatherback turtle weighing 920 pounds that was able to maintain a body temperature of 72 degrees Fahrenheit, even when placed in a tank of 45 degree water. Leatherback turtles range from warm tropical waters to cold northern waters, often migrating between them. This discovery actually shatters two false claims made by evolutionary science. First of all, it proves that reptiles can be warm blooded and that the leatherback turtle is warm



blooded. Secondly, this is one of many examples answering the claim that scientists who believe in creation aren't real scientists. Over the years, many scientists who believe in creation have made important discoveries in science. This shouldn't surprise us, since science studies the material world that the Creator made. Scientists who believe in creation are actually in a better position to learn what He has done than those who deny Him. Ref: Discovery. *BibleScience Newsletter*, Apr. 1973, p. 2."

bring rain. The practice has been popularized by Mark Batterson, pastor of National Community Church, Washington, D.C., in *The Circle Maker* (2011 audio, 2012 book). The book, which has sold more than 1 million copies, promises to “show you how to claim God-given promises, pursue God-sized dreams, and seize God-ordained opportunities.” Batterson commits a massive error by interpreting Scripture by a Jewish myth instead of interpreting the myth by Scripture (and thus rejecting it). The only sure protection in this age of frightful apostasy is to have a biblical testing mindset: to be born again, to be a serious Bible student, and to test everything by the Word of God. This is described in Hebrews 5:12-14.

MASSACHUSETTS ERASES “MOTHER” AND “FATHER” FROM BIRTH CERTIFICATES (Friday Church News Notes, August 9, 2024, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from “Removes ‘Mother’ and ‘Father,’” *PJMedia*, July 31, 2024). “Up in Massachusetts, House Bill 4750 just passed the state Senate and was headed for the governor's desk to be signed into law as of yesterday. What this bill does is replace the words ‘mother’ and ‘father’ on new birth certificates with ‘person who gave

birth’ and ‘other parent.’ ... Back in May, Illinois passed a similar law turning plain language into clunky, awkward mouthfuls, by rebranding offenders, as in, you know, criminals, into ‘justice-impacted individuals.’”

ANOTHER HOMOSEXUAL CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP LEADER (Friday Church News Notes, August 9, 2024, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

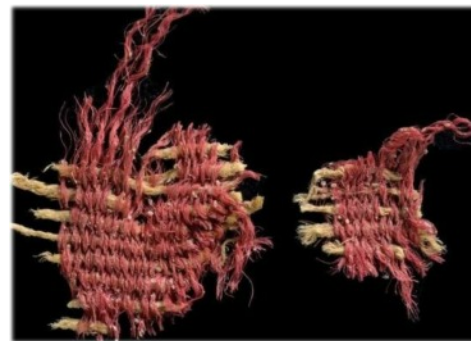
- In July, black gospel singer/evangelist Seth Pinnock of the United Kingdom announced his homosexuality by posting a poem on social media declaring he was “Black, Queer, Christian, Here.” Like others, Pinnock blames the condemnation of homosexuality for his depression, self-hatred, and drug addiction. He says he has found liberty through “progressive pastors” who helped him understand that God does not condemn him. “[They] helped me unlearn and relearn scripture, and to see this as a justice issue” (“This is right,” *The Guardian*, Jul. 28, 2024). They helped him “approach scripture with a modern, critical lens.” He told the *Guardian*, “[J]ust as churches have come to apologise for their entanglement with slavery, I can see a time when they will apologise for distancing and silencing queer people.” He is referring to the black Pentecostal churches in which he grew up. He said the young generation has been positive toward his “coming out.” “Younger people are listening to movements that are more inclusive. Will black churches continue to be as influential on younger people? No. ... There are hundreds of thousands of young people who will now feel they can too be free. I know of churches that are already beginning to discuss LGBT+ issues because of my action.” (For



more on this, see the report “Homosexuality and CCM,” www.wayoflife.org.)

ANCIENT BLUE, PURPLE, AND SCARLET DYED FABRIC FOUND IN SOUTHERN ISRAEL

(Friday Church News Notes, August 9, 2024, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Since the 1950s, ancient samples of the three colors of dyed fabric mentioned in connection with the tabernacle have been discovered in southern Israel (though there is no connection between these fabrics and the actual tabernacle). The three colors are mentioned in Exodus 26:36--“blue” is the Hebrew *tekhelet*; “purple” is *argaman*; and “scarlet” is *tola*. Tiny swatches of blue dyed wool were found in the 1950s in a cave near the Dead Sea. The dye, made from the mollusk *Murex trunculus*, dates to about the time of Herod the Great (*Bible History Daily*, Jan. 2, 2014). The swatch of royal purple, also made from Mediterranean mollusks, was found at Timnah in 2020. It is Carbon-14



dated to about 1000 BC, the time of David and Solomon (*Bible History Daily*, Jan. 31, 2021). The piece of **scarlet** fabric was discovered this year in a cave near Masada (*Bible History Daily*, July 26, 2024). This dye was produced from a scale insect named *Kermes vermilio* and is Carbon-14 dated to about 1,800 BC, which is the time of Abraham.

JONI EARECKSON TADA AND CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER

(Friday Church News Notes, August 9, 2024, www.wayoflife.org/fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - “Evangelicalism” today is filled with dangerous heretical practices promoted by seemingly “safe” people. Consider Joni Eareckson Tada, author of more than 40 books and extremely popular in evangelical circles. In 2023, she published *The Practice of the Presence of Jesus* to promote the contemplative prayer techniques of Nicholas Herman (c. 1611-1691), known as “Brother Lawrence.” He was a Roman Catholic monk (“lay brother”) who preached Rome’s false gospel of sacraments and works, worshiped Mary as Queen of Heaven, and practiced mind-emptying meditation. He lived in a monastery in Paris called the Discalced Carmelite Priory, which is devoted to Mary. A century before Brother Lawrence, Teresa of Avila and John of the Cross had reformed the Carmelite order



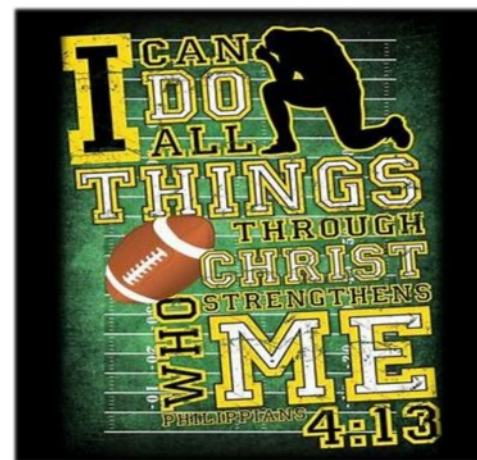
Joni Eareckson Tada

with their mystical practices and extreme asceticism. Deceived by Rome, Lawrence thought that his own works atoned for sins. He labored under a terrible legalistic bondage of Roman asceticism rather than the wonderful freedom of the true gospel of Jesus Christ. He considered sacrifice and suffering as *a means of salvation*. Priest Joseph de Beauford, compiler of Lawrence’s teaching, observed, “His one desire was that he might suffer something for the love of God, FOR ALL HIS SINS, and finding in his last illness a favorable occasion for suffering in this life, he embraced it heartily.” “Lawrence encourages readers to listen to ‘the voice of God,’ chant mantras, empty your mind in order to be filled, and thus ‘experience God.’” The Bible, to the contrary, instructs the believer to be sober-minded and vigilant, which means to be in full control of one’s mind. Emptying the mind is an exceedingly dangerous occult practice that enables demons to influence one’s thinking and allows error to run unchecked. It is a recipe for spiritual delusion. That Lawrence was dealing with demons is obvious from his own experience. When something would take his mind away from God he would receive “a reminder from God” that moved him to “cry out, singing and dancing violently like a mad man” (Gerald May, *The Awakened Heart*, HarperCollins, 1993). Joni (pronounced Johnny), who quotes from “Brother Lawrence” throughout her book, is drawing thousands of unsuspecting Christians into the very, very dangerous world of contemplative prayer. The practice almost invariably leads to ecumenical sympathy with Roman Catholicism, and often it leads to the heresies of universalism and even pantheism (God is everything) and panentheism

(God is in everything). For more on this subject, see the free eBook *Evangelicals and Contemplative Prayer*, www.wayoflife.org. A more comprehensive book, *Contemplative Mysticism: A Powerful Ecumenical Bond*, is also available from Way of Life Literature.

CHRISTIANS AND SUNDAY SPORTS THEN AND NOW

(Friday Church News Notes, August 9, 2024, www.wayoflife.org/fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Prior to the onslaught of the rock & roll pop culture, most Christians in America were opposed to Sunday sports. In 1927, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court ruled by a vote of 7 to 2 that Sunday baseball was “unholy” and “worldly employment.” “The 1958 book *Ten Famous Christian Athletes*, authored by a Youth For Christ leader, featured only athletes who refrained from Sunday play. As late as 1960, an editorial in *Christianity Today* lambasted Christian athletes who played professional football and thereby ‘yielded to the lure of money and added fame, and joined in the desecration of the Lord’s Day’” (“How Billy Graham Made Peace with Sunday Sports,” *Athletes in Action*, a Cru Ministry, nd.). “By the 1960s, however, Graham’s views on Sunday sports had shifted. By then,



A GLOWING BALLET (Friday Church News Notes, August 9, 2024, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is from CreationMoments.com, July 25, 2024: "Many creatures have complex and beautiful mating rituals. However, few are more wondrous or dramatic than the firefleas' ritual. The fireflea is a marine crustacean about the size of a sesame seed. They are found in the Caribbean. Firefleas, as the name implies, are capable of generating light. The light is used to signal danger and for their mating ritual. When attacked, firefleas generate a cloud of light in the water, helping some firefleas escape and drawing the attention of larger predators to the firefleas' attacker. There is enough light-generating chemicals in one fireflea to give ten minutes of light bright enough to read by. During the mating ritual, only the males emit light. However, this is not simply random lighting. The males produce differing dot and dash patterns in the water as they try to gain a female's approval. Some species produce vertical lines of dots while others make horizontal lines. One



species swims in packs, producing large dotted patterns by coordinating their release of light with each other. The fireflea is a tiny and seemingly unimportant creature. The meaning of its complex light displays went unnoticed until just the last 20 years. Though unknown to man for thousands of years, the fireflea has continued to praise its Creator by doing what He created it to do. Are you doing what your Creator created you to do? Notes: 'Romantic Lighting,' *Discover*, Feb. 1988, p. 16."

athletes like Bill Wade, Don Shinnick, and Bill Glass (football), Bobby Richardson, Al Worthington, and Felipe Alou (baseball), had entered the professional ranks, playing on Sundays even as they expressed support for the born-again evangelistic message that Graham espoused. Graham's insistence that athletes maintain their Christian testimony by refraining from Sunday play weakened, and he began featuring Glass, Richardson, and other well-known professional athletes and coaches at his revivals"

APOSTLE JOYNER VISITING HEAVEN AND GIVING NEW REVELATIONS (Friday Church News Notes, August 16, 2024, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Rick Joyner of Morningstar Ministries, one of the slew of men and

women who falsely claim to be apostles and prophets today, stated recently that he has been visiting heaven and receiving new revelations. On Aug. 6 he tweeted, "I know many many critical events are going on in the world, but I've been visiting heaven, where it seems no one is worried, so I'm not either. I have been getting what may be the most revelation yet about what the Lord is doing, and is about to do." Obviously the Bible is not the sole authority for faith and practice with these people contrary to what Paul taught in 2 Timothy 3:16-17. In their lust for



new revelations and acceptance of fables (such as latter-day apostles and visitations to heaven), they are fulfilling 2 Timothy 4:3-4. Joyner promotes the Latter Rain Manifest Sons of God heresy, which anticipates a revival of miracles whereby "anointed" believers will usher in the return of Christ. It is also called Joel's Army, Dominionism, the New Breed, and Kingdom Now. In his books *The Harvest* and *Mobilizing the Army of God*, Joyner claims that a great company of prophets and apostles will be raised up with the spirit of Phineas to take rule; the appearances of angels will be common; the Lord Himself will appear to councils of apostles; miracles will exceed the most spectacular ones recorded in Scripture, with the "anointed ones" not only walking on water but also "walking on air." All of this is sup-

posed to occur before the return of Christ and the Millennium. (See the report “Rick Joyner” at the Way of Life web site.) Joyner believes that contemporary charismatic praise music is at the heart of the end-time miracle revival. He says, “... a mighty army of Christian musicians will capture the attention of a generation to usher in the end-time revival” (“The Prophetic Power of Music,” *Charisma*, August 1992). The Lord commended the church at Ephesus for exposing false apostles. “I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars” (Revelation 2:2).

A CHURCH THAT IS STANDING FIRM AND RESISTING THE WORLD’S INFILTRATION (Friday Church News Notes, August 16, 2024, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The following is excerpted from the video series *A Biblical Philosophy of Music* by Nathan Searle, Session 4, “Music that Honours the Lord.” The church is Southern Cross Baptist Church, Engadine, New South Wales. “We have to be people of discernment. It really is a theological issue. The musicians of the ages past were theologians. They wrote these doctrinally rich hymns, such as the one we are going to sing tonight with

the choir, “Arise, My Soul, Arise.” That is a beautiful hymn. It is well written musically and is doctrinally amazing! It has about two months of sermons in it. Incredible! The men and women who wrote these hymns, they knew God and they knew music. And they wrote in such a way that their doctrine was pure and their music was pure. And how we need a call for musicians that they will know their God well that they might write music that is pure and in keeping with the character of God. We want to know how this music is getting into the churches. We want to be equipped. **When the trumpet sounds, I don’t know about you, but I want to be a part of a local church that is standing firm, that is resisting the temptation to change, resisting the world’s infiltration, one that is ready and pure at His coming**” (www.sebc.org.au/music.aspx). **CONCLUDING NOTE FROM BRO. CLOUD:** It is so refreshing and encouraging to see these remnant churches that are standing firm and wisely on the music issue, going up stream, refusing to follow the crowd. They aren’t just “using the hymnal” in the typical manner merely as tradition. They are busy educating all of the people, young and old, on the music issue. They are getting increasingly wise about the choice of hymns. They are studying hymns. They are using great hymns to theologically educate the people. They are reaching back to a time of revival and bringing treasures from that time to enrich individual lives, homes, and churches in these times.

PUSH BACK AGAINST TRANS-GENDER CONVERSION AGENDA (Friday Church News Notes, August 16, 2024, www.wayoflife.org)



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- The following is excerpted from “The Cost of Rejecting God’s Design,” *Standing for Freedom*, Aug. 6, 2024: “The pervasiveness of truth-rejecting ideology has been on full display at the Paris Olympics, from the perverse opening ceremonies to ‘opponents with XY chromosomes’ (males) allowed to box biological women. ... No matter your worldview, men and women everywhere should be outraged that this pervasive agenda that panders to sexual perversion and delusion is being platformed and enabled--at the expense of society at large, but especially children. ... When the San Francisco Gay Men’s Chorus sang, ‘We’re Coming for Your Children’ in 2021, or last year when LGBTQ activists in a New York City parade chanted, ‘We’re here! We’re queer! We’re coming for your children!’ they weren’t kidding. ... Minors are subjecting themselves to treatments that will render them as lifetime medical patients who will continue to suffer and who will never, no matter how hard they try, succeed in ‘transitioning’ to the opposite sex. ... Sex is determined at conception and is immutable; no amount of hormones, surgery, or ‘treatment’ will alter the DNA ingrained in every cell. ... The darkness of this atrocity is finally coming to light, thanks to the bravery of whistleblowers like Dr. Eithan Haim and nurse Vanessa Sivadge,



who exposed Texas Children's Hospital's undercover transgender operations on minors, and the work of investigative journalists like Brandon Showalter. 'Detransitioners' who woke up to the lies they were fed are now coming out and warning others not to make the same mistakes they did. While states like California are now officially banning teachers from telling parents if their child is identifying as a different gender while at school, over half of states in the U.S. have used the legislative process to protect children from transgender activism. Currently, 26 states ban puberty blockers, hormone therapies, and mutilating surgeries for minors (though 4 states are currently blocked from enforcing those laws amid legal challenges), while 25 states have made it illegal for biological males to participate in female sports (with 7 states now blocked due to legal challenges). Meanwhile, 15 states regulate classroom instruction on gender/sexual orientation, 13 states mandate the use of public-school restrooms based on biological sex, and 18 states have codified giving parents the 'fundamental right to make decisions concerning the upbringing, education, and care of their child.' Eight states have laws defining 'man' and 'woman,' and six states ban public adult performances (drag shows) for minors (with three of those states currently blocked)."

MUSK SAYS TRANS CHILD FIGURATIVELY "KILLED BY WOKE MIND VIRUS" (Friday Church News Notes, August 16, 2024, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from "Musk says," *Fox News*, July 22, 2024: "Tesla and SpaceX CEO Elon



Musk said he was 'tricked' into giving consent for his child to go on puberty blockers, adding that he believes 'the woke mind virus' figuratively killed his son. Musk made the comment in an interview with Dr. Jordan Peterson on Monday after he was asked about his thoughts on doctors performing sex change procedures on children, a practice both Musk and Peterson described as 'evil.' ... [Musk said,] 'I was essentially tricked into signing documents for one of my older boys, Xavier. This is before I had any understanding of what was going on. COVID was going on, so there was a lot of confusion and I was told Xavier might commit suicide if he doesn't...' 'That was a lie right from the outset,' Peterson interjected. 'Incredibly evil, and I agree with you that the people that have been promoting this should go to prison,' Musk responded. ... 'I lost my son, essentially. They call it deadnaming for a reason,' Musk said. 'The reason it's called deadnaming is because your son is dead. My son Xavier is dead, killed by the woke mind virus.' After an extended pause, Musk added, 'I vowed to destroy the woke mind virus after that.' Vivian Musk came out as transgender in June 2022. Around that same time, the then-18-year-old filed a request to change names from Xavier to Vivian and take her mother's last name, the *Daily Mail* reported. 'I no longer want to be related to my biological father in any way, shape or form,'

Vivian said at the time." **CONCLUDING NOTE:** This is a very sad account. We sympathize greatly with Mr. Musk and we are glad that he is on the warpath against woke, but we also know that the woke virus will not be destroyed by Musk or the woke swamp drained by Trump. Woke is a perverse mind. It is, in the words of Scripture, a reprobate mind. The nation as a whole and these men in particular need the new mind that can come only by repentance toward God and saving faith in Jesus Christ. Only spiritual weapons can defeat spiritual enemies (2 Corinthians 10:4-5). Unless God hears the effectual intercessory prayers of His redeemed people in the Bible-believing churches, churches that are currently far too prayerless, woke will only increase, not only in California but also in Texas and Florida and every other part of the country. The Republican Party itself is moving more toward woke every year, with its growing acceptance of feminism, the homosexual and abortion agenda, etc.

IRAN (PERSIA) AND RUSSIA (Friday Church News Notes, August 23, 2024, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - This month Russia began delivering air-defense systems to Iran in preparation for its promised revenge strike against Israel over the killing of Hamas political bureau chief Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran. Head of the Russian Security Council, Sergei



Shoigu, “described Iran as a key strategic ally of Russia’s in the region” (“Iran receiving Russian air defenses,” *Israel365News*, Aug. 6, 2024). Iranian armed forces commander, Brig. Gen. Mohammad Bagheri, told Shoigu that Russian-Iranian ties were “deep, long term and strategic” and would only expand under Iran’s new government (Ibid.). In 2014, Russia pledged to build two more nuclear power plants in Iran (“Iran, Russia Agree to Continue Nuclear Cooperation,” ITAR-TASS, May 29, 2014). This is fascinating in light of Bible prophecy that Persia will be a major part of the Gog Magog military alliance that will be destroyed during the day of the Lord (Ezekiel 38:3-5, 22). Iran, which was called Persia until 1935, Russia’s friend, is a vicious enemy of Israel. In August 2012, Iran’s president, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, said “the ultimate goal of world forces must be the annihilation of Israel” (*Jerusalem Post*, Aug. 2, 2012). That same month, Ahmadinejad called Israel a “cancerous tumor” that must be removed, and a top Iranian military commander said he would welcome an Israeli strike against Iran’s nuclear facilities because it would give his nation a reason to retaliate and “get rid of the Jewish state forever” (“Top Iranian Commander,” *The Blaze*, Aug. 18, 2012). Iran’s Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei called for the annihilation of Israel. On November 8, 2014, he tweeted, “This barbaric, wolflike & infanticidal regime of Israel which spares no crime has no cure but to be annihilated.” A year earlier, Khamenei called Israel the “sinister, unclean rabid dog of the region.” In July 2024, Iran’s newly elected president, Masoud Pezeshkian, reaffirmed Tehran’s dedication to

destroying Israel, saying its proxies across the region will not allow the Jewish state’s ‘criminal policies’ to continue (*Israel Today*, July 9, 2024). (For a study on Gog Magog, see *The Future According to the Bible*, www.wayoflife.org.)

SOUTHERN BAPTIST APOSTASY (Friday Church News Notes, August 23, 2024, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- J.D. Greear, senior pastor of The Summit church and former president of the Southern Baptist Convention, illustrates the apostasy of the Convention today. Greear has a goal of planting 1,000 new churches by 2050, and in the past 15 years the church has sent out more than 1,000 people to participate in church planting work. That would be encouraging, except these churches are modeled after The Summit, and that means they are frightfully apostate. They have a name that they live, but they are dead. The evidence is irrefutable. In 2024, *Revolt News* published seven video clips demonstrating that Greear “is highly doctrinally compromised on homosexuality and social justice.” The clips are as follows: Clip 1 - Greg and Lynn MacDonald, founders of Embracing the Journey, explain how Greear helped them understand that homosexuality does not send people to hell. Clip 2 - Greear says Christians should become the “fiercest advocates of LGBT people.” Clip 5



- Greear says women who have abortions, including those in his church, have a valid reason because of the social injustice they face. Clip 6 - Greear admits having abortion providers in his church. Clip 7 - Greear says homosexuality is not a sinful choice, it’s an affliction, morally neutral, like a sickness or a disease, and God most likely won’t change that. See “[Seven Video Clips](https://therevoltnews.substack.com),” therevoltnews.substack.com.

SOUTHERN BAPTISTS VOTE DOWN PROPOSED BAN ON CHURCHES WITH FEMALE PASTORS (Friday Church News Notes, August 23, 2024, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

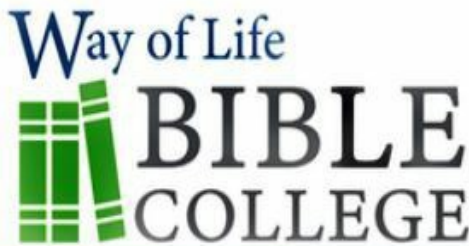
- In June, the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) rejected a proposed ban on churches with female pastors. This was the culmination of a failed attempt by conservative pastors to do something of substance about the growing number of female pastors in the convention. In 2000, a new edition of the SBC’s *Baptist Faith and Message* stated, “While both men and women are gifted for service in the church, the office of pastor is limited to men as qualified by Scripture.” That is a correct statement of the Bible’s teaching, as far as it goes, but the rule has been widely ignored, so conservatives tried to pass a formal ban. It would have restricted membership in the Convention to churches that “affirm, appoint, or employ only men as any kind of pastor or elder as qualified by Scripture.” While the ban passed its preliminary vote in 2023, it failed to garner sufficient votes on the second trial in 2024. Former SBC president J.D. Greear and others “led the charge to overturn the amendment” (“Women in Southern

Baptist Pulpits?” *The Disntr*, Aug. 19, 2024). Those who voted down the ban argued that the statement in the *Baptist Faith and Message* is sufficient and pointed out that three churches have been removed from the Convention in recent years over this issue (Saddleback Church of California, Fern Creek Baptist of Louisville, Kentucky, and First Baptist of Alexandria, Virginia). But this is a subterfuge. Pastor Mike Law, Arlington Baptist Church, Virginia, author of the proposed ban, said, **“Personally, I felt the need to offer this amendment because five Southern Baptist churches, roughly within a five-mile radius of my own congregation, are employing women as pastors of various kinds, including women serving as ‘Sr. Pastor.’ Many others have found**



that a number of Southern Baptist churches appoint, affirm, or employ women as pastors in their areas, too. These churches often use a modified title – co-pastor, worship pastor, women and children’s pastor, discipleship pastor, or youth pastor—but all trade on the office of ‘pastor.’” At the 2024 convention, Pastor Law cited a report that there are about

1,800 women pastors in the denomination. He said, “Our culture may see this prohibition as harsh, but our God is all wise, and wrote this word for the flourishing of both men and women.” That is right, but it is obvious that a large number of Southern Baptist pastors don’t want to deal with this clear biblical issue in a serious manner. They aren’t spiritual warriors; they love peace and unity above truth. The “conservatives” in the Southern Baptist Convention should obey God’s Word and depart from that deeply disobedient, mixed multitude denomination. “Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; AND AVOID THEM” (Ro. 16:17).



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



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