WAY OF LIFE LITERATURE

# O Timothy

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

A monthly newsletter for spiritual protection and edification

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## IN THIS ISSUE

ROME AND CONSERVATIVE AMERICAN POLITICS
A PICTORIAL STUDY OF WEST COAST'S CONTEMPORARY FRUIT
EVANGELICALS AND LIBERAL VIEWS OF SCRIPTURE
FIRST TELEVISED ROCK WORSHIP SERVICE
"BEFORE THE THRONE OF GOD ABOVE" — CHARITIE BANCROFT
DARWIN'S DEATH
DIGGING IN THE WALLS



## ROME & CONSERVATIVE AMERICAN POLITICS

The Roman Catholic Church has a major role in the ecumenical movement, in Contemporary Christian Music, and in America's political conservative movement.

In light of Bible prophecy, this is not surprising and it is not insignificant.

The Roman Catholic Church has been a major aspect of the false Christianity through the centuries. It is the precursor to Mystery Babylon of Revelation 17. Though the complete fulfillment will not occur until the rise of the Antichrist in the Day of the Lord, Rome has the major characteristics of Revelation 17: full of names of blasphemy, arrayed in purple and scarlet, decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication, drunken with the blood of the saints, sitting on seven mountains, and covering peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues.

The Roman Catholic Church is totally false Christianity.

The Roman Catholic Church has a false gospel of sacraments and works, beginning with baptism. The

following is from the Second Vatican Council, Rome's most recent authoritative doctrinal statement:

> "By the sacrament of Baptism, whenever it is properly conferred in the way the Lord determined and received with the proper dispositions of soul, man becomes truly incorporated into the crucified and glorified Christ and is reborn to a sharing of the divine life" (Vatican Council II, Decree on Ecumenism, chap. 3, II, 22, p. 427). "Thus by Baptism men are grafted into the paschal mystery of Christ. ... They receive the spirit of adoption as sons" (Vatican Council II, Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, Chap. 1, I, 5,6, pp. 23-24). "For it is the liturgy through which, especially in the divine sacrifice of the Eucharist [the mass], 'the work of our redemption is accomplished,' and it is through the liturgy, especially, that the faithful are enabled to express in their lives and manifest to others the mystery of Christ and the real nature of the true Church" (Vatican Council II, Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, Introduction, para. 2). "All children of the Church should nevertheless remember that their exalted condition results, not from their own merits, but from the grace of Christ. If they fail to respond in thought, word and deed to that grace, not only shall they not be saved, but they shall be the more severely judged" (Vatican Council II, Dogmatic Constitution on the Church, chap. 2, 14, p. 337). "In that body the life of Christ is communicated to those who believe and who, through the sacraments, are united in a hidden and real way to Christ in his passion and glorification" (Vatican Council II, Dogmatic Constitution on the Church, Chap. 1, 7, p. 327).

The Roman Catholic Church has a false Christ, the Christ of the mass or eucharist. The Catholic mass is a heretical abomination whereby the blessed wafer, the host, allegedly becomes the actual body and blood of Jesus Christ by the instrumentality of the priestly ritual. The host is kept in a tabernacle or monstrance and worshiped as Christ. The mass was called "a re-sacrifice of Christ" by the Second Vatican Council.

> "For in it Christ perpetuates in an unbloody manner the sacrifice offered on the cross, offering himself to the Father for the world's salvation through the ministry of priests" (Vatican Council II, The Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, Instruction on the Worship of the Eucharistic Mystery, Introduction, C 1, 2).

The Roman Catholic Church has a false Mary. She is the sinless Mother of God, perpetual virgin, bodily assumed into heaven as Queen over All, Co-redemptress, Mediatrix, and Advocate (See Vatican Council II, Dogmatic Constitution on the Church, chap. 8, I, 52, 53; II, 56, 59, 62, pp. 378, 381-383).

Scripture warns of the development of apostasy through the church age with an explosion of false Christianity at the end of the age, which is exactly where we are and exactly what we see. Scripture forbids God's redeemed people to join hands with false Christianity for any purpose, not for evangelism, not for anti-abortion crusades, not for politics, etc. In a major passage describing and warning of the apostasy (2 Timothy 3-4), the apostle Paul said,

> "Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away" (2 Ti. 3:5).

If we encounter professing Christians who don't hold a sound gospel, don't have biblical evidence of the new birth, don't hold to infallible Scripture, add tradition to the same authority as Scripture, etc., God's Word says to turn away from them. See also Acts 20:28-31; Romans 16:17; 1 Corinthians 15:33; 2 Corinthians 6:14-19; Philippians 3:17-19; Ephesians 5:8-11; Colossians 2:8, 18; 1 Timothy 4:1-3; 2 Timothy 2:16-21; 3:3-4; 2 Peter 2; Jude 1:3-23; Revelation 2:2, 14-15.

Broad tent evangelical ministries such as Turning Point USA do some good, but in the end they are building the one-world church and are bridges to every heresy that exists in our day.

Christ has already assigned the business of His redeemed people for this age, and it is the Great Commission and the New Testament church (Matthew 28:18-20; 1 Timothy 3:15).

We appreciate any good thing in ministries such as Turning Point (and the old Moral Majority), but we are going to obey God's Word and mark and avoid error (Romans 16:17) and give our full attention to proclaiming and obeying the whole counsel of God. The Lord Jesus Christ has given our marching orders to the end of the age. We refuse to join hands with any remnant of the apostasy, even if it is labeled "evangelical," for a political agenda or any other purpose.

Many fundamental Baptists are getting weaker in their thinking on biblical separation through association with evangelical ministries and engagement in conservative ecumenical politics.

For extensive evidence of what is happening in evangelicalism, see EVANGELICALS AND THE

GREAT APOSTASY at the Books section of www.wayoflife.org. This course consists of a textbook, video classes, PowerPoints, review questions, and tests. See especially the PowerPoint segment "Evangelicalism a Bridge to Dangerous Waters." The PowerPoints are available for free downloads at the PowerPoints section of www.wayoflife.org.

## Prominent Roman Catholic Political Conservatives

**Raymond Arroyo** (Fox News commentator, *The World Over Live* on EWTN - Eternal Word Television Network)

**Bret Baier** (Fox News commentator and chief political anchor; author of To Rescue the American Spirit: Teddy Roosevelt and the Birth of a Superpower)

**Maria Bartiromo** (Fox News commentator; author of The Cost: Trump, China, and American Renewal)

**Jeremy Beer** (co-editor of American Conservatism: An Encyclopedia)

**William Bennett** (hosted Morning in America, a syndicated radio show in the morning drive time slot, Fox News commentator; founder of Empower America; fellow of the Claremont Institute; author of The Death of Outrage: Bill Clinton and the Assault on American Ideals)

**Dan Bongino** (conservative commentator; author of Follow the Money: The Shocking Deep State Connections of the Anti-Trump Cabal)

**L. Brent Bozell Jr.** (1926-1997) (associated with William F. Buckley Jr in the National Review; co-authored McCarthy and His Enemies)

**Patrick Buchanan** (consultant to Presidents Nixon, Ford and Reagan; co-founder of the American Conservative magazine; Fox News contributor; founder of The American Cause)

**James Burnam** (1905-1987) (contributor to the National Review; author of The Managerial Revolution, Suicide of the West: An Essay on the Meaning and Destiny of Liberalism, and The War We Are in: The Last Decade and the Next)

**Patrick Deneen** (author of Why Liberalism Failed and Regime Change: Towards a Postliberal Future)

**Edwin Feulner** (1941-2025) (co-founder and president of the Heritage Foundation; named one of the 100 most influential conservatives in America)

**Bruce Frohnen** (co-editor of American Conservatism: An Encyclopedia; writes for The Imaginative Conservative)

**Lisa Graas** (writes for Live Action and the David Horowitz Freedom Center; author of The Sober Catholic Way)

**Greg Gutfeld** (grew up Catholic and served as an altar boy; currently claims to be an agnostic; Fox News personality, host of the comedy talk show Gutfeld!, cohost of *The Five*, author of *The Bible of Unspeakable Truths*)

**Shawn Hannity** (Fox News commentator; author of *Live Free or Die*)

**James Hitchcock** (1938-2025) (historian and columnist; contributor to EWTN; author of *History of the Catholic Church*)

**Megyn Kelly** (former Fox News commentator; founder of *The Megyn Kelly Show*, *MK Media*, and *AM Update*; author of *Settle for More*)

**John Kennedy** (Senator; author of *How to Test Negative for Stupid*)

**Alan Keyes** (hosted *The Alan Keyes Show: America's Wake-Up Call*; ambassador to the United Nations Economic and Social Council; President of Citizens Against Government Waste)

**Erika Kirk** (CEO of Turning Point USA)

**Russell Kirk** (1918-1994) (author of *The Conservative Mind*, 1953; major contributor to traditional conservatism)

**William Kovacs** (author of *Devolution of Power: Rolling Back the Federal State to Preserve the Republic)*

**Neil McCaffrey** (founder of the Conservative Book Club)

**Frank Meyer** (1909-1972) (founder of "fusionism," which unites libertarianism and traditionalism into "a synthesis posited as the definition of modern American conservatism"; author of *In Defense of*

*Freedom: A Conservative Credo and Conservative Mainstream*).

**Peggy Noonan** (political commentator; author of *When Character Was King*)

**Bill O'Reilly** (former Fox News commentator; founder of *No Spin News* podcast and television program; author of *Culture Warrior)*

**Jeanine Pirro** (judge; conservative commentator; author of *Liars, Leakers, and Liberals: The Case Against the Anti-Trump Conspiracy*)

**Marco Rubio** (U.S. Senator; Secretary of State under Donald Trump; author of *An American Son: A Memoir*; *American Dreams: Restoring Economic Opportunity for Everyone*, and *Decades of Decadence: How Our Spoiled Elites Blew America's Inheritance of Liberty, Security, and Prosperity*)

**Phyllis Schlafly** (1924-2016) (founder of the Eagle Forum; helped the Republican Party become pro-life in the 1980s; committee member of the Catholic Campaign for America; co-founder of the Cardinal Mindszenty Society to warn Catholics of communism's dangers)

**Joseph Sobran** (1946-2010) (syndicated columnist; wrote for the *National Review* and *The Wanderer*; author of *Hustler: The Clinton Legacy*)

**J.D. Vance** (U.S. Vice President; author of *Hillbilly Elegy*)

**Richard Viguerie** (executive secretary for Young Americans for Freedom; founder of the *Conservative Digest*; author of *The New Right: We're Ready to Lead*, *The Establishment vs. the People: Is a New Populist Revolt on the Way?*, *America's Right Turn: How Conservatives Used New and Alternative Media to Take Power*, *Conservatives Betrayed: How George W. Bush and Other Big Government Republicans Hijacked the Conservative Cause*, *Takeover: The 100-Year War for the Soul of the GOP and How Conservatives Can Finally Win It*).

**Matt Walsh** (founder of the *Matt Walsh Blog*; author of *The Unholy Trinity: Blocking the Left's Assault on Life, Marriage, and Gender*, *Church of Cowards: A Wake-Up Call to Complacent Christians*, *Johnny the Walrus*, and the documentary *What Is a Woman? One Man's Journey to Answer the Question of a Generation*)

**Jesse Waters** (author of *Get It Together: Tales from the Liberal Fringe*, 2024)

**Paul Weyrich** (head of the Free Congress Foundation)

**Francis Graham Wilson** (author of *The Case for Conservatism*, 1951)

**William F. Buckley Jr.** (1925-2008), founder of Young Americans for Freedom, *the National Review*, and the *Firing Line* television show, was one of the most prominent figures in American conservatism, and he was a staunch Roman Catholic.

This is emphasized in Sam Tanenhaus's biography *Buckley: The Life and the Revolution That Changed America*:

> "'To get to the root of Bill Buckley,' a friend later said, 'you've got to understand that he's a Catholic aristocrat of the Spanish persuasion.') p. 25)
>
> "... in his religious memoir, Nearer, My God, Buckley lovingly recalled the half year he spent at St. John's Beaumont, the rituals hallowed by memory--arising at sunrise for chapel, kneeling with eighty others each morning for Latin Mass and at bedtime for vespers, the evening prayers, also spoken in Latin ... It was then that 'I knew absolutely--about this there simply was no doubt--that I had had a deep and permanent involvement in Catholic Christianity.' It began with 'the closeness I felt, every morning, to the mystical things that were taking place at the altar,' the ceremony of the eucharist, wine and wafter consecrated into the blood and body of Christ" (p. 28)

My faith rests not in what I am, or shall be, or feel, or know,
but in what Christ is, in what he has done,
and in what he is doing for me.
Charles Spurgeon

# A PICTORIAL STUDY OF WEST COAST'S CONTEMPORARY FRUIT

For a pictorial study of contemporary fruit of West Coast Baptist College, including video of the contemporary services and music, see the PowerPoint "Lancaster's Role in the Downgrade" in the Satanic Attack on Sacred Music series at the PowerPoints section of www.wayoflife.org.

The last 20 years has witnessed a great change among fundamental Baptist churches, and music is usually involved in the changes.

Since the 1980s, warnings have been given about the role of contemporary music in the departure of a church from a biblical foundation, but the warnings have been widely ignored.

**Victor Sears**, editor, Baptist Bible Tribune, 1981 - " ]Contemporary music] is THE NEW TROJAN HORSE MOVE OF MODERNISM TO DEADEN OUR CHURCHES TO SPIRITUAL TRUTH" (Baptist Bible Tribune, 1981).

**John Ashbrook**, 1991 - "As the message declines, so does the music" (New Neutralism II: Exposing the Gray of Compromise).

**Ernest Pickering**, 1994 - "Perhaps nothing precipitates a slide toward New Evangelicalism more than the introduction of Contemporary Christian Music. This inevitably leads toward a gradual slide in other areas as well until the entire church is infiltrated by ideas and programs alien to the original position of the church" (The Tragedy of Compromise: The Origin and Impact of the New Evangelicalism)."

**Gordon Sears,** evangelist, 2001 - "When the standard of dress is lowered, then the standard of conduct is also lowered. When the standard of conduct is lowered, then the sense of value in God's truth is lowered" (Songfest Newsletter, April 2001). When I met Gordon Sears in 2001, he told me that invitations dropped significantly in the late 1990s because so many churches were changing their music standards.

**Frank Garlock**, BJU chapel, 2001 - "If a church starts using CCM it will eventually lose all other standards."




**David Sorenson**, 2014 -"When a church begins to move to the left, one of the first changes is its music.

It is symptomatic of a church moving from a fundamentalist to an evangelical stance" (Broad Is the Way: Fundamentalists Merging into the Evangelical Mainstream, 2014).

Contemporary worship music is not just music. Even when its lyrics are biblical and its rock rhythm is toned down, it represents a philosophy of Christianity that is opposed to what fundamentalist churches stand for. Contemporary worship music represents a philosophy of

- Judge not
- Don't criticize, be tolerant
- Be openminded
- Lighten up, don't be so strict
- Pursue liberty rather than narrowness
- Don't draw sharp lines of separation
- Have a big tent of associations

The old hymn writers were not all Baptists, but they never turned a separated Baptist church into something completely different. But this is precisely what contemporary Christian music is doing.

Lancaster Baptist Church of Lancaster, California, is having an increasingly large role in these changes. Lancaster is the home of West Coast Baptist College. Paul Chappell is Senior Pastor. West Coast is the largest fundamental Baptist college and perhaps the largest church. They have a massive influence through their conferences, literature, recorded music, and Paul Chappell's blogs. Lancaster has been "adapting" contemporary worship music for at least 15 years. We first warned about it in 2011, having seen the fruit in the Philippines and Australia. Lancaster has used a wide variety of contemporary worship songs by Hillsong, Chris Tomlin, Casting Crowns, Graham Kendrick, Rebecca St. James, MercyMe, Getty/Townend, Matt Redman, and others. Lancaster uses a praise team, a darkened building, and big video screens in imitation of the contemporary program.

Lancaster/West Coast's "do not criticize" philosophy doesn't allow for church members and students to be properly educated and warned of dangers. Therefore bridges are built from the church and student body to evangelicalism and beyond by contemporary worship music and the use of unsound authors.

If a church is adopting contemporary worship music by toning down the rhythm and not using drums and electric guitars, the members are doubtless listening to the "real thing" in their personal lives and being influenced by the contemporary musicians who are invariably ecumenists.

Lancaster's associates and graduates are producing a steady stream of contemporary churches. In many cases, the pastors of the contemporary churches are sons of Lancaster's leaders, staff, and teachers. Any man can have a son or student who goes in a different direction philosophically, but that is not the



case here. These contemporary works have not been renounced by the fathers. In fact, they speak highly of the sons.

We have documented this in a PowerPoint presentation dealing with the following churches, which are mere samples:

> Coastline Baptist Church, Oceanside, California
> Rock Hill Church, Fontana, California
> Grace Gathering, Santa Barbara, California
> Ambassador Baptist Church, Fresno, California
> Southridge Church, San Jose, California
> CityPoint Baptist Church, Tempe, Arizona
> Emmanuel Baptist Church, Newington, Connecticut
> City Baptist Church, Vancouver, B.C., Canada

Not all West Coast graduates are planting contemporary churches, but that is the overall direction, and the seeds are being sown at Lancaster itself. I don't know any graduates who have spoken out against what is happening. As far as I know, Paul Chappell has never denounced the aforementioned churches publicly and plainly.

A discerning pastor commented,

> "Pastor Chappell has produced this legacy. This is the fruit of his labor to embrace pragmatism and soften the lines of Independent Baptists. I would guess that 75% of WCBC grads end up this way within 10 years of graduating."

It is very sad to me that these young men (the Matt Chappells, the Mark Rasmussen Jrs, the John Guys, etc.) are on a wrong path, a path that will lead to anywhere within the "broader church." Only time will tell where they will end up.

They are young, talented, studious, zealous, visionary. They could be starting strong Bible churches that would stand and bear fruit and be a bright light in an evil day. They could be starting churches that are biblically stronger and wiser than any that have existed in my lifetime. They could be testing everything by God's Word alone and rejecting every tradition that is unscriptural. But this entails going back to the New Testament church described in Scripture, which is a pilgrim separatist church, rather than following the "after their own lusts" pattern of end-time apostasy (2 Tim. 4:3-4).

Sadly, that is not what we are seeing as the fruit of Lancaster Baptist Church and West Coast Baptist College.

# EVANGELICALS AND LIBERAL VIEWS OF SCRIPTURE

Evangelicalism has been leavened with theological liberalism and a multitude of other heresies since the fathers of New Evangelicalism renounced "separatism" in the 1950s. Evangelicalism today is the New Evangelicalism of the past.

It should be noted that a large number of fundamental Baptists are morphing into evangelicalism.

Consider the heresy of Form Criticism, a liberal view of the Gospels.

The Lord Jesus Christ taught that the Spirit of God would lead the apostles and prophets in recording the Gospels.

> "But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you" (Joh. 14:26).

> "Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will show you things to come. He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall show it unto you. All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall show it unto you" (Joh. 16:13-15).

This means that the number of the Gospels was established by the Holy Spirit. The Canon of Scripture was settled by God, not by man!

It means, also, that the words of the Gospels were given by the Holy Spirit. They might or might not have used secondary sources, but they certainly did not depend upon secondary sources or their own faulty memories.

The liberal, unbelieving approach to the Gospels is called "form criticism" or "redaction criticism."

**Its major principles are as follows:**

- The gospel writers supposedly used a common oral tradition that was passed around among the Christians for some time before anything was written

down. Textual critics Alford (1849) and Westcott (1860) promoted this view.

- The gospel writers supposedly used other sources. One supposed source is the "Q" document. Though it does not exist, many believe that this mythical document was the source of some or all of the gospels.

- The gospel writers supposedly copied from one another. One theory is that Matthew was first written and Mark and Luke were then based on Matthew. This was the view of textual critics Griesbach (1783) and Hug (1808). It is the official position of the Roman Catholic Church (promulgated by the Pontifical Biblical Commission, 1912). Another theory is that Mark was first written and that Matthew and Luke are based on Mark plus the mythical Q document. There are endless permeations of these theories. Each prominent critic strives to make a name for himself by inventing a new twist to this approach.

- The gospel writers supposedly modified things that Jesus did and said. They added to, subtracted from, contracted, and otherwise changed the record.

It is not only out-and-out theological modernists who are entertaining unscriptural views of the Gospels. Many "evangelicals" have adopted these views. The following statement from The Jesus Crisis: The Inroads of *Historical Criticism into Evangelical Scholarship* by Robert L. Thomas and F. David Farnell (Kregel, 1998) reveals how deeply evangelicals have been infected with the modernistic thinking of form criticism:

> "Outspoken evangelical critics have engaged in the same type of dehistoricizing activity as the Jesus Seminar people with whom they differ. If they were to organize among themselves their own evangelical 'Jesus Seminar,' the following is a sampling of the issues they would vote on, most of which they would probably pass:

- The author of Matthew, not Jesus, created the Sermon on the Mount.

- The commissioning of the Twelve in Matthew 10 is a group of instructions compiled and organized by the author of the first gospel, not spoken by Jesus on a single occasion.

- The parable accounts of Matthew 13 and Mark 4 are anthologies of parables that Jesus uttered on separate occasions.

- Jesus did not preach the Olivet Discourse in its entirety, as found in three of the gospel accounts.

- Jesus gave His teaching on divorce and remarriage without the exception clauses found in Matthew 5:32 and 19:9.

- In Matthew 19:16-17, the writer changed the words of Jesus and the rich man either to obtain a different emphasis or to avoid a theological problem involved in the wording of Mark's and Luke's accounts of the same event.

- The scribes and Pharisees were in reality decent people whom Matthew painted in an entirely negative light because of his personal bias against them.

- The genealogies of Jesus in Matthew 1 and Luke 3 are figures of speech and not accurate records of Jesus' physical and/or legal lineage.

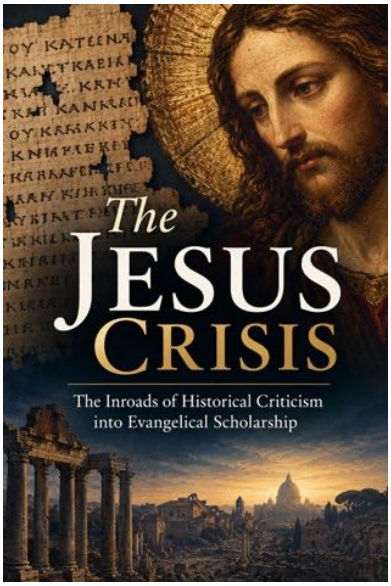
- The magi who, according to Matthew 2, visited the child Jesus after His birth are fictional, not real, characters.

- Jesus uttered only three or four of the eight or nine beatitudes in Matthew 5:3-12.

> "Recognizably, the listed conclusions impinge upon the historical accuracy of the gospel records. Various evangelicals have opted for the stated unhistorical choice in each of the suggested instances. Granted, their reduction of historical precision in the Gospels is not the wholesale repudiation of historical data as is that of the original Jesus Seminar, but that it is a repudiation is undeniable. An acceptance of imprecision is even more noticeable in light of the fact that the above questions are only the tip of the iceberg. An exhaustive list would reach staggering proportions" (Robert L. Thomas and F. David Farnell, *The Jesus Crisis*, pp. 14-15).

Examples of evangelicals who have published works supporting form criticism are Daniel B. Wallace, Dallas Theological Seminary (The Synoptic Problem); Robert H. Stein, Southern Baptist Seminary, Louisville, Kentucky (*The Synoptic Problem: An Introduction*); and D.A. Carson, Douglas Moo, and Leon Morris (An Introduction to the New Testament, Zondervan, 1992).

We reject form criticism. The crux of the matter is




divine inspiration. Either the Gospels are infallible Scripture as they claim to be, or they are the fallible work of men. There is no middle ground, and we have no hesitancy to reject all form criticism theories and accept the Bible's testimony about itself in simple faith.

If form criticism were true, it would mean that there are errors in the Bible. Even the evangelicals themselves who are dabbling in form criticism reach this conclusion. And if there are errors in the Bible, Jesus was wrong when He stated that the Scripture cannot be broken (Joh. 10:35).

Form criticism is of the devil. It is the devil who loves to cast doubt upon the Word of God. He has been doing this since his conversation with Eve in Eden (Ge. 3:1). He is doing it today through "evangelical" scholars who are trained at the feet of modernists (either directly or through their writings or through other evangelical scholars who sat under modernists). They are trying to adapt the scholarship of unbelievers to a position of faith, and it is an impossible task. Does God not warn that "evil communications corrupt good manners" (1 Co. 15:33)? Does God not warn the believer not to sit in the seat of the scornful (Ps. 1:1)? Does God not warn that the words of false teachers eat like a canker and increase ungodliness and overthrow faith (2 Ti. 2:16-18)? Does God not warn that the words of false teachers deceive hearts (Ro. 16:17-18)? The Bible says that two cannot walk together except they be agreed (Am. 3:3), yet today's "evangelical" scholar is convinced that he can walk together for months and years on end with unbelievers and not be harmed spiritually. It is a delusion.

A refutation of form criticism can be found in *The Doctrine Which Ye Have Learned*, which is available at the Courses section of www.wayoflife.org.

# FIRST TELEVISED ROCK WORSHIP SERVICE

The first televised rock worship service, a half-century ago, had all of the earmarks of Christian Music today and all of the loud warning signs for wise, Bible-believing Christians and churches.

The date was April 27, 1969, the year I entered the U.S. Army. The band was The Mind Garage; the broadcaster was ABC (American Broadcasting Corporation); the forum was Saint Mark's Episcopal Church in Bowery, Manhattan. The event was called "14th Electric Mass." It was seen by thousands of people in the United States and was rerun annually into the 1980s (classicchristianrockzine. com). Consider the earmarks of this proto-rock worship service:

**First, from its inception rock worship was pagan in sound.** The music of the first rock worship band was borrowed directly from the secular world. There was nothing sacred or holy about it. It was described as "psychedelic," which was 1960s drug music. Journalist Joyce Tracewell described it as,

> "deliberate alien music, the kind that makes you shiver." She said "they sing in voices that should have belonged to Druids or Incas or Gypsies" ("Mind Garage Deliberate Alien Music," Mindgarage.com, Apr. 19, 1970).

I know this music. I lived this music as a drug-using "hippie" before I was saved. There is nothing godly about it. It is "spiritual" only in the sense that it is of the spirit of this world. From then until now, Contemporary Christian Music has borrowed its pleasure from the cesspool of the world's party music, pretending to have this liberty, but it is not a liberty justified by God's Word. It is confusion; it is apostasy; it is rebellion to incorporate the sexualized, demon-influenced music styles of this wicked world into the worship of a thrice-holy God, the God who has commanded His people, "Be not conformed to this world" (Ro. 12:2).

**Second, from its inception rock worship was ecumenical.** The Mind Garage Band members were Baptist, Catholic, and Protestant.

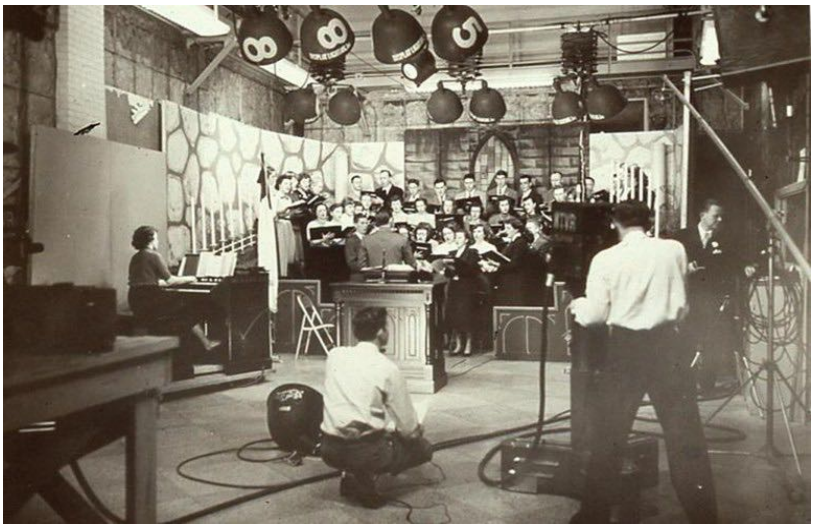
> "It was not uncommon to witness Episcopalians,

> Catholics, Protestants and Jews together, all taking Communion" ("The Electric Liturgy of 'The Mind Garage,'" *Classic Christian Rockzine*, 2015).

The Mind Garage performed in Episcopal, Catholic, Presbyterian, Baptist, and Methodist churches. Ecumenism requires an unscriptural non-judgmental stance toward doctrine and practice and an openness of heresy and apostasy. Nothing is building a "one world church" more effectively than Contemporary Christian Music. Even the more conservative contemporary worship people, such as the Gettys, are ecumenical (e.g., their noncritical relationship with Roman Catholic Matt Maher). It is telling that the first televised rock worship service was held in an Episcopal congregation, seeing that the Episcopalians have been on the cutting edge of theological modernism and apostasy. Earlier in the 1960s, Episcopalian Bishop James Pike called the virgin birth of Christ a "primitive myth" and said that Joseph was probably Jesus' real father (Redbook magazine, August 1961). He also said that Adam and Eve, the Garden of Eden, heaven, and hell are myths. In 1963, Episcopal theologian Paul van Buren started the "God is dead" movement with the publication of *The Secular Meaning of the Gospel*.

**Third, from its inception rock worship was worldly.** The longhaired men of The Mind Garage "were not overly religious" and cared little to nothing about biblical precepts against unisex and immodest fashion, alcohol and drug use, separation from filthy things such as secular rock music. The Mind Garage associated with and performed with filthy bands such as Iron Butterfly, Sly and the Family Stone, and Canned Heat. In effect, they ripped verses such as the following from their Bibles: Romans 12:2; 1 Corinthians 11:14-15; 2 Corinthians 6:14-18; Ephesians 5:11; 1 Timothy 2:9; James 4:4; and 1 John 2:15-17. Worldliness continues to be a prominent feature of Contemporary Christian Music, as we have documented in Baptist Music Wars and A Directory of Contemporary Worship Musicians, both of which are available as free eBooks from www.wayoflife.org.

**Fourth, from its inception rock worship was focused on a feeling.** A Mind Garage advertisement said,



> "We welcome you to the electric liturgy, a festival of feeling."

We are reminded that from its inception, contemporary Christian music has been experience oriented, which is largely a product of its intimate association with the charismatic movement. Contemporary worship music is a rock & roll feeling -fest. It is designed to create an emotional experience, a sensual experience, as opposed to a sacred music style that edifies through the mind and heart. We are taught to learn of Christ, not feel Christ (Mt. 11:28-30). But Graham Kendrick, one of the biggest names in contemporary worship, says,

> "The old way of preaching and singing began to give way to an expectation that ... God would visit us, and we'd EXPERIENCE HIS PRESENCE IN A TANGIBLE SORT OF WAY" (interview June 11, 2002 with Chris Davidson of Integrity Music).

Hillsong United's Matt Crocker says,

> "My goal is to create an atmosphere for people to be able to enter into the presence of God" ("Seeing the World in Wonder with Hillsong United's Matt Crocker," WorshipMusician.com, Jul. 21, 2017).

The search for feeling in worship drives the choice of a rock style of music. Unlike traditional sacred music styles, rock music produces strong sensual feelings. One rock song writer well described it as being "hooked on a feeling."

**A Bible-believing church that is playing with contemporary Christian music is playing with fire. It is building bridges to the one-world "church" and to the world itself, bridges that will eventually destroy whatever biblicist, pilgrim character the church currently possesses.**



## Hymn Highlights

# "BEFORE THE THRONE OF GOD ABOVE"

## Charitie Bancroft

Charitie Bancroft (1841-1923) was the daughter of Pastor Sidney Smith of Drumragh, County Tyrone, Ireland. She married Arthur Bancroft of Scotland in 1869. "Her hymns have appeared in periodicals, Lyra Britannica, Bishop Ryle's Spiritual Songs, and other collections, and also as leaflets." She is sometimes known by her maiden name Charitie Lees Smith (Lees was her mother's last name) and the name of her second marriage, Charitie de Cheney or de Chenez. Like practically all of the best hymnodists, she suffered much. She was twice widowed. A collection of her hymns was published in *Within the Veil* in 1867. "Before the Throne of God Above" was published in Spurgeon's Our Own Hymn Book in 1866. It has been published in 55 other hymnals.

> "Behold, I have graven thee upon the palms of my hands; thy walls are continually before me." Isaiah 49:16

**"Before the Throne of God Above" (1866)**
**Charitie Bancroft**
**Meter: 8.8.8.8.8.8.8.8.**
**Tune: Sweet Hour of Prayer (William Bradbury)**

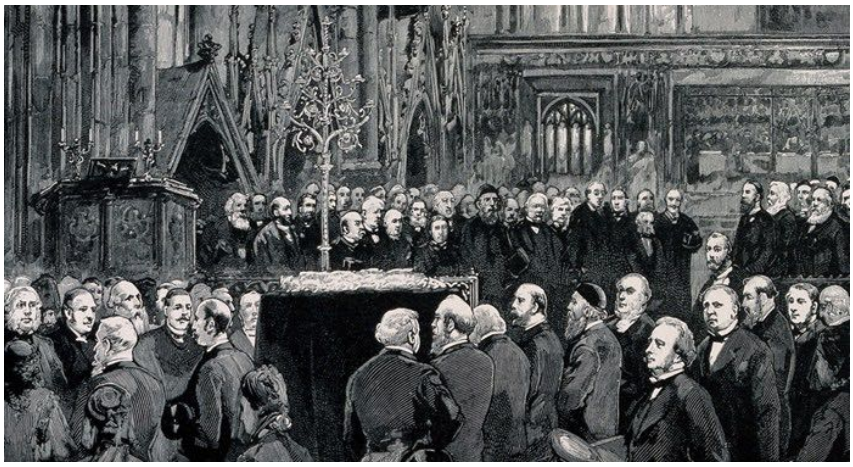
The hymn can also be sung to Long Meter 8.8.8.8 by dividing the stanzas into six. Tunes: Dunedin, Festus, Jerusalem (Parry)

1 Before the throne of God above
I have a strong and perfect plea,
a great High Priest whose name is "Love,"
who ever lives and pleads for me.
My name is graven on His hands;
my name is written on His heart;
I know that while in heav'n He stands,
no tongue can bid me thence depart;
no tongue can bid me thence depart.

2 When Satan tempts me to despair,
and tells me of the guilt within,
upward I look and see Him there
who made an end of all my sin.
Because the sinless Savior died,
my sinful soul is counted free;
for God the Just is satisfied
to look on Him and pardon me;
to look on Him and pardon me.

3 Behold Him there, the risen Lamb!
My perfect, spotless Righteousness;
the great unchangeable I AM,
the King of glory and of grace!
One with Himself I cannot die;
my soul is purchased with His blood;
my life is hid with Christ on high,
with Christ my Savior and my God;
with Christ my Savior and my God!

Musical Score
https://hymnary.org/text/
before_the_throne_of_god_above_i_have_a_



# DARWIN'S DEATH

The following is excerpted from *Seeing the Non-Existent: Evolution's Myths and Hoaxes*, 638 pages, available as a free e Book at the Books section of wayoflife.org

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Having rejected the Bible and God and the doctrine of eternal life, Darwin was left with no meaning in life and a bleak future in which man is doomed to perish in a dying universe.

> "With respect to immortality, nothing shows me how strong and almost instinctive a belief it is, as the consideration of the view now held by most physicists, namely that the sun with all the planets will in time grow too cold for life, unless indeed some great body dashes into the sun and thus gives it fresh life.--Believing as I do that man in the distant future will be a far more perfect creature than he now is, it is an intolerable thought that he and all other sentient beings are doomed to complete annihilation after such long-continued slow progress" (*Autobiography*, p. 92).

Before his death, Darwin professed

> "no assured and ever present belief in the existence of a personal God or of a future existence with retribution and reward" (Desmond, *Darwin*, p. 636).

Interestingly, though, the last words of this man who had no belief in God were "Oh God, oh Lord God." Every agnostic and every atheist believes in God in his heart of hearts.

Darwin was buried in Westminster Abbey with a full-blown Anglican funeral. The "elders of science, State, and Church, the nobility of birth and talent" were in attendance. It was called "the greatest gathering of intellect that was ever brought together in our country."

The Darwins and Wedgewoods gathered in the Jerusalem Chamber, where one of the committees had met to work on the King James Bible and where, more recently, the English Revised Version committee led by Westcott and Hort had deliberated.

Among his pall bearers were the old X-Clubbers Huxley and Hooker and New Ager Alfred Wallace.

The coffin was draped in black velvet and covered with white flowers. Choristers sang "I am the resurrection." A special hymn composed for the occasion was taken from the book of Proverbs. Incongruously, it began, "Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and getting understanding," and ended with, "He ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace."

As the coffin was lowered into the grave, the choristers sang, "His body is buried in peace, but his name liveth evermore."

**Darwin's Deification**

Darwin was buried in Westminster Abbey. Three years after his death, a life-sized statue was erected in the most prominent place in the new Natural History Museum. The Times called it "The Temple of Nature," and Pope Huxley presided over the dedication ceremony.

At some point in the 20th century, the statue was moved to another area of the museum, but on the 100th anniversary of Darwin's death, it was restored to a place of prominence, where it remains today, looking for all the world like an idol enshrined in a temple.

# 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?

**GOG, MAGOG, AND IRAN** (Friday Church News Notes, September 25, 2026, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - "And say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I am against thee, O Gog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal ... And I will turn thee back, and put hooks into thy jaws, and I will bring thee forth, and all thine army, horses and horsemen, all of them clothed with all sorts of armor, even a great company with bucklers and shields, all of them handling swords: PERSIA, Ethiopia, and Libya with them; all of them with shield and helmet: Gomer, and all his bands; the house of Togarmah of the north quarters, and all his bands: and many people with thee" (Ezekiel 38:3-6). Persia (the name was changed to Iran in 1935), is a friend of Russia and a rabid enemy of Israel. 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). Russia is a major player in providing Iran with nuclear technology and high-tech armaments. In 2009, Iran's defense ministry hailed the nation's military ties to Russia (AP, Feb. 20, 2009). In June 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, Iran's 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." 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). Whatever the outcome of America's current military engagement with Iran, we know from Bible prophecy that Iran will endure as the enemy of Israel and will join Russia in attacking Israel during the Day of the Lord.

**THE SMITHSONIAN MUSEUMS, D.C. FEDERAL TOURS, AND AMERICAN HISTORY** (Friday Church News Notes, October 2, 2026, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - In August I spent a week doing research in Washington D.C. The Smithsonian museums are amazing, the architecture, the infrastructure, the artifacts, even the coffee shops and cafeterias, and



I've spent many days in them in years past. But what struck me this time more than ever was what is absent. Even in the museum of American history and the American Art Gallery there's nothing at all about the pilgrims, the Puritans, and the major role of Christianity and the Bible in American history. Basically nothing. I talked with docents who are the supposed experts, volunteers who are stationed here and there, and they knew of nothing. The National Museum of African American History and Culture is totally absent of any role of the Bible or Christianity. The focus is on slavery, abolition, and the filthy pop culture, but there is a lot more about black history than that. On the recent trip I visited the Hampton University Museum in Virginia, where Booker T. Washington was educated and taught. He was the most prominent graduate of the school and a major figure in black history, yet there is zero information about him in the Hampton Museum. He has been deleted. I was told that his artifacts are in storage. I was not surprised since Booker's philosophy was contrary to the one that is being pushed today, which focuses on victimization, systemic racism, endless reparations, and perpetual anger. The corruption of history is a major way that America is being destroyed. I saw it in the federal tours of the Capital building and the judicial building. The tour guides are federal employees. In the rotunda of the Capital building there are two large paintings that depict Christianity's role in American history--Pocahontas' baptism in Jamestown in 1613 and the embarkation of the Pilgrims from Holland in 1620. The tour guide talked about those paintings in passing yet said nothing significant about what they actually represented. This is part of the larger effort throughout the public education system to destroy the old America. Its beginnings can be traced back to John Dewey (1859-1952), the atheist, globalist, anti-Christian co-author of the Humanist Manifesto. I'm thankful that there are many private schools, church schools, and home schools that are going against the grain and preserving accurate history and that God continues to answer prayer for liberty in such matters.

**CATHOLIC CHURCH IN AMERICA CONTINUES TO PAY OUT MILLIONS OF DOLLARS TO SETTLE LAWSUITS AGAINST ITS PRIESTS** (Friday Church News Notes, October 2, 2026, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The total payout for sex abuse lawsuits by the Roman Catholic Church in America over the past 20 years is over $5 billion and possibly over $6 billion (bishop-accountability.org). A conservative Catholic organization documented this wretched business in the fall/winter 2002 issue of the magazine *Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam*, observing: "]T] he overwhelming majority of sexual abuse cases in the Catholic Church--about 90%--involve homosexual priests preying on teenage boys. The major media and the U.S. culture at large want to deny or spin the homosexual factor out of the scandal." Though we have no sympathy for the Roman Catholic Church in this sordid affair, we would also comment that the judicial system in America is also corrupt. If a religious "minister" of whatever brand is guilty of a heinous crime, he should be held liable and should pay for his crime, and if a fellow "clergyman" is found to have contributed to the crime by trying to cover it up, then he, too, should be accountable. But an entire group of churches, even unscriptural ones, should not face the threat of bankruptcy by greedy lawyers as the present system unjustly allows. The American judicial system is no longer about justice for those who have been wronged; it is about money, which it drains from every victim that falls into its uncaring clutches. Following are recent cases of settlements as stated by EWTN News: In 2026, the Diocese of Camden, New Jersey agreed to a $180 million settlement for more than 300 "victims of clergy abuse"; the Archdiocese of Chicago agreed to pay $5.5 million to "nine survivors of abuse"; and the Franciscan Friars of California announced a $20 million settlement for " 94child sexual abuse claims," which comes after the Friars filed for

bankruptcy some years ago. In 2025, the Diocese of Syracuse (New York) agreed to pay $176 million to settle abuse cases ($76 million to be contributed by insurance companies); the Diocese of Rochester (New York) agreed to pay $246 million to "survivors of clergy abuse"; and the Diocese of Buffalo agreed to pay $150 million. In 2024, the Archdiocese of Chicago settled an abuse case for $950,000; the Diocese of Rockville Centre (New York) agreed to pay $323 million; and the Archdiocese of Los Angeles agreed to a near-$1 billion payment to "abuse victims." In 2022, the Archdiocese of Chicago paid nearly $3 million.

**BIOLOGICAL MALES HAVE WON MORE THAN 2,000 GOLD MEDALS COMPETING AGAINST WOMEN** (Friday Church News Notes, October 2, 2026, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from "2,000 gold medals later," *The Washington Times*, Sept. 23, 2026: "Trans-identifying men have won at least 2,293 gold medals participating in women's and girls' sports in the U.S., a new study from a conservative organization found. The Concerned Women for Research compiled data from the organization He Cheated, which tracks male athletic wins in female sports. The




Lia Thomas, a man who competes in women's sports

data showed males who identify as females have not only won the big haul of gold medals, but have also collected $501,498 in prize money from women in professional sports since the mid-1980s. In all instances, the men pushed women down to second place, denying them championship medals and money, the organization said. ... The study found men prevailing over women on dozens of sports teams, ranging from U.S. swimming, bowling, volleyball, and track and field to the Ladies Professional Golf Association. Trans-identifying men have competed in more than 10,000 female sporting events, both amateur and professional."

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORK BENEATH THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE CONFIRMS PRESENCE OF FIRST CENTURY GARDEN** (Friday Church News Notes, October 9, 2026, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - "Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden; and in the garden a new sepulchre, wherein was never man yet laid" (John 19:41). The following is excerpted from "Ancient Seeds and Pollen Beneath Jerusalem's Church of the Holy Sepulchre," Political.org, Sept. 2, 2026: "Archaeologists excavating beneath one of Christianity's most sacred sites have uncovered ancient botanical evidence--seeds and pollen from olive trees and grapevines--that corroborates the New Testament's description of a garden at the site where Jesus Christ was crucified and buried. The findings, led by Professor Francesca Romana Stasolla of the Sapienza University of Rome, align closely with John 19:41, which states that a garden stood near the place of crucifixion, containing a new tomb where no one had yet been laid. Archaeobotanical analysis of soil samples extracted from beneath the church's stone floor revealed ancient seeds and pollen consistent with olive trees and grapevines--characteristic plants of a cultivated first-century Judean garden--dating to approximately 2,000 years ago. ... The church has long been believed to sit on the site of both the crucifixion and burial of Jesus, but until now there had been no archaeological evidence of the garden described in scripture. ... One expert noted that scholars had largely doubted whether Jesus would have been buried in an orchard, but said, 'instead we find confirmed that there was a garden there--and so the Gospel of John has been proven to be accurate again in the details.'" The following is from "Site where Jesus was crucified and buried," *Fox News*, Sept. 2, 2026: "The findings add archaeological support to details described in the Gospel of John, said Douglas

Estes, associate professor of religion at New College of Florida. Estes, who specializes in early Christianity and was not involved in the research, told *Fox News Digital* that the Book of John is often dismissed by skeptics as exaggerated. Archaeology has 'over time, confirmed, again and again, details from the Gospel of John.'... He added, 'For example, in the 19th century, scholars questioned whether or not there could be five colonnades [at the Pool of Bethesda in Jerusalem], as John 5 describes. Later archeological discoveries have found that, yes, there were five colonnades there.'"

**ALTAR PREPARED FOR THIRD TEMPLE** (Friday Church News Notes, October 9, 2026, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from "Rabbi Tovia Singer," Israel365News, Oct. 4, 2026: "The stones have already been prepared, uncut as prescribed by the law. The priestly garments are sewn, and the silver trumpets are made. According to Rabbi Tovia Singer, the only thing missing for sacrifices to resume in Jerusalem is the decision to carry the altar up the Temple Mount. ... Singer, the founder of Outreach Judaism and one of the most widely followed Jewish teachers on the internet, described watching the mizbeach (altar) being assembled. ... He described the work of the Temple movement this way: 'They're saying, 'Look, Lord, we're going to go as far as we can on this one, and we're going to walk until the water is up to our nostrils.'"



CONCLUSION FROM FRIDAY NEWS EDITOR: The Third Temple (referenced in Daniel 9:27; Matthew 24:15; 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4; Revelation 11:1-2) will be built during the early days of the Antichrist, in his phony "Mr. Peace" era (Da. 8:25; 9:27; 2 Th. 2:9-12). The Third Temple, which is not the Millennial Temple described in Ezekiel 40-48, will be occupied by the Antichrist, not the Lord Jesus Christ. The Antichrist will declare himself as God and require the nations to worship him on pain of death. There is no greater sign of the lateness of the prophetic hour than the ongoing determination to build the Third Temple. "Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand" (Revelation 1:3).

**THE CHOSEN WRAPS UP FILMING AFTER EIGHT YEARS** (Friday Church News Notes, October 9, 2026, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - *The Chosen* has wrapped up filming after eight years. Season 6 is scheduled to launch in November and Season 7 (the final) is scheduled to debut in the spring of 2028. The wildly popular series, which has been watched by more than 280 million people worldwide and translated into 125 languages, has been treated like a biblical Christian series by most of the popular press, but it is a dangerous mixture of truth and error. It is yet another example of evangelicalism's apostasy. Dallas Jenkins, co-writer and director, is the son of Jerry B. Jenkins, who co-authored the Left Behind series with Tim LaHaye and was closely associated with Moody Bible Institute. Yet "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. ... 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; 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 panentheistic 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'" (*The Chosen Series - 10 Critical Concerns*, Lighthousetrails.com). Mormonism is false Christianity with a false gospel of works and a false Christ who is not eternal, is the spirit brother of Lucifer, and earned his way to godhood.

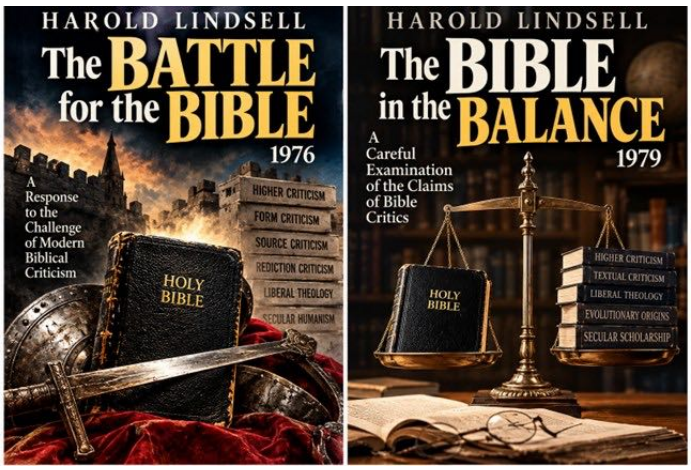
**THE OLD BAPTISTS AND DISCIPLINE** (Friday Church News Notes, October 9, 2026, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Independent Baptists, taken as a whole, have never been very strong for church discipline, but the old Baptists who followed the Bible more than tradition, were. J.L. Dagg, *Manual of Church Order*, 1857, wrote, "It has been remarked, that when discipline leaves a church, Christ goes with it" (p. 274). In that day, the Baptist churches disciplined for drunkenness, absence from services, resisting the authority of the church, interpersonal hostility, slander, anger, quarreling, cursing, swearing, profanity, falsehood, adultery, fornication, fighting, abuse, theft, debt evasion, neglecting family, neglecting duty, dancing, horse-racing, and gambling (Gregory Wills, *Democratic Religion: Freedom, Authority, and Church Discipline in the Baptist South* 1785-1900). The mention of "debt evasion" reminds us that they disciplined for bankruptcy. "]T] he eighteenth-century Calvinist Baptists were firmly convinced that one of the marks of a genuine church is that it upholds regular and orderly discipline. And among the offences they regarded as meriting the disciplinary action of the church was bankruptcy. In their thinking, insolvency was a breach of the apostle Paul's explicit command to 'Owe no man anything') Romans 13:8) and was evidence that business had not been conducted with due regard for others or for one's Christian witness in the world. While the Baptist community recognized that there were some instances of bankruptcy where the person concerned was not to blame, such instances were considered rare. 'Not one instance out of ten, or perhaps twenty ... can be entirely exonerated from blame and criminality,' wrote the Welsh Baptist Micah Thomas (1778-1853) in 1821" (Michael Haykin, *One Heart and One Soul: John Sutcliff of Olney his friends and his times*, p. 285).

**THE APEX OF APOSTASY** (Friday Church News Notes, October 9, 2026, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The great apostasy, the false Christianity, prophesied in Scripture is nearing full bloom. The evidence is everywhere. Episcopal priest Flourish Klink, a man who "identifies" as a woman, said in March at the Episcopal Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York, "God is nonbinary. But I'm going to go further than that, and I'm going to say God is actually also trans. ... When we trans people are born, folks assign us a gender based on what they see. Then, when we're old enough, we realize that wasn't right and we're not, in our deepest selves, the gender that everyone thought we were, right? ... When God, who is nonbinary, was born in human flesh, Mary said, 'O look, a baby boy.' God isn't a boy or girl. God was assigned a gender at birth, and later on it became clear that the gender wasn't quite right" (X, @disntr, Sept. 24, 2026). Meanwhile, an Anglican who calls himself "Rev. Sarah Hobbs," speaking at a "Love Wins" conference at the All Nations Church, Keighley, West Yorkshire, U.K. on Sept. 13, said his transgenderism is actually the



bread of life given to him by God (X, @disntr, Sept. 23, 2026). Meanwhile, at Fountain Street Church in Grand Rapids, Michigan, the female pastor preached a sermon entitled "Deconstructing Homophobia," in which she announced the "Beatitudes of a Queer Church," including these jewels: "Blessed are those who try, who transform, who transition. ... Blessed are the closeted, God sees you shine anyway. ... Blessed are the queers who love creation enough to live the truth of it despite a world that tells them they cannot" (X, @disntr, Sept. 29, 2026). All Saints Catholic Church in Syracuse begins its "Pride Mass" by "bowing down in front of a pride flag, saying 'Namaste,' and calling the rainbow a "beautiful symbol of God's diversity'" (Pulpit & Pen, Sept. 3, 2026). Babs Miller, a "nonbinary" who uses "they/them pronouns" and a minister of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Austin, Texas, said recently, "Jesus didn't die to save our sins. That makes a whole lot more sense to me than to say that some God would kill his Son for us. ... Mary and the virgin birth come out of the pagan belief ... We have no way of knowing if Jesus really existed, any more than we have of knowing that the original Buddha ever existed. And whether or not Jesus existed doesn't really matter to me" (*DailyWire*, Sept. 23, 2026).

**IS EVANGELICAL SCHOLARSHIP TRUSTWORTHY?** (Friday Church News Notes, October 16, 2026, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - We often hear of "good evangelical scholarship" as if it is a trustworthy field. For example, Mark Ward, who claims the King James Bible has become hopelessly antiquated, recommends the evangelical scholarship that produced the modern versions and the evangelicals themselves as "friends" and "not enemies" ("3 Ways to Graciously Engage KJV-Only Believers," Gospel Coalition, July 26, 2018, cited from Bill Fortenberry, False Friends and True Enemies, p. 49). This is either naivety or willful ignorance. Evangelical scholarship has been deeply corrupted since the New Evangelical generation, led by men such as Harold Ockenga, "renounced separatism" and determined to associate with theological liberals instead of marking and avoiding them as the Word of God commands. Predictably, since evil communications corrupt good manners, the result has been disastrous. This has been documented by prominent evangelicals themselves, such as Harold Lindsell (*The Battle for the Bible*, 1976, and *The Bible in the Balance*, 1979),




Charles Woodbridge (*The New Evangelicalism*, 1969), Francis Schaeffer (*The Great Evangelical Disaster*, 1984), David Wells (*No Place for the Truth*, 1993), John Armstrong (editor, *The Coming Evangelical Crisis*, 1997), and Iain Murray (*Evangelicalism Divided: A Record of Crucial Change in the Years 1950-2000*). Harold Lindsell was a close associate of Ockenga and participated in the renunciation, but he carefully and extensively documented the terrible fruit in his two explosive books. In 1985, Lindsell warned, "Evangelicalism today is in a sad state of disarray. ... It is clear that evangelicalism is now broader and shallower, and is becoming more so. Evangelicalism's children are in the process of forsaking the faith of their fathers" (Christian News, Dec. 2, 1985). Evangelical scholarship has grown much more corrupt since then, but being enamored with evangelicalism's bright lights, Mark Ward and many fundamental baptist wanna-be (and on their way to being) evangelicals missed the memo. (For a description of evangelicalism's corrupt scholarship and dangerous waters, see Evangelicalism and the Great Apostasy at the Books section of www.wayoflife.org. For the shocking liberalism that absolutely permeates the field of modern textual criticism itself, see *The Modern Bible Version Hall of Shame* at the same place.)

**POPE PRAYS BEFORE IMAGE OF THE LYING MARY** (Friday Church News Notes, October 16, 2026, www.wayoflife.org

fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world" (1 John 4:1). On Sept. 26, 2026, Pope Leo XIV prayed before the image of "our Lady of Lourdes" in France. The image resides in a cave where a barely literate peasant girl named Bernadette Soubirous supposedly had a vision in March 1858 of a young woman who claimed to be "the Immaculate Conception." This was three years after Pope Pius IX had officially proclaimed that Mary was conceived without sin. Yet Mary called God her Saviour (Luke 1:47), proving that she was not without sin. The only individual born without sin is the Lord Jesus Christ (Heb. 4:15; 7:26; 2 Co. 5:21; 1 Pe. 2:22; 1 Jo. 3:5). Not only did the vision lie about being immaculate and instruct people to pray the rosary, which includes a blasphemous prayer to Mary as Queen of Heaven, mother of mercy, full of grace, it taught works salvation. Bernadette was instructed to kiss the ground as "an act of penance for sinners." There was no mention of the true gospel of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins. Rome declared Bernadette's vision authentic in 1862, a statue was dedicated to the "immaculate" Mary in 1863, a cathedral was dedicated in 1876, and Bernadette was



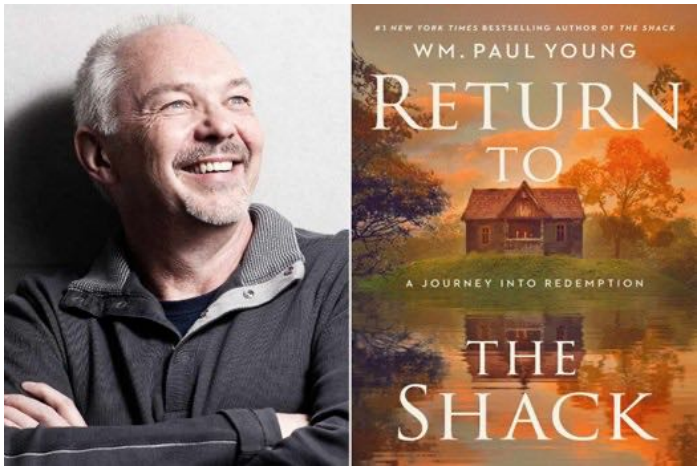
canonized as a saint in 1933. Pope John Paul II worshipped before the Lourdes statue in 1983 and attributed Mary's intercession for his survival of an assassination attempt. Pope Benedict XVI placed a golden crown on the head of the Mary of Lourdes statue in Rome in 2007. The apostle Paul preached salvation by grace without works (Ephesians 2:8-10) and warned that anyone, even an angel from heaven, who preached a gospel different from the gospel of free grace was cursed (Galatians 1:6-9). Rome built three basilicas at Lourdes and has collected offerings and valuable gifts from the 200 million pilgrims who have sought blessing and healing there. Those who are associating with Rome are associating with gross spiritual darkness and deception in direct disobedience to 2 Corinthians 6:14-19.

**WHEN DISCIPLINE DISAPPEARED FROM SOUTHERN BAPTIST CHURCHES** (Friday Church News Notes, October 16, 2026, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - "Your glorying is not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump? Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us: Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth" (1 Corinthians 5:6-8). A church without discipline is not a New Testament church, but discipline disappeared from Southern Baptist churches at the turn of the 20th century. The same thing is happening today among fundamental Baptists. "By the 1890s, Southern Baptist opposition to worldly amusements was mostly baying at the moon. ... Resolutions against amusements became plaintive cries of congregations that had lost the resolve to discipline" (Gregory Wills, *Democratic Religion: Freedom, Authority, and Church Discipline in the Baptist South*, p. 127). "By the 1920s, Southern Baptist church discipline had disappeared. Although a few isolated churches kept up the practice into the 1940s, the fate of Southern Baptist discipline had been sealed by 1900. Many Baptists knew it. In a report of the Western Association in 1910, pastor J. A. Bell lamented the loss: 'When have you heard of a church vindicating her righteous claims by an effectual arraignment of her malicious or delinquent members? Church discipline, it seems, must be reckoned as a thing of the past, belonging to the fossil remains of bygone ages.' In 1915, the Ebenezer Association confessed that 'the matter of arraigning our disorderly members before the Church in Conference is very much a thing of the past. We have ceased to require our members to live, at least, a decent Christian life'" (Wills, p. 116). "]T]he churches became more permissive. They became uncertain about any

discipline for worldly amusements. They thought worldly amusements evil, but they hesitated to address the evil by means of discipline. One difficulty was that young people were the main offenders. … Dancing and other amusements appealed primarily to the youth. … LaGrange Baptist Church recognized the dilemma: 'The idea is so prevalent that if we enforce church discipline and exclude members they will be lost,' and the churches balked at losing the youth" (Wills, p. 125).

**THE COMPLEXITY OF A SINGLE CELL** (Friday Church News Notes, October 16, 2026, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is from CreationMoments.com, October 6, 2026: "It wasn't until 1839 that cell theory was first described by Theodore Schwann in basically its modern form. **By 1858, researcher Rudolf Virchow had learned enough about the cell to conclude that every cell must come from a preexisting cell. But Charles Darwin wasn't paying attention**. The very next year he published a book, On the Origin of Species, which theorized that the first cell was formed from non-living matter. In Darwin's day, the cell was thought to be just a simple sac filled with jellied carbon. This concept is the origin of the term protoplasm. However, nearly 150 years of cell research has shown us that even protozoan and fungi cells are hugely complex. Today we know that even the simplest of these cells, prokaryotes, has an estimated 100,000 parts. Many thousands of different operations are taking place continuously within each of the cell's many parts, called organelles. Furthermore, the cell cannot live until all these parts are working properly. Even the simple E. coli bacterium has 4,000 genes. If we were able to magnify the DNA of the E. coli to the thickness of a clothesline, it would be five miles long! There is no such thing as a 'simple cell.' The fact that a cell cannot live without all these thousands of parts shows that cells were created in their finished form, just as the Bible says. Even bacteria declare the glory of our Creator! Psalm 96:3 'Declare his glory among the heathen, his wonders among all people.' REF.: CRSQ, 'The Putative Evolution of the Animal Eukaryote Cell Ultrastructure.'"

**PAUL YOUNG'S NEW BOOK RETURN TO THE SHACK** (Friday Church News Notes, October 23, 2026, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is a brief excerpt from *A Self-Confessed Universalist and His Return to the Shack: 10 Critical Warnings* by William B. Smith, Oct. 6, 2026, LighthouseTrailsResearch.com: *The Shack* is back! And with Young's new book *Return to the Shack*, so is the heresy and deception. Filled with drama and emotion, *Return to the Shack* is already a best-selling novel--even though it was just released. William Young says, 'One of the marvels about writing fiction is that you can take all sorts of license that you cannot in nonfiction,' and that is exactly what Young did in his best-selling novel *The Shack*. And he continues to do so in his 2026 book, *Return to the Shack*. But there is nothing




commendable about taking unwarranted license to write 'Christian' novels that play upon one's emotions to make the case for a 'new' kind of Christianity that is no Christianity at all. On the surface, Return to the Shack is a story about the power of forgiveness and the need to abolish capital punishment. The plot evolves as its main character, Mackenzie Allen Phillips, meets with his daughter's killer who is awaiting execution in a Nashville prison. ... After all of the story's tears and drama, and with his unsuspecting readers being open and vulnerable to suggestion, Young drops his heretical New Age bomb. Quoting his friend C. Baxter Kruger, Young writes: 'The recognition of the sacred presence of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit in every person, place and event, is the beginning of Wisdom.' **By stating that God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit are 'in' every person and that this understanding is 'the beginning of wisdom,' Young would have his readers believe this false**

**teaching is true. However, this is the same foundational lie that is at the very heart of the New Age movement.** It is completely contrary to the Bible, which states that 'the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom') Proverbs 9:10), not Young and Kruger's New Age perversion of that important Bible verse. It seems obvious these men have no fear of the Lord as they put their own chosen words in the mouths of whomever they choose--whether that be God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit--or their next door neighbor. The following verses are just a few of the many in the Bible that show that the Holy Spirit is not 'in' everyone--but is a 'gift' given to those who believe in and follow the Lord: 'Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost') Acts 2:38). See also Luke 11:13 and Acts 5:32."

**NELLIE BLY'S AROUND THE WORLD VENTURE** (Friday Church News Notes, October 23, 2026, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The revolutionary change in world communication and travel in the last half of the 19th century is illustrated by Nellie Bly's 72-day journey around the world in 1889. Except for the leg across America, she traveled on British steamships and steam trains and stayed in British territory under British government protection and communicated via British telegraph systems. Nellie was a newspaper reporter, and the journey was a publicly stunt for the *World* newspaper owned by Joseph Pulitzer. The famous French writer Jules Verne had published *Around the World in Eighty Days* in 1873, a fictional account of an Englishman who traveled around the world in 80 days using the new transportation technology of the times. Nellie proposed that she try to make the journey in less than 80 days, and via the new British international telegraph system the newspaper could publish a progress of her journey and sell a lot of newspapers. A competitor paper sent its own reporter to try to beat Nellie, so it became a race, with Nellie traveling east and Elizabeth Bisland traveling west. Nellie traveled from New York City across the Atlantic to England and down through France, where she met Jules Verne. She traveled across the Mediterranean to Egypt and down through eastern Africa, then to India and Singapore, where she bought a monkey.



(Joan Blos wrote *Nellie Bly's Monkey* to describe the journey from the eyes of the monkey, which was named McGinty.) From China Nellie Bly traveled across the Pacific to the west coast of America. Then she crossed the 4,000 miles across the vast North American continent on the new transcontinental railroad. She arrived back in New York City after 72 days, a new record. (She beat Elizabeth.) She wore the same dress the entire journey in order to travel as light as possible, carrying only one small bag. The same British international travel and communications infrastructure that Nellie Bly used for her publicity stunt was used by missionaries for the Lord's Great Commission. The British Empire made it possible for the Bible to travel to every part of the world. It was like a modern-day Roman Empire, which provided the infrastructure for the beginning of the Great Commission in the days of the apostles.

**MARRIAGE DESERTS IN AMERICA** (Friday Church News Notes, October 23, 2026, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from "Traditional two-parent families vanish," Fox News, Oct. 13, 2026: "The traditional two-parent nuclear family is far less common in parts of major American cities than in suburban communities, with fewer than a quarter of households with children headed by married couples in some neighborhoods in Cleveland, Washington, D.C., Milwaukee and Detroit, according to a new report. The study from the Institute for Family Studies showed that the share of households with children headed by married couples varies by roughly 70 percentage points across the areas studied, highlighting a divide between urban 'married-family deserts' and suburban 'married-family gardens.' ... Suburban Dallas-Fort Worth stands as the nation's largest grouped 'marriage garden,' while Lower Manhattan and Brooklyn form the largest grouped 'marriage

desert,' covering nearly 686,000 householders, more than two-thirds of whom are unmarried. ... Those in married-family gardens grow up with married parents, in neighborhoods, schools and after-school activities where most peers experience the same. These children 'will be observing marriage as a stable, ordinary feature of adult life,' the study explained. 'By contrast, for children in married-family deserts, there is likely to be much greater churn in adult relationship stability, and greater inconsistency in supervision, where marriage and stable relationship bonds are atypical or distant from everyday norms--both for these children and their peers.'... Areas with some of the lowest shares of married-parent households nationwide included eastern Cleveland and nearby Bratenahl Village, Ohio, with only 18% of households with children headed by a married couple, followed closely by eastern Washington, D.C., at 20% and central Milwaukee at 22%. In suburban 'married-family gardens' like Fremont City, California, Lakewood, New Jersey, and parts of Utah County, Utah, up to 89% of households with children are headed by married couples."

**WORLDLY VIDEO GAMERS IN FUNDAMENTAL BAPTIST HOMES** (Friday Church News Notes, October 23, 2026, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - I received the following note from a reader who saw the warning about addiction to video games in an issue of the Friday Church News Notes: "I am writing with a heavy heart. Your Church Notes on the video and computer games is true. I haven't experienced it firsthand but I see video games and movies have taken over the children's lives in my church. Our preacher preaches against it all and sets the best example. As a matter of fact, when we travel, we haven't found a better church than ours. I just have seen so much TV and video games creep into homes and then it gets uncontrollable. The moms say they allow this in their homes because they don't want to let their children out into the world and they don't want them to be bored. [Note from Brother Cloud: How reasonable is it to bring the world into the home in the name of keeping kids out of the world?] The sad thing is that it overtakes their lives and I am observing that when the children are getting into their teens and even 18, 19, 20, 21, etc., they are even deeper into the video games. Yes, 21-year-olds spending every free second playing X Box, Play Station, Nintendo, etc. These same children when it comes to the church services, don't sing hymns, sit on the back pew, and don't seem to care much about the things of God. They get up several times during the preaching service to get a drink of water. It's so sad."


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*by David W. Cloud,*
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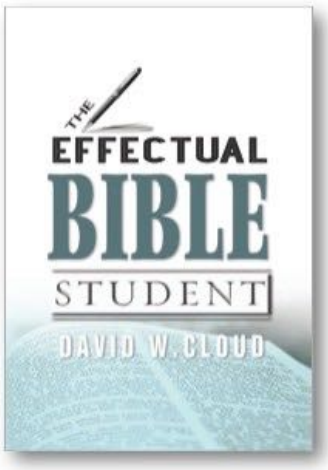
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# Rules for Admission Into a Baptist Church in 1828

The following are the rules for admission into church membership for the Baptist church of Charleston, South Carolina, in 1828. This was back in the day when Baptist churches in general took church membership and discipline seriously before Almighty God:

**1st.** When a person desires to join the church, the desire shall be made known to the Pastor a sufficient length of time before the communion season, to allow of conversation and acquaintance; and for further satisfaction, the Pastor may appoint the deacons, or any other of the brethren he may think proper, to visit the Candidate, for the purpose of obtaining all needful information concerning his or her experience and faith, character and life.

**2d.** The Pastor, and those he may have sent to visit and converse with the Candidate, shall meet together, at such a place as he may appoint, to consider the qualification of the Candidate, and after which conference, the Pastor shall give such advice to each as may appear suitable. In the meantime, any of the members may visit the Candidate or Candidates, for the purpose of forming acquaintance, and obtaining fellowship, before the period of their reception into the church.

**3d.** If the Candidate or Candidates be thought to possess those qualifications which may entitle them to a participation of the privileges of God's house, they shall appear before the church; which (as it is a garden enclosed) shall be privately convened for said purpose, and none but the members to be present, and each Candidate will then relate the reason for his or her hope, and give such answers to questions respecting their Christian knowledge, repentance and faith, as may afford consistent evidence of a gracious state; after which, satisfaction being obtained, they shall be baptized, and admitted to all the privileges of the church.

**4th.** After each Candidate has been examined before the church, he or she shall be requested to retire to the vestry, while the church considers the case; which done, the Candidate shall be called in and the Pastor shall make known the decision of the church, which if favorable, they shall be kindly received; but if there should appear to be any deficiency in the knowledge and experience of the Candidate, and it may be thought advisable to wait sometime longer, or in order to get better information, the Pastor will, in a kind, affectionate and encouraging manner, present this advice.

**5th.** In case of Candidates coming from the country, or under any peculiar providential circumstances, where the above course cannot be pursued, the Pastor, and those he may consult, must act as may seem most for the glory of God, and the welfare of the church (John Christian, A History of the Baptists).

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