

O Timothy

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

A Monthly Newsletter for Spiritual Protection and Edification

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“Bible-believers are most definitely influenced by the CCM crowd when they build bridges in that direction. We can see this on every hand over the past 20 years. The acceptance of contemporary music has been at the heart and soul of every example in which a formerly Bible-believing separatist church has changed its stance, and those examples now run into the hundreds.” Page 6.

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



The following is excerpted from *INDEPENDENT BAPTIST MUSIC WARS*.

This book is a warning about the transformational power of Contemporary Christian Music to transport Bible-believing Baptists into the sphere of the end-time one-world “church.” The author is a musician, preacher, and writer who lived the rock & roll “hippy” lifestyle before conversion and has researched this issue for 40 years.

We don’t believe that good Christian music stopped being written when Fanny Crosby died or that rhythm is wrong or that drums and guitars are inherently evil. We believe, rather, that Contemporary Christian Music is a powerful bridge to a very dangerous spiritual and doctrinal world.

The book begins by documenting the radical change in thinking that has occurred among independent Baptists. Whereas just a few years ago the overwhelming consensus was that CCM was wrong and dangerous, the consensus now has formed around the position that CCM can be used



in moderation, that it is OK to “adapt” it to a more traditional sacred sound and presentation technique. The more “conservative” contemporary worship artists such as the Gettys are considered safe and their music is sung

widely in churches and included in new hymnals published by independent Baptists. As usual, the driving force behind this change is the example set by prominent leaders, churches, and schools, which we identify in this volume.

The heart of the book is the section giving eight reasons for rejecting Contemporary Christian Music (it is built on the lie that music is neutral, it is worldly, it is ecumenical, it is charismatic, it is experienced-oriented, it is permeated with false christs, it is infiltrated with homosexuality, and it weakens the Biblicist stance of a church) and the section answering 39 major arguments that are used in defense of CCM. We deal with the popular argument that since we have selectively used hymns by Protestants we should also be able to selectively use those by contemporary hymn writers.

There are also chapters on the history of CCM and the author's experience of living the rock & roll lifestyle before conversion and how the Lord dealt with him about music in the early months of his Christian life.

The book is accompanied by a DVD containing two video presentations: [*The Transformational Power of Contemporary Praise Music*](#) and [*The Foreign Spirit of Contemporary Worship Music*](#). 285 pages. Available in print and as a free eBook from www.wayoflife.org

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A large percentage of Contemporary Christian Music artists worship a rock & roll party Christ.

In his *Live ... Radically Saved* video Carman says, "Jesus is always cool; He's got his thing together." Carman blasphemously imitated the Lord Jesus walking along in a hip-jive manner, doing "the Messiah walk."

In *Resurrection Rap*, Carman portrays Jesus as a street hippie. In *The Standard album*, he calls Jesus "J.C."; and in "Come into This House" on the *Addicted to Jesus* album, Carman speaks of "Jammin' with the Lamb."

Petra claims that "God gave rock and roll to you/ Put it in the soul of every one."

In "Party in Heaven" the Daniel Band sang, "The Lamb and I are drinkin' new wine."

Phil Driscoll says, "God is the King of Soul; He's the King of all rhythm" (quoted by Tim Fisher, *Battle for Christian Music*, p. 82).

Messiah Prophet Band says, "Jesus is the Master of Metal," and Barren Cross says, "Better than pot, Jesus rocks."

John Fischer described God as puffing on a cigar and swaying to rock music.

"Wait a minute Kid' [supposedly this is God speaking to Fischer]. Leave it [the radio] on. You know, I kind of like this stuff [rock]. I watched in shock as He smiled at me through a casual puff of cigar smoke and swayed His head ever so slightly with the music" (Contemporary Christian Music Magazine, July 1984, p. 20).

J. Lee Grady, editor of *Charisma* magazine, a big promoter of Christian rock, says Jesus enjoys dancing with the angels and "grooving to the sound of Christian R&B pumped out of a boom box" (*Charisma*, July 2000). He makes the pretentious claim that worship music in heaven will feature "a dozen Hammond-B3 organs and a procession of hip-hop [rap] dancers."

Not content with this brazen claim, Grady tells us that Jesus Christ "loves all music—even the funkier" and that Jesus Christ enjoys dancing with the angels and "grooving to the sound of Christian R&B [rhythm and blues] pumped out of a boom box." Grady mocks traditional hymns as "dirge-like," something only for "grandmothers."

Barren Cross says Jesus Christ is better than marijuana and invites their followers to smoke on His love! “Give it a chance, freedom at last/ Yours for free, take and receive/ Better than pot, JESUS ROCK ... Smoke on His love and you will see the rock — roll/ Believe” (Barren Cross, “Believe”).

Bride sings about “Psychedelic Super Jesus.”

The cover of Rapper Jayceon “Game” Taylor’s 2012 album, *Jesus Piece*, has Jesus portrayed as a gang member, complete with a gaudy gold chain and a tattoo on his face. Taylor isn’t a CCM artist. He is a secular rapper, but his philosophy is no different than that of many of the “Christian” rockers and rappers. Taylor is inventing a “Jesus” in his own likeness. He says, “Last year in August I got baptized [at City of Refuge Church in Gardena, California] and so I’ve been going to church, but I still been kinda doing me out here. I still love the strip club and I still smoke and drink. I’m faithful to my family, so I wanted to make an album where you could love God and be of God, but still get it poppin’ in your life” (“Jesus Portrayed as Gang Member,” *Christian Post*, Oct. 24, 2012). Taylor says his new album is intended to encourage those who “love God but are still street and wanna remain themselves.”

To the contrary, those who are “still street” haven’t been born again. The Bible says that the true Christian is “a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new” (2 Cor. 5:17). Baptism is a picture of dying with Christ to the old life of sin and being raised to a new life of holiness.

The Eternal Jam Machine, which collaborated with Crystal Nicole in the release of “I’m All Yours,” is built on the concept that heaven will be an everlasting rock party. Their first song, “Dancing in Heaven,” was advertised as follows: “God hereby invites you to the biggest welcome home party the world has ever known, with DJ Jesus in heaven. ... Eyes have not seen and ears have not heard a party like this before.”

The party-dude Jesus is a false christ. This is not the Jesus we see in Scripture. Jesus is indeed a friend of sinners. He is the greatest Friend of sinners! His love for sinners drew Him from the joys unspeakable of heaven to the wretchedness of this fallen world, where He was “a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief.” Jesus came to

seek and to save that which was lost, but Jesus was not some sort of “party dude.” He wasn’t worldly cool in any sense.

In fact, most of the sinners he “hung with” were not party people. Jesus disciples were not party dudes. There is no evidence that Jesus’ close friends Mary, Martha, and Lazarus were party people. When they were with Jesus, it wasn’t party-hardy time; it was time to be disciplined.

“And she had a sister called Mary, which also sat at Jesus’ feet, and heard his word” (Luke 10:39).

The Jesus we see in Scripture ate with sinners and spent time with the lowest of society (as well as the highest), but He was not any sort of party dude. He warned all men to repent and “go and sin no more” and spent a lot of time describing the horrors of hell and warning men in the sharpest language not to go there.

The following type of preaching would put a halt to any worldly party!

“I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish” (Luke 13:5).

“And if thy hand offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter into life maimed, than having two hands to go into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched: Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched. And if thy foot offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter halt into life, than having two feet to be cast into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched: Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched. And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out: it is better for thee to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire: Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched” (Mr 9:43-48).

The Lord Jesus didn’t come to earth to play games and hold a cool party. That is not what we see Him doing in Scripture, and anything beyond Scripture is vain speculation. Jesus came to earth to fulfill a specific, very solemn purpose, and He was singleminded in His pursuit of that purpose. The Samaritans were offended because He wouldn’t spend time with them, but this was because He had no time for anything other than accomplishing His objective (Luke 9:51-53). When He was with His disciples, He was busy preparing them for His departure (John 16:4).

Jesus was here to defeat the works of Satan. He didn’t sit around and goof off after the fashion of this present entertainment-crazed generation. He had too much to do

and too short a time to do it in. He had three short years of public ministry, and it was packed. He came to preach the gospel and to teach about the kingdom of God, and that is how He occupied His time, whether publicly or privately. That is what we see in Scripture.

The fact that the CCM crowd typically worships a different kind of God than the God the “old-fashioned” biblicist Christian worships is why they are perfectly comfortable using music that has been identified as sexy by the secular world. Gene Simmons of KISS says,

“... that is what rock is all about--sex with a 100-megaton bomb, the beat” (*Entertainment Tonight*, ABC, Dec. 10, 1987).

Note that Simmons was not referring to the words of rock music; he was referring to the music itself and particularly to its backbeat party rhythm.

Music researchers Daniel and Bernadette Skubik, in their study on the neurophysiology of rock music, warned:

“Whether the words are evil, innocuous, or based in Holy Scripture, the overall neurophysiological effects generated by rock music remain the same. There is simply no such thing as Christian rock that is substantively different in its impact” (“The Neurophysiology of Rock,” an Appendix to John Blanchard’s *Pop Goes the Gospel*, pp. 187ff).

The reason that statement doesn’t bother a CCM defender is because he sees Jesus as a rock & roll party Dude who loves a good time.

Rob Williams of the Eternal Jam Machine describes the philosophy as follows:

“Just because you are a Christian does not mean that your life has to be boring as though everything cool about you should be held back or denied. The truth is that your life should be the complete opposite of boring. God has a desire for his children to know that they are made in HIS image which means you ARE cool. God created cool and He gave each of us gifts to use and not to keep hidden for ourselves. God’s ‘cool’ is limitless and as His children we can inherit the character of God. He wants us to have fun and celebrate life in relationship with HIM, our Creator” (“Vision behind Eternal Jam Machine,” eternaljammachine.com).

We don’t see a hint of this in the New Testament, not in the life of Christ in the Gospels, nor in the book of Acts, nor in the Epistles. Jesus never hosted a dance party for the disciples. The disciples didn’t celebrate Christ’s resurrection with a dance party. They didn’t have a dance

party in the upper room while waiting for the coming of the Spirit. They didn’t celebrate Pentecost with a dance party.

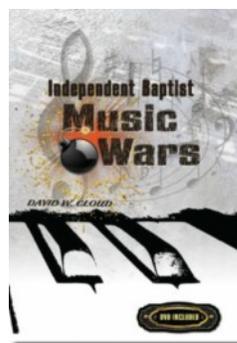
What we see in Scripture is the call to walk as pilgrims in a fallen world filled with spiritual and moral danger, to separate from the evil things of the world (1 Jn. 2:15-17), to avoid being a friend of the world which is called spiritual adultery (Jam. 4:4), to avoid even the appearance of evil (1 Th. 5:22), to have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness (Eph. 5:11), to live a life of self-denial (Mat. 16:24), etc.

At the heart of the battle about music in the churches is the very character of God. Our concept of God will determine what kind of music we use to worship Him and the manner in which we worship Him. If we think that God is a cool dude who hip hops to modern rock music, we will worship him with such music and our lifestyle and very appearance will reflect this concept of God. If, on the other hand, we believe that God is a fearfully holy God before whom the hosts of heaven fall in awe and reverence, our worship music and our very lifestyle and appearance will reflect holiness and separation from the world.

“Those who envision God as a special friend, a kind of lover, with whom they can have fun, see no problem in worshipping him by means of physically stimulating music. On the other hand, those who perceive God as a majestic, holy, and almighty Being to be approached with awe and reverence will only use the music that elevates them spiritually” (Samuele Bacchiocchi, *The Christian and Rock Music*).

Those who mix the holy Rock Jesus Christ with the unholy rock of this world are worshipping a false god.

Contemporary Christian Music is permeated with false christs and false gods, and that should be sufficient reason to have nothing to do with it.



Independent Baptist Music Wars

A warning about the transformational power of Contemporary Christian Music to transport Bible-believing Baptists into the sphere of the end-time one-world “church.”

[Click Here For Details](#)



The Summer 2015 edition of *The Baptist Voice* features a five-page report “Bible Principles for Music & Worship” by Paul Chappell, Pastor of Lancaster Baptist Church in Lancaster, California, and President of West Coast Baptist College.

Chappell’s report is being sent to churches and prospective students. Obviously it is an attempt to justify Lancaster’s music program in light of the controversy of the last three years. A copy of the report was sent to me by a concerned family with children who are approaching college age (a family that does not subscribe to *The Baptist Voice*).

Pastor Chappell offers 15 principles and says these “express what I have learned thus far in my journey.”

1. Preaching is central in worship and evangelism.
2. Music is to reflect the holiness of God.
3. There is a true danger in over contextualizing church ministry.
4. Sacred music is for the purpose of worship, thanksgiving, rejoicing, consecration, edification, evangelism, and preservation of our faith.
5. I believe in the priority of psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs as taught in the Word of God.
6. A hymn is a celebration of God based on Scripture.
7. Christian music should reflect the orderliness of God and its melodies and its rhythms.
8. The CCM movement as a whole denies the scriptural teaching to come out and be separated. (This is the shortest point with a mere two sentences.)
9. Music can be used in a moral fashion to glorify God or in a worldly fashion to glorify man.
10. New songs are commended and helpful in worship.
11. Using a song written by someone who is doctrinally different does not equal an endorsement of their

position or doctrine. The real issue is not association but identification.

12. A song by a particular author can be used without that use meaning you are endorsing all the writings of that author.
13. People should not be showy or “breathy” in delivery or music, but I will not stifle normal expression in someone’s singing as unto the Lord.
14. Pastors of independent churches have liberty to follow the Holy Spirit.
15. I will give grace to those whose doctrine is clear and whose music is Christ centered and biblically worshipful, even where slight differences may be present.

WHAT IS MISSING IN PASTOR CHAPPELL’S STANDARD FOR MUSIC?

Pastor Chappell makes some good points, but what is missing is both glaring and fundamental to the issue.

1. CHAPPELL MISSES THE FUNDAMENTAL ISSUE WITH CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP MUSIC.

The fundamental issue is not whether or not there are a wide variety of acceptable music styles or whether or not there is an element of “personal taste” in sacred music.

I certainly don’t deny that. I enjoy a wide range of sacred music from Hale & Wilder to the Marshall Family, from the staid old Protestant hymns that one can hear at Metropolitan Tabernacle in London to indigenous Nepali hymns that sound nothing like any Western hymn.

The fundamental issue is not whether a church uses guitars or a tambourine or a banjo, or whether people clap their hands, or whether they are quiet or boisterous.

The fundamental issue is not how the singers hold a microphone. Performance issues and singing styles are important, but they are not the fundamental issue.

The fundamental issue is not whether the music was written by Baptists or “fundamentalists.”

The fundamental issue is not even how much or what type of syncopation is acceptable within the bounds of sacred music or what type of chord sequences produce what kind of response in the worshipers.

Syncopation and chording and other aspects of music structure are important issues and should be addressed by God’s people, but this is not the fundamental issue.

The fundamental issue is that contemporary worship music represents the end-time, one-world “church” with all of its apostasies and heresies and spiritual dangers, and those who mess around with this particular music are building bridges to a most dangerous world. These are bridges that will be crossed by individuals, families, and churches.

The fundamental issue is that the use of contemporary music is a slippery slope away from strong biblical convictions.

This cannot be refuted. The evidence is on every hand. We have documented this with more than 500 pages of information in the book *The Directory of Contemporary Worship Musicians*, and in the video presentations *The Transformative Power of Contemporary Praise Music* and *The Foreign Spirit of Contemporary Worship Music*, all of which we have made available for free at the Way of Life web site. This information has been gathered by a musician, teacher, preacher, and missionary over a period of 40+ years.

Many men of God have issued this warning.

Ernest Pickering: “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*, Bob Jones University Press, 1994).

Gordon Sears: “When the standard of music is lowered, then the standard of dress is also lowered. 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).

Victor Sears: “Good fundamental Baptists and others that refuse the teachings of the charismatic crowd concerning tongues, signs, miracles, and so forth are now singing their music in our churches and preparing our people for the world, the flesh and the devil. It is the new Trojan Horse move ... to deaden our churches to spiritual truth” (*Baptist Bible Tribune*, 1981).

Frank Garlock: “If a church starts using CCM it will eventually lose all other standards” (Bob Jones University chapel, March 12, 2001).

Bible-believers are most definitely influenced by the CCM crowd when they build bridges in that direction. We can see this on every hand over the past 20 years. The acceptance of contemporary music has been at the heart and soul of every example in which a formerly Bible-believing separatist church has changed its stance, and those examples now run into the hundreds. There might be an exception, but I don’t know of any. We have documented many examples in *The Collapse of Separatism among Fundamental Baptists*, available as a free eBook from www.wayoflife.org.

The reason for this is that 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 biblicist churches stand for, opposed to a staunch, unwavering doctrinal stance, opposed to strict separation from the world, opposed to ecclesiastical separation.

I have never heard of an independent Baptist church becoming Lutheran through singing Luther’s “A Mighty Fortress” or Methodist by singing John Wesley’s hymns, but I know of MANY that have gone down the path of the contemporary philosophy through affiliating with contemporary worship music.

The writers of the old Protestant hymns did not represent a movement that was brashly opposed to old-fashioned

Biblicist, separatist Christianity, whereas the contemporary worship crowd most definitely does. The old Protestants did not represent the end-time, one-world “church” in fellowship with Rome, but contemporary worship music most definitely does.

Dan Lucarini, author of *Why I Left the Contemporary Christian Music Movement: Confessions of a Former Worship Leader*, says:

“NO ONE SHOULD DENY THE POWER OF MUSIC TO PROSELYTIZE! Pastors in particular must defend their flocks from false teaching, heresies and ‘ear ticklers’ who bring worldly sensuality into the congregation; you are right to point out how easily this comes into a church through worship music. IT SEEMS WISER TO DECLINE THE USE OF WHAT SEEMS TO BE A PERFECTLY GOOD SONG, RATHER THAN TO GIVE ANY HONOR AND HINT OF ENDORSEMENT TO THE COMPOSER AND HIS/HER MISSION” (Dan Lucarini, e-mail, May 24, 2009).

2. PASTOR CHAPPELL OMITTS THE DANGER OF THE AGE OF THE INTERNET.

We are living in the age of end-time technology, which means that one can no longer use songs and hymns without the listeners being able to come into communication with the authors with great simplicity. Even 30 years ago, it was not possible to easily contact and be influenced by authors of Christian music.

That has changed dramatically with the Internet.

Now if people in a Bible-believing church hear songs by Don Moen, Keith Getty, Stuart Townend, MercyMe, Darlene Zschech, Jack Hayford, Michael W. Smith, Twila Paris, Michael English, Steven Curtis Chapman, Geron Davis, Chris Tomlin, Graham Kendrick, Mandisa, or Rebecca St. James (all of which have been performed at Lancaster Baptist Church and West Coast Baptist College), they can easily search for that group or individual on the web and come into intimate contact with them -- not only with their music (played in “real” rock & roll style as opposed to the watered-down versions performed in churches that are only beginning to dabble with contemporary praise music), but also with their ecumenical/charismatic/one-world church philosophy and their hyper-ecumenical friends.

3. PASTOR CHAPPELL OMITTS THE FACT THAT HIS CHURCH HAS BEEN USING A LOT OF CONTEMPORARY MUSIC.

If one did not know better, one could read Pastor Chappell’s report about music and come away with the impression that his church is extremely careful about what music they use and that any use of music by contemporary musicians is extremely few and far between.

That is not the case.

The following are just a few examples of contemporary music that Lancaster/West Coast have used in the last few years:

- “Hallelujah to the Lamb” by Don Moen (who thinks God is the author of the weird charismatic “laughing revival”)
- “In Christ Alone” by Getty/Townend
- “Word of God Speak” by MercyMe (a charismatic mystical song)
- “Stronger” and “Shout to the Lord” by Zschech/Hillsong (performed by Lancaster’s high school mixed ensemble; Hillsong performed for Catholic Youth Day and Pope Benedict)
- “Majesty, Worship His Majesty” by Jack Hayford (a Pentecostal Kingdom Now anthem; Hayford says God told him not to preach against the Roman Catholic church)
- “Great Is the Lord” and “How Majestic Is Your Name” by Michael W. Smith (who has been “slain in the Spirit” and “laughed uncontrollably, “rolling on the floor ... hyperventilating”)
- “Faithful Men” by Twila Paris (who works with the Roman Catholic Kathy Troccoli and with ecumenist Robert Webber, who promotes unity between evangelicals and Catholics)
- “In Christ Alone” by Michael English (who spent the 1990s and early 2000s committing adultery with another man’s wife, bar hopping, dating a stripper, and undergoing “rehab” for drug addiction)
- Songs by Steven Curtis Chapman (the most honored “high energy Christian rocker” of the 1990s who says he doesn’t preach “fire and brimstone” and describes God as “Lord of the Dance”)
- Songs by Geron Davis (“Jesus Only” Pentecostal who denies the Trinity)

- “I Will Rise” by Chris Tomlin (a member of an emerging church that seeks to build the kingdom in this present world)
- Songs by Graham Kendrick (charismatic founder of the radically ecumenical Jesus March that includes Catholics and Mormons)
- “Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)” by Chris Tomlin was performed at Lancaster Sunday morning, Oct. 9, 2011
- “Not Guilty” by the jazz CCM artist Mandisa was performed at the 2011 Leadership Conference
- “Above All Things” by Rebecca St. James (covered on West Coast Baptist College’s “For the Faith of the Gospel” CD)
- “Glorify You Alone” by Gateway Worship
- “Step by Step” by Rich Mullins (Lancaster Youth Conference 2012, Mullins was in the process of converting to Rome when he died)
- “How Can I Keep from Singing” by Chris Tomlin (August 2012)
- “Never Once” by Matt Redman (published on YouTube by Mark Rasmussen 2013)
- “Oceans (Where Feet May Fail)” by Hillsong United (published on YouTube by Mark Rasmussen 2014)
- “10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord) by Matt Redman (published on YouTube by Mark Rasmussen 2014)
- “I Will Rise” by Chris Tomlin by Lancaster Baptist Choir Feb. 2014
- “Nothing Ever Can” by Ross King by Lancaster Choir March 2014

In [The Directory of Contemporary Worship Musicians](#) we have provided extensive documentation that these individuals and groups are one-world church builders and that using their music is to build a bridge to great spiritual danger.

4. PASTOR CHAPPELL OMITTS THE FACT THAT SOME OF HIS PROMINENT YOUNG PEOPLE ARE IN LOVE WITH FULL-BLOWN CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP MUSIC AND ARE MOVING IN A CONTEMPORARY PHILOSOPHY.

I have warned that Chappell’s use of CCM will influence the next generation. It has already happened, and we have given specific examples of this. The constant justification of his music standards and the pretense that they are “conservative” does not change the fact of what is happening at his church and school.

See the report “[Next Generation Rocking at Lancaster Baptist Church](#),” and this is only the tip of the iceberg. (See the “[Lancaster](#)” section of the Articles Database at www.wayoflife.org.)

We gave the example of Mark Rasmussen, Jr., son of Mark Rasmussen, Vice President of West Coast and probably the most conservative face at the institution.

I understand that Mark has been interning at a church this summer, but he is a recent graduate of West Coast and has long been a prominent member of the Lancaster Baptist Church music program. He and other members of the program publish soft rock renditions of popular contemporary charismatic praise songs on YouTube under the names of Mark Rasmussen, 5FriendsFilms, and OneCauseProductions, and they have been doing this for at least two years. After I warned about it in October 2014, some of the more glaring CCM pieces were removed from the web, but I have copies on file. If the music was acceptable, why remove it?

5. PASTOR CHAPPELL OMITTS THE FACT THAT THERE ARE MEN OF GOD WHO ARE CRITICIZING HIS COMPROMISE FROM A HEART OF LOVE FOR CHRIST AND THE TRUTH.

In a fashion which is typical for him, as I have observed over the last few years, Pastor Chappell uses his report as an occasion to take a cheap shot against those who have criticized his music.

He lashes out at his reprovers under cover of anonymity by refusing to identify the men of whom he speaks.

He calls them “pathological antagonists who are never completely satisfied” and contrasts them with “godly men.”

He says they use the music issue as a smokescreen for their own sin:

“Sometimes arguments about music have been a smoke screen issue to hide a discrepancy, sin, or testimony issue in another area of someone’s life. Some of the most vocal regarding music issues tend to be the most unfruitful in other areas of Christian life” (Chappell, “Biblical Principles for Music & Worship,” *The Baptist Voice*, Summer 2015, p. 17).

Who are these carnal pathological antagonists who use music as a smoke screen to hide their sin?

He knows exactly what men will come immediately to the mind of preachers who read his report, because of their vocal protests against Chappell's music and philosophy.

What Pastor Chappell doesn't say is that there could be men of good conscience before God, men with a good testimony, men who are fruitful in the Lord's work, who are deeply concerned about his music philosophy because they are convinced that it is spiritually destructive.

CONCLUSION

The fundamental issue in regard to music is that unwise bridges are being built by men who should know better, and instead of repenting of it they are justifying it and slandering those who warn of their compromise.

At the same time, I thank the Lord for the many pastors who are resisting the tide and are not following the crowd. The following is one of the great many testimonies I have received from pastors who have written to me over the past couple of years:

"I especially appreciate your focus on the beginnings of CCM and the result of what it has become. You are right in saying that CCM is of the same spirit that has led to end time apostasy. No walls of separation, unity and oneness is its cry. I've noticed even in our church that when a young person starts listening to CCM, separation and standards sound silly to them. They begin to mold to the whole CCM mentality and I have found them to be bored with Bible preaching. Thankfully, there are young people here who desire to do right and know the dangers of CCM mainly because of your work on this. Thank you. It has been a great encouragement and help to me as a Pastor."



A principle that has helped me, and a principle that I delight in is that when things aren't spelled out in Scripture, there is liberty for the Lord's will to be sought and followed in each particular situation.

When the Bible' teaching is clear, that is law. When the Bible is silent, that is liberty, and there is a lot of liberty.

One man put it like this: There is form and freedom. The form is the words of Scripture rightly interpreted. The freedom is anything beyond the form.

This is the teaching of Romans 14. Paul says that in matters such as diet and holy days, we are not to judge one another. There is liberty. Those are examples of

things that aren't spelled out in Scripture. There are no dietary laws or laws about holy days in the New Testament dispensation, so there is liberty in all such matters. Though the New Testament does mention Sunday as the day of the Lord and it does say that the brethren assembled on that day, it doesn't spell out what can and cannot be done on that day as in Israel's Sabbath laws, so there is great liberty.

I strongly disagree with those who try to make laws out of things that the Bible isn't clear on. The Bible's silence is not law; it is liberty.

For example, the principle that churches should not use musical instruments is based on the fact that the New

Testament is silent on that. But the silence isn't a law against musical instruments; it is liberty to use them or not use them so long as they are used according to Scriptural principles. Some within the house church movement make laws out of silence in things such as graded Sunday Schools, youth ministries, and nurseries. Though the Bible doesn't describe such things, it also doesn't forbid them if they are operated according to scriptural principles.

What we have a difficult time doing, and I speak for myself as well as from my experience with others, is in *not* making our own interpretations and "assumptions" a rule for others. I have strong opinions about every aspect of church government, but I must stand back and make sure that I am not reading things into Scripture and making those interpretations a law for everyone. This touches on the error of the Jews, who gradually replaced the clear teaching of Scripture with their questionable interpretations and applications of Scripture that became authoritative laws. I believe that there is the tendency toward Phariseeism in all of us.

The matter of form and freedom applies to many aspects of church life and government. Form and freedom applies to the services (the number of them, the time, the function, the order). Form and freedom applies to the Lord's Supper. There is some clear teaching on the Lord's Supper, but there is also room for some differences as to how often it is taken, when it is taken, and, to some extent, who participates, in my estimation. Form and freedom applies to the selection of deacons. There is room for differences pertaining to exactly how they are selected (chosen by the congregation, chosen by the elders) and how long they function (permanently, yearly). Form and freedom applies to how the church conducts business and how the pastors and church family work together in making decisions. There is room for differences in regard to which decisions are made by the pastors and which by the church, what constitutes a quorum, how much unity is required for a decision, etc.

Let me also say that when a church decides to do something, as long as that thing is not contrary to Scripture, the church members are obligated to obey.

For example, while the Bible doesn't spell out a Wednesday evening prayer meeting, if the church leaders determine before the Lord that the church should

have a Wednesday evening prayer meeting or a Thursday evening prayer meeting, the members can't stay home and say, "I have liberty in this matter." Hebrews 10:25 and 13:7 come into play at this point. Three times in Hebrews, the pastors are said to "have the rule" (Heb. 13:7, 17, 24). This is a strong emphasis. Pastoral authority has often been abused and a spirit of Diotrefes is not uncommon in Baptist churches, and I have preached against this forcefully and unequivocally (how many men, for example, have written a book about "[The Hyles Effect](#)"?), but the fact remains that God has given pastors authority. They are called *episkopos*, which is translated bishops and overseers. They are called rulers. They are said to be "over you" (1 Th. 5:12).

This principle applies to the time and frequency of services, standards for workers, dress standards, choir rules, parking rules, and many other things. As a matter of practicality, many decisions have to be made and many rules established that aren't strictly based on Scripture, and when those decisions are made by duly constituted authority, God's people are to obey, so long as they are not contrary to clear Scripture. This is how everything is done "decently and in good order," which is God's express will (1 Cor. 14:40).

The same principle is true in a family when the parents make a decision about the home. The family rules might not be based exactly on Scripture (e.g., take out the trash; clean your room; brush your teeth; come straight home after school; finish your homework before 8pm), but the parents' rule is the law as long as it is not contrary to the clear teaching of Scripture, because God has made it the law (Eph. 6:1-2). God is the God of law and order, and He has established authority figures and given them authority (Romans 13:1).

Returning to the main subject of this report, when the Bible is silent, there is liberty for each individual and each family and each church to make its own decisions and its own rules under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

"...ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh..." (Galatians 5:13)



RICE AND ROLOFF PREACHED REPENTANCE FROM SIN

THE SWORD of the LORD

By David Cloud



In the 1980s, Jack Hyles and Curtis Hutson changed the historic Baptist definition of repentance. I suspect that the motive was to justify the cheap, numbers-oriented soul winning methodology that was popular in that day. This was the methodology that was foundational to Big-itis with its emphasis on “the largest ... the fastest growing... the greatest.”

I label the numbers-oriented soul winning methodology “Quick Prayerism,” because it is quick to run people through “the Roman’s Road,” quick to “get a decision” and lead them in a sinner’s prayer, quick to give people “assurance,” and quick to pronounce them “saved” and record them as a statistic.

“At least the gospel is being preached; what’s the harm?” some say. The harm is that countless people have been given a false hope of heaven. It has inoculated multitudes of people to true salvation. In some parts of Chattanooga, Hammond, Longview, and many other places where this methodology has been pushed, a frightful number of people claim to be saved even though they live like the very devil himself. If you knock on their doors and try to talk to them about Christ, they respond, “I’ve done that,” and then shut the door and return to their Christless lifestyles.

In the past, *The Sword of the Lord* was at the forefront of promoting the theology of bigness and the kings of Quick Prayerism. I know. I was there. In the 1970s, I read practically everything the *Sword* published. I was never a John Rice disciple and never gave any man except Christ unquestioning loyalty, but I loved John Rice and appreciated many things that he stood for. I was a student at Highland Park Baptist Church in the mid-70s. I worked in the bus ministry and the chapel ministry and the rat race because of the push for “decisions” and the frenzy to report big numbers. I attended *Sword* conferences. I heard Hyles and Hutson preach. I witnessed the unabashed promotion of bigness.

Every independent Baptist who lived then knows that this is true.

In the late 1980s and early 1990s, Jack Hyles and Curtis Hutson changed the historic definition of repentance, and I deeply suspect it was for the purpose of justifying the Quick Prayerism methodology and the theology of Bigness. Consider the following quotes:

“The problem and confusion is not preaching repentance but attaching the wrong definition to the word. For instance, to say that repentance means to turn from sin, or to say that repentance is a change of mind that leads to a change of action, is to give a wrong definition to the word” (Curtis Hutson, *Repentance: What Does the Bible Teach?* Sword of the Lord, 1986, p. 16).

“What makes the wrath of God abide on a person? Believing not! So, from what must a person repent in order to be saved? He must repent of that which makes him lost. Since ‘believing not’ makes him lost, ‘believing’ makes him saved. The repentance there is a turning from the thing that keeps him from being saved to the thing that saves him. So, yes, there is a repentance from unbelief in order to believe. It is simply a change of direction. It means a turning around. You are going away from believing, and you decide to turn around and believe. You change your direction; you change your mind. With your will you believe and rely upon Christ to save you. In order to believe, you have to repent of unbelief. That which makes a man lost must be corrected” (Dr. Jack Hyles, *Enemies of Soulwinning*, 1993).

This was a dramatic change in the historic Baptist definition of repentance, as we have documented in the book *Repentance and Soul Winning*, a book that many have condemned without reading.

Two of the Baptists that we quote in this book are John Rice and Lester Roloff. Both men preached exactly what Hyles and Hutson condemned.

“To repent literally means to have a change of mind or spirit toward God and toward sin. It means to TURN FROM YOUR SINS, earnestly, with all your heart, and trust in Jesus Christ to save you. You can see, then, how the man who believes in Christ repents and the man who repents believes in Christ. The jailer repented when HE TURNED FROM SIN to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ” (John R. Rice, *What Must I Do to Be Saved?* 1940).

“Repentance is a godly sorrow for sin. Repentance is a FORSAKING OF SIN. Real repentance is putting your trust in Jesus Christ so you will not live like that anymore. Repentance is permanent. It is a lifelong and an eternity-long experience. You will never love the Devil again once you repent. You will never flirt with the Devil as the habit of your life again once you get saved. You will never be happy living in sin; it will never satisfy; and the husks of the world will never fill your longing and hungering in your soul. Repentance is something a lot bigger than a lot of people think. It is absolutely essential if you go to heaven” (Lester Roloff, *Repent or Perish*, 1965).

The current editor of the *Sword of the Lord* will not own up to the confusion caused by the fact that his own paper has faced two ways on the issue of repentance, but it cannot be shoved under the carpet. It is an important issue, a doctrinal issue, that will doubtless come up at the judgment seat of Christ.

• A CHALLENGE FOR BIBLE-BELIEVING CHURCHES ABOUT MUSIC TODAY •

Music is a powerful thing, both in secular society and in the churches. It is often at the heart of dramatic changes we have witnessed over the past 20 years.

Following are some challenges for preachers, teachers, and church music people in Bible-believing churches in regard to music today.

1. Have you developed a clear biblical standard of music and taught it to the church? Have you developed biblical principles that can be applied to music and that can be used to determine where to draw lines?
2. How do you apply the issue of biblical separation to music today?
3. What are you doing to educate yourself and your church about Contemporary Christian Music?
4. Are you vigilant about the music being used in the specials and at the youth conferences, camps, and Bible colleges to which you send your young people?
5. Do you make yourself familiar with the lyrics and associations of the CCM songs that your people might want to use in your church?
6. Do you educate yourself about the leaven that might be hidden in the lyrics of CCM songs from the influence of the theology of ecumenism, kingdom now, Pentecostalism, Charismaticism, Roman Catholicism, etc.?
7. How are you teaching your people to identify and avoid these false teachings?
8. Are you informed enough to educate to your people about the popular contemporary musicians who are influencing Bible-believing church members? (Examples are Hillsong, Chris Tomlin, Mark Redman, Stuart Townend, the Gettys, Michael W. Smith, Tim Hughes, Graham Kendrick, MercyMe, and Third Day.)
9. Can you explain what could be dangerous about a little soft rock?
10. Do you understand “beat anticipation” and why is it dangerous?
11. Do you know the objective of contemporary worship music as far as what it seeks to do between the worshiper and God?
12. Do you know what type of chording sequence contemporary worship music favors and how this fits into its objective?
13. Can you explain why contemporary worshipers almost always love all forms of rock rhythm, from Peter, Paul, and Mary to Eminem?
14. Do you know what role contemporary worship music plays in the one-world "church"?
15. Do you know how many of the prominent contemporary worship musicians take a stand against ecumenical associations with Rome?
16. Can you explain any significant difference between using old Protestant hymns such as Luther's and using contemporary worship music?
17. Do you know why Frank Garlock has long warned about the type of sensual vocalization (scooping, sliding) that is increasingly popular in independent Baptist churches?
18. Do you know of any dangers of borrowing from contemporary worship?
19. How is it possible in this day and age for a church to adapt contemporary worship songs without the young people going online to find out more about the songs and the musicians and thus coming into contact with and being influenced by the full-blown ecumenical rockers and the “real” renditions of the music?
20. What changes are happening to churches that you know of that are using contemporary music?
21. What are you doing to keep your church from going down the slippery slope of compromise down which many independent Baptist churches have already gone?

The answers to these questions can be found in our new book [*Independent Baptist Music Wars*](#) and the two accompanying video presentations, [*The Transformation Power of Contemporary Worship*](#) and [*The Foreign Spirit of Contemporary Worship*](#). For information on the influential contemporary bands and artists see [*The Directory of Contemporary Worship Musicians*](#).

All of these are available at www.wayoflife.org. The eBook and eVideo editions are free.

DIGGING IN THE WALLS

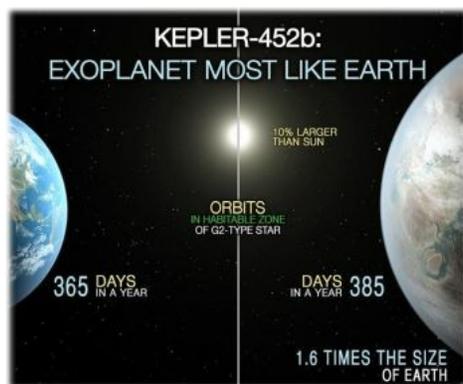
God commanded the prophet Ezekiel to dig in the walls of Israel's temple and observe the evils being done in secret by apostate religious leaders of that day. "Then said he unto me, Son of man, dig now in the wall ... And he said unto me, Go in, and behold the wicked abominations that they do here. So 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?



ASTRONOMERS FIND "EARTH-LIKE PLANET" (Friday Church News Notes, July 31, 2015, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - NASA has announced that its Kepler mission has found a "near-earth-size planet in the 'habitable zone' around a sun-like star" ("Astronomers Thrilled," BreakingChristianNews.com, Jul. 24, 2015). This brings the total of "earth-like" planets discovered so far to 4,696. The newest one, Kepler-452, is 1,400 light years away in the constellation Cygnus and is said to "bring science one step closer to finding an Earth 2.0." Because of their rebellion to the Almighty Creator, these brilliant scientists are engaging in nonsense based on assumptions and just-so stories. Their search for "Earth 2.0" assumes that the universe and biological life are the product of evolution, but there is zero scientific evidence that the complex universe sprang from nothing or that life sprang from non-life or that the myriad of complicated life forms evolved from one "simple" one.

CHICKEN DINNER INVENTED IN ISRAEL (Friday Church News Notes, July 31, 2015, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Archaeologists are claiming that

"Israel is where the chicken business was invented." Sometime between 200-400 BC, the raising and eating of chicken began in the town of Maresha in central Israel. When the occupying Romans discovered chicken, the practice spread throughout the empire ("Sorry colonel, Israel had real original recipe chicken," *The Times of Israel*, July 21, 2015). This is according to the Zinman Institute of Archaeology at Haifa University. Doctoral student Lee Perry-Gal says, "After the Romans exported what they saw at Maresha, chicken became a culinary craze throughout the Empire." The researchers found thousands of bones of chickens with knife marks indicating they were prepared for consumption. The



Maresha chickens weren't barbecued, but were either baked, boiled, or fried, since there is no sign of burning on the bones.

TWO MENNONITE COLLEGES ALLOW EMPLOYMENT OF "MARRIED" HOMOSEXUALS (Friday Church News Notes, July 31, 2015, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from "Two Mennonite Colleges," *Christian News Network*, Jul. 22, 2015: "Two American colleges that identify as Mennonite institutions have announced changes to their hiring policy to now allow the employment of homosexuals who have 'wed' their



partners. Eastern Mennonite University (EMU) in Harrisonburg, Virginia and Goshen College in Goshen, Indiana announced the alterations on Monday, while claiming to still hold to the biblical principles as Christian schools. EMU's decision followed a two-year 'listening process' to 'review current hiring policies and practices with respect to individuals in same-sex relationships.' ... On Monday, Board Chair Kay Brenneman Nussbaum and President Lauren Swartzendruber stated that they believed the compromise was satisfactory. '[EMU] is grounded in Mennonite/Anabaptist values, and we believe people in same-sex covenanted relationships are valued members of our learning community with equal rights to standard benefits,' Nussbaum remarked in a statement. ... Goshen College made similar statements, remarking that there is a 'diversity' of opinions on whether or not biblical law prohibits sexuality between those of the same gender. 'As an institution rooted in the Anabaptist tradition, we reaffirm our strong relationship to Mennonite Church USA, and recognize the diversity of interpretation of Scripture on this issue within our denomination and the broader Christian church, a diversity reflected within the board of directors and on our campus as well,' said President James Brenneman."

KENTUCKY'S DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE

FORBIDS CALLING HOMOSEXUALITY SINFUL

(Friday Church News Notes, July 31, 2015, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - A 2014 policy by Kentucky's Department of Juvenile Justice forbids counselors from calling homosexuality "sinful," and a long-time volunteer prison minister has been barred for refusing to sign a statement agreeing to the policy. David Wells' status as a counselor was revoked on July 7 by the Warren County Regional Juvenile Detention Center. He has more than 10 years experience working as a volunteer under the prison ministry of Pleasant View Baptist Church, McQuady,



Kentucky. DJJ Policy 912 on "Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity" says that staff and volunteers "shall not refer to juveniles by using derogatory language in a manner that conveys bias towards or hatred of the LGBTQI community. DJJ staff, volunteers, interns, and contractors shall not imply or tell LGBTQI juveniles that they are abnormal, deviant, sinful, or that they can or should change their sexual orientation or gender identity." Liberty Council, which is representing Mr. Wells, has demanded that he be reinstated and that the state of Kentucky stop imposing a religious test on volunteer pastor counselors. Liberty Council's Mat Staver says that by equating the

teaching of biblical morality with "derogatory," "biased," and "hateful" speech, "DJJ policy creates an unconstitutional, religious litmus test for DJJ access" ("Kentucky Juvenile Department Bans Biblical Counseling," Liberty Council, Jul. 24, 2015). Staver says, further, "Many juveniles are in DJJ custody because of sexual crimes. David Wells must be able to discuss what the Bible says about matters of sexuality with the juveniles he is trying to help. To remove the Bible from a pastor's hands is like removing a scalpel from a surgeon's hands. Without it, they cannot provide healing."

AMERICAN WAR HERO FROM ISRAEL'S WAR OF INDEPENDENCE DIES

(Friday Church News Notes, July 31, 2015, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Lou Lenart, an American fighter pilot who led Israel's air attack against the Egyptians and thus saved Tel Aviv, died on July 20 at age 94 ("Lou Lenart," *The Times of Israel*, Jul. 21, 2015). Lenart was born into a Jewish family in Hungary, and when he was 10 they moved to the United States. After serving as a Marine pilot in the U.S. Army in World War II, he volunteered to help smuggle war surplus planes into Israel in early 1948



in preparation for the War of Independence. Two weeks after the nation declared its independence on May 14, a large Egyptian force

advanced to within 16 miles of Tel Aviv. Israel decided to gamble its entire “air force” of four Czech planes in an attempt to halt the attack. Caught unawares, having been assured the Israelis had no warplanes, the Egyptians retreated. It was one of the many miraculous things that happened during that and subsequent wars.

MISSING IN YOUNG PEOPLE’S LIVES (Friday Church News Notes, July 31, 2015, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)



- If a young person does not have a love for Christ and an earnest desire to please Him, no list of rules will protect him. He will find a way to do what he really wants to do, and if he cannot do it now, he will do it as soon as he is on his own. Two things are missing in the lives of many young people who grow up in Bible-believing churches. *The first thing that is missing is salvation.* I know this by experience. I grew up in a Baptist church and went through the motions of getting saved around age 10 or 11, but I wasn’t saved. I had no inner motive to do right. I had no personal love for the Bible. As a result, I broke my parents’ rules and snuck around and found a way to do what I wanted to do, and as soon as I could, I left home and “followed my heart.” The missing element in my life was repentance toward God (Acts 20:21), and this is what is missing in

the lives and hearts of many young people. I “believed in Jesus,” but I did not surrender to God’s authority. That is the essence of repentance. The sinner has rebelled against God and broken His law, and he must repent of this. Repentance is a change of direction in the heart. Two great biblical examples are the Prodigal Son (Lk. 15:17-19) and the idolaters at Thessalonica (1 Th. 1:9). Parents and church leaders need to look for clear evidence of salvation. These are a life-changing conversion experience (Jn. 3:3; Mat. 18:3), love for God’s Word (Jn. 8:47), love of righteousness (1 Jn. 2:3-4), and divine chastisement (Heb. 12:6-8). Salvation is not difficult. It means to come to Jesus, but when you turn to Jesus you have your back to the old life. *The second thing that is often missing is surrender to God’s perfect will* (Romans 12:1-2). This is a choice that each believer must make, and it is a choice that is made because of the mercies of God. Because of all that He has done for us, we should be motivated to surrender our lives to His service. The goal of parents and church leaders must be to lead young people to true salvation and surrender and to make disciples of them.

RAINDROP PATTERNS FROM THE DELUGE (Friday Church News Notes, July 31, 2015, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from “Raindrop imprints and the location of the pre-Flood/Flood boundary,” *Creation* magazine, Aug. 2013: “Raindrop imprints can also tell us the location of the pre-Flood/ Flood boundary. They have been reported in the Precambrian from the Uinta Mountains, India, Norway, and South Africa. Some of these locations have

multiple stratigraphic levels of raindrop imprints. The latter site was in the late Archean Ventersdorp Supergroup. Some creationists have questioned whether Precambrian raindrop imprints really are raindrop imprints. However, the size distribution of Archean raindrop imprints in South Africa has recently been favourably compared to raindrop imprints today and from experiments of falling water drops of known sizes and fall velocities. So, it is likely that these Archean examples are really raindrop imprints. Since rain did not fall at least until after man was created, as clearly stated in Genesis 2:5-6, and possibly until the Flood, raindrop imprints indicate that the sediments were laid down either between Creation Week and the Flood or during the Flood. ... The



raindrop imprints can be explained the same way as dinosaur tracks, eggs, and scavenged bone beds can be explained, early in the Flood. This is by the BEDS (Briefly Exposed Diluvial Sediments) hypothesis in which rapid sedimentation followed by a drop in local sea level can expose flat bedding planes for brief periods. Precambrian sedimentary rocks are normally thousands of metres thick, so it makes sense that they can be briefly exposed after heavy deposition. Raindrop imprints have to be rapidly buried in order to

be preserved, which would have happened during the corresponding rise in local sea level. Multiple levels can be explained by this mechanism repeating several times.”

MARK DRISCOLL REPENTS OF JUDGMENTALISM (Friday Church News Notes, August 7, 2015, www.wayoflife.org fbs@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- There is a cardinal sin among evangelicals, and that is the sin of “judgmentalism.” You can hold a wide variety of heresies and be a lover of the world or a homosexual and continue to be accepted, but being “judgmental” is a different story. Mark Driscoll, former pastor of the Mars Hill megachurch in Seattle, was guilty of this sin. He boasted about his “cultural liberalism” with its secular rock forums and New Year’s Eve dance parties complete with champagne, and that was not a problem. He mocked the Bible’s doctrine of an imminent Rapture, and that was not a problem. What was a problem was when he judged homosexuals and feminists and even went so far as to judge some of his fellow preachers and name them by names. He even publicly criticized Joel Osteen, the smiley face pastor of America’s largest church. All is well, now, though because Mark has repented in tears and publicly apologized. Like Jack Van Impe did in the 1980s, Mark has repented of judgmentalism. He did this during his interview with Brian Houston which was broadcast during the recent Hillsong Sydney Conference (attended by youth from at least one independent Baptist church). Houston told Driscoll that he has “a huge personal problem with people ... criticizing other pastors even though we are different on some



issues.” Driscoll replied that his position on publicly criticizing fellow pastors “has evolved” and he has made efforts to reconcile with a number of the pastors he “offended” in his former ministry, including Osteen (“Driscoll Says the Lord Convicted Him of ‘Sin against’ Joel Osteen,” *The Christian Post*, Jul. 29, 2015). Driscoll went on to say, “I appreciate this opportunity to publicly apologize to [Osteen]. When anyone dies they’re going to stand and give an account. It won’t be to Mark Driscoll.” Now that the “judgmental” issue has been dealt with, I am guessing that Driscoll will begin to get speaking invitations again and will return to some leadership position in the near future. The statements by Brian Houston and Mark Driscoll display a great misunderstanding of biblical judgment. For a preacher to warn about a heretic and compromiser is not a personal judgment; it is the judgment of God’s Word. It is not a case of a preacher taking the place of God; it is the case of a preacher obeying God by reproof and exposing error so that his flock will not be misled and devoured by wolves. Biblical judgment is the Apostle Paul warning about Phygellus, Hermogenes, Hymenaeus, Philetus, Demas and Alexander (2 Tim. 1:15; 2:16-18; 4:10, 14). This was done in an epistle to Timothy,

which was an epistle that was also read in all of the churches as part of the canon of New Testament Scripture. That’s the right kind of “judgmentalism.” It is godly “judgmentalism” that cares more about obeying God than pleasing man. It is compassionate “judgmentalism” that cares more for the well-being of the flock than the feelings of the wolves. And it is a “judgmentalism” that every pastor should be engaged in and will come to deeply regret if he is not so engaged.

THE CARDINAL SIN OF JUDGMENTALISM AMONG INDEPENDENT BAPTISTS (Friday Church News Notes, August 7, 2015, www.wayoflife.org fbs@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - It is not only evangelicals who believe that the public “judging” of preachers is a great sin. Many independent Baptists believe something very similar. While they believe that it is legitimate to “criticize” *some* Christian leaders, such as the Pope and Joel Osteen and perhaps Rick Warren, it is not right in their eyes to “criticize” fellow independent Baptists. Private warning is OK, but not public. A lot of people have told me that they love my Bible study materials such as the *Way of Life Encyclopedia*, the *Advanced Bible Studies*, the *One*

Year Discipleship Course, An Unshakeable Faith, and Bible Times and Ancient Kingdoms, but they are offended by my “criticism” of “good men.” They think that it is unnecessary and divisive, and they have urged me to leave off the latter and devote myself to the former. The Lord knows I would like to follow this counsel, because what I love to do most is teach the Bible. There is one “little” problem, though, and that is that I am instructed by God’s Word not only to teach, but also to reprove, rebuke, exhort, and nowhere am I told to limit the ministry of reproof to a select group of preachers and churches. Forty-three years ago, before I knew anything about independent Baptists, the Lord saved me and soon thereafter he called me to preach His Word. Through Proverbs 6:23, He called me to preach “reproofs of instruction.” As a Biblicist rather than a pragmatist, I refuse to limit my ministry of reproof, since God’s Word nowhere limits it. In my experience, though, if it comes to taking a stand for God’s Word against one’s preacher heroes, in a great many cases, the Word of God gets second place, and those who commit this sin have a hundred ways to justify it. “It’s just not the way we do things, Brother Cloud.”

HILLSONG NYC CHOIR LED BY AN “ENGAGED” HOMOSEXUAL (Friday Church News Notes, August 7, 2015, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - According to the *New York Times* for October 17, 2014, a homosexual couple, Josh Canfield and Reed Kelly, sing in choirs at Hillsong New York City, and Canfield is a volunteer choir leader. Canfield and Kelly were billed as the “Broadway

Boyfriends” on the reality show *Survivor: San Juan del Sur*.” In a December 16, 2014, interview with *Playbill*, Canfield described how that he “came out of the closet” at Hillsong. He also speaks of his “engagement” to Kelly. He said, “I became truthful with my church. I’m a part of Hillsong NYC. I’m one of their choir directors. I also sing on their Worship team. They’ve been amazing as well. Nothing has changed there now that I’m completely out and with Reed. He sings in the choir as well.” After this was recently re-reported by a blog operated by Geoffrey Grider, Brian Houston of Hillsong Sydney issued a statement that that marriage is only for “heterosexual couples.” But in truth Hillsong is trying to face both ways on this issue, as so many others are. Last year the senior pastor of Hillsong NYC, Canfield and Kelly’s pastor, told CNN, “We have a lot of gay men and women in our church and I pray we always do” (“Hillsong New York Pastor Carl Lentz,” *Christian Today*, June 6, 2014). In the same interview, Laura Lentz, Carl’s wife and Hillsong NYC co-pastor, said, “It’s not our place to tell anyone how they should live, it’s—that’s their journey.” There’s where Hillsong really stands on moral issues, and Laura is brave enough to say so plainly. Carl Lentz said, “I am still waiting for someone to show me the quote where Jesus addressed it on the record in front of people.” Perhaps I can help him out here. What Jesus did say in regard to homosexuality was three things. *First, Jesus exalted the law of Moses as God’s holy law.* “Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy,



but to fulfil. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled. Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach *them*, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 5:17-19). The law of Moses that Jesus exalted as God’s holy law says, “Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it *is* abomination” (Leviticus 18:22). *Second, Jesus limited marriage to one man and one woman as in the beginning of creation* (Matthew 19:3-9). This completely destroys the biblical legitimacy of “same-sex marriage.” *Third, Jesus said that His Spirit would lead the apostles into all truth* (John 16:13). We find this canon of Spirit-taught truth in the New Testament Scriptures, where we find the strongest statement against homosexuality in the entire Bible in Romans 1:24-28. To separate the authority of the Gospels from the authority of the Apostolic Epistles is rank heresy, for we are told that “all Scripture is given by inspiration of God” (2 Timothy 3:16-17). Obviously Jesus left no room for homosexual Christianity and “same sex marriage,” and His teaching on

this was very public, Mr. Lentz. The Hillsong churches are so “culturally relevant” that they are traitors to the truth of God’s Word, yet their music is influencing large numbers of Baptists and fundamentalists. When asked by a reporter why Hillsong is so successful, Brian Houston of Hillsong Sydney replied, “We are scratching people where they are itching” (“The Lord’s Profits,” *Sydney Morning Herald*, January 30, 2003). That is right out of 2 Timothy 4:3, which is a warning of apostasy. It describes people who itch for a new kind of Christianity, and it describes heaps of preachers who will scratch this illicit itch. “For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears.” That describes Hillsong to a “T.”

**H O M O S E X U A L I T Y :
W E L C O M I N G O R A F F I R M I N G ?**
(Friday Church News Notes, August 7, 2015, www.wayoflife.org
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- In the brouhaha surrounding the public statements about an engaged homosexual couple participating in the music program at Hillsong New York City, Brian Houston of Hillsong Sydney said, “We are a gay welcoming church but we are not a church that affirms a gay lifestyle.” He said that Hillsong allows homosexuals to be members of its

churches but not to serve in leadership positions. What does this mean, though, and how does it work? How can a church *welcome* homosexuals without *affirming* a gay lifestyle? On one hand, “old fashioned” Bible-believing churches have been doing this for 2,000 years, but this “old” model is definitely *not* where Hillsong wants to go. According to the Bible, the *welcoming without affirming* is done by preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ to all sinners, welcoming all to repent and believe, and receiving as members those who do. It is very simple. This is what we see in the church at Corinth. The members had *formerly* been fornicators, idolaters, adulterers, effeminate, abusers of themselves with mankind, thieves, covetous, drunkards, revilers, and extortioners, but they had been washed, sanctified, and justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of God (1 Corinthians 6:9-11). This is the example put forth in Scripture, but this “old” model presents a problem for emerging churches in that it requires plainly identifying homosexuality as something that is sinful that must be repented of, whereas this is no longer culturally acceptable. Today’s homosexuals are proud of their homosexuality. They believe that God accepts them as they are, and if He doesn’t, He’s the loser. They don’t want merely to be welcomed to hear the gospel, and they will not accept merely being welcomed. They demand to be affirmed in their lifestyle, and in truth, Hillsong is doing *both* by allowing homosexuals to be members without repenting of the sin of homosexuality and without a new birth experience that radically changes their thinking and their lifestyle.

**A STIFF DOSE OF SCRIPTURE,
TAKEN WITH FAITH** (Friday Church News Notes, August 7, 2015, www.wayoflife.org
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- “My soul cleaveth unto the dust: quicken thou me according to thy word” (Psalm 119:25). “There can be little doubt that the psalmist was in the grip of deep depression. He was flat on his face in the dust. He had come to the end of himself and his own resources. At this point our society would advise us to see a psychiatrist, seek professional help. ... The psalmist makes a different suggestion. He says to the Lord, ‘Quicken Thou me.’ He was going to air his problems all right, but he was going to take them to the Lord. He was going to seek a counselor--the counsel of the Word of God. There are very few problems in this life that cannot be solved by a thorough-going, honest exposure of one’s life to the Scriptures. To do that is the greatest therapy in the world. The psalmist asked God to ‘quicken him,’ that is, to put new life into him. What he needed was a stiff dose of Scripture, taken with a mixture of faith, every day. Try it. Read your Bible consistently. Say with Samuel, ‘Speak, Lord, Thy servant heareth.’ The Bible is a book of people and principles. Sooner or later, God will confront us in the pages of His Book with the basic cause of our problem

and with His inspired, infallible solution to that problem. The psalmist had discovered the best way of all to handle depression. But we must be prepared. The Bible will not hedge or redefine sin. It will put its finger unerringly on the sin question, frequently at the root of other problems of life” (John Phillips).

T.D. JAKES, ONE OF AMERICA’S PREACHER POLITICIANS (Friday Church News Notes, August 14, 2015, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)



- The very popular T.D. Jakes is considered a great preacher, but in reality he is a great politician. When questioned on his position on the Trinity, he fudges and faces two ways. (See “The Elephant Room,” April 5, 2012, www.wayoflife.org.) When questioned about his position on homosexuality by a liberal secular newspaper, he fudges again. In a recent interview with the *Huffington Post*, he not only fudged about the issue of homosexuality, he also questioned the divine inspiration of Paul’s epistles, which is a fundamental error. Instead of plainly stating what the Bible teaches about homosexuality, Jakes described his views as “evolved and evolving.” To justify evolution in doctrinal and moral thinking, he used the example of the apostle Paul’s teaching in 1 Corinthians 11, saying, “Paul spends a lot of time wrestling back and forth,

trying to understand should a woman wear a head covering, should you cut your hair. I mean, they grappled back then and we’re grappling now because we’re humans and we are flawed and we’re not God” (“T.D. Jakes Comes Out for ‘Gay Rights’ and ‘LGBT Churches,’” *Christian News Network*, Aug. 7, 2015). This is a frightful and terrible error on the part of a supposed Bible-believing pastor. Paul was not “grappling” with anything that he wrote in 1 Corinthians 11. He was writing under divine inspiration, which is why he prefaced the chapter by commending the church for keeping his teaching (1 Cor. 11:1-2). Yes, the preacher is human and not God, but the preacher has the infallible Word of God in the canon of Scripture, and he has the Spirit of God as his Interpreter, and he is solemnly commissioned to preach God’s Word without question and compromise, in season and out of season (2 Tim. 4:1-2). God has spoken on the issue of homosexuality. There is no more for a preacher to say than what God has already said. America’s preachers are her fundamental problem. America doesn’t fear God today because America’s preachers don’t preach the fear of God. Like T.D. Jakes, they are too busy building megachurches by preaching smooth things (e.g., motivational psychology). “Therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts concerning the prophets; Behold, I will feed them with wormwood, and make them drink the water of gall: for from the prophets of Jerusalem is profaneness gone forth into all the land. ... But if they had stood in my counsel, and had caused my people to hear my words, then they should have turned them from their evil way, and from the evil of their doings” (Jeremiah 23:15, 22).

ATHEIST PASTOR FIGHTING THE ATTEMPT TO REMOVE HER FROM THE MINISTRY (Friday Church News Notes, August 14, 2015, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)



- An atheist United Church of Canada pastor is fighting the denomination’s effort to fire her. Gretta Vosper of West Hill United Church of Toronto, who was ordained in 1993 and has been at West Hill since 1997, says, “I don’t believe in ... the god called God. Using the word gets in the way of sharing what I want to share” (“Atheist Minister,” *The Globe and Mail*, Aug. 5, 2015). We have no idea what she wants to “share,” but she claims that the Bible and Jesus are “mythology,” so her highest authority is her own opinion. *The Globe and Mail* says Vosper has been teaching atheism and mythology at West Hill since 2001, but when she did away with the Lord’s Prayer in 2008, 100 of her 150 members left. The denomination did nothing until she wrote a letter this year to the Toronto Conference executive secretary stating that belief in God can motivate things such as the Charlie Hebdo massacre, making no distinction between faith in the God of the Bible and faith in Allah. As a result, the denomination is reviewing whether Vosper is being “faithful to her ordination vows” which include a belief in “God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.” An ecclesiastical court is to hear her case in the fall. This is

a denomination that allows “pastors” to deny the historicity of the Pentateuch, the miraculous nature of Bible prophecy, the virgin birth, deity, substitutionary atonement, and bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ, and any number of other cardinal doctrines, but perhaps Vosper has gone a bit too far even for the United Church of Canada. We will see.

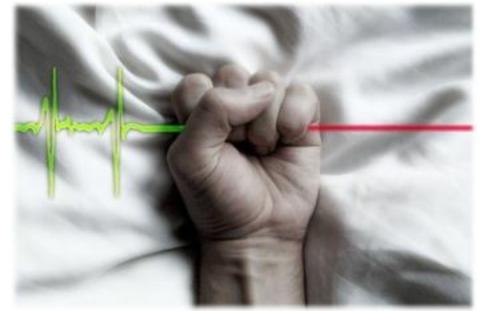
CANADA SUPREME COURT STRIKES DOWN PROHIBITION AGAINST EUTHANASIA (Friday Church News Notes, August 14, 2015, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)



- In February, the Supreme Court of Canada unanimously struck down the federal prohibition against physician-assisted euthanasia, ruling that it violates Canadians’ Charter rights to “life, liberty and security of the person” (“Supreme Court Strikes Down,” *Global News*, Feb. 6, 2015). Federal and provincial governments are given a year to introduce legislation to permit the practice. The Supreme Court laid out some conditions: the individual must be an adult, must consent to his own death, must have a “grievous and irremediable” medical condition which can be an “illness, disease, or disability,” the condition must cause “endless suffering,” and this suffering can be either physical or psychological. It is very difficult for most people to see a right to die in the language of “the right to life, liberty, and security,” but for these

judges it is as clear as crystal. It is as clear as the right to abortion and the right to homosexual marriage. In truth, these are not rights guaranteed either by Canada’s Charter or by the American Constitution. They are rights invented by judges. A 2014 survey by Ipsos Reid found that 84% of Canadians approved of doctor-assisted suicide. That same year, the Canadian Medical Association voted to allow its members to “follow their own conscience” in regard to helping people kill themselves. Euthanasia would make sense if there were no God and no eternity, but God knows better than man, and His law says, “Thou shalt not kill” (Exodus 20:13).

EUTHANASIA’S SLIPPERY SLOPE (Friday Church News Notes, August 14, 2015, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Euthanasia has proven to be a slippery slope wherever it has been practiced. It begins with “irremediable” physical suffering and ends with psychological suffering. It begins with adults and ends with children. It begins with personal consent and ends with the consent of second parties. In February 2014, Quebec became the first province in Canada to legalize euthanasia, and immediately doctors began calling for less restrictions. In fact, before the bill even passed, Yves Robert, secretary of Quebec’s College of Physicians, said, “It’s only a step. There are many questions that are still unanswered” (“As Quebec set to legalize euthanasia, doctors already looking to expand who qualifies,” *National Post*, Feb. 13, 2014). The “questions” are not “about who is receiving euthanasia but who is being denied it.” He used the example of an advanced Alzheimer’s patient who would not be eligible because he is



no longer capable of giving consent. He also addressed the requirement that the individual be an adult, implying that those who are younger should be eligible. “We will have to think about that, not only for [incapable] adults but obviously for youngsters who face terminal diseases,” Dr. Robert said. Belgium is leading the way. It legalized euthanasia in 2002, and already it has extended the practice to minors and has euthanized “people suffering depression and a set of deaf twins who were losing their eyesight.”

GAMING WIDOWS (Friday Church News Notes, August 14, 2015, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - We are living in a weird age. Thousands of husbands and wives have been virtually abandoned for make-believe games played in cyberspace. An article on MSNBC.com was titled “Game Widows Grieve Lost Spouses.” Consider an excerpt: “Though their spouses and partners haven’t gone to the great beyond, these particular



widows and widowers say their loved ones have gone someplace that's almost as distant and unreachable. Some have left this world for the *World of Warcraft*, others have forsaken this life for *Second Life* and still others have been taken away by *EverQuest*, *Final Fantasy XI*, and *Dark Age of Camelot*. ... As the ranks of those playing video games in general--and massively multiplayer online games in particular--continue to grow, so grow the ranks of those who refer to themselves as 'game widows.' They are the husbands, wives, girlfriends and boyfriends of gamers whose playing habits have consumed their lives. The bereaved say their mates have suffered a kind of digital death that has left only the shell of the person they loved behind. And like a real death, it has left the people who remain heartbroken, scared and angry." The article listed the five most addictive games as *World of Warcraft*, *EverQuest*, *Peggle*, *Doom*, and *Tetris*. Three of these are multiplayer online role-playing games. *World of Warcraft*, which boasts millions of subscribers, allows players to be "mythical characters with incredible powers," and players band together to go on raids in large scale battles. Because of *EverQuest's* addictive power it is known by its fans as "EverCrack" and "NeverRest." I wouldn't be surprised if some people are becoming demon possessed through these dark games. "And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them" (Eph. 5:11).

NEW FIND AT ANCIENT GATH (Friday Church News Notes, August 21, 2015, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) -



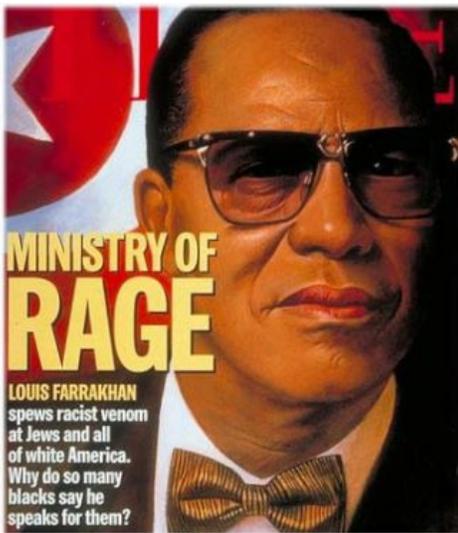
Archaeologists at the site of the ancient Philistine city of Gath (Tel Tzafit) have unearthed another exciting find. This year an expedition from the Bar Ilan University discovered the ancient gate which is mentioned in the Bible (1 Sam. 21:13). Professor Meir Ettinger says the gate is among the largest ever found in Israel ("Goliath's Humongous Gate Found," *Israel Today*, Aug. 6, 2015). Gath, one of the five major Philistine cities of the Old Testament era, is mentioned more than 30 times in Scripture, and archaeological research since 1996 has confirmed the Biblical record in many interesting ways. First, evidence was found of a Dagon temple with two central pillars. Judges 16:23-30 says the Dagon temple at Gaza had two central pillars. While the temple at Gaza has not been found, the Philistine temples found at Gath and Qasile had central pillars that were close enough together for a large, supernaturally-empowered man to have pushed them apart. Second, evidence was found for the mid-eighth century earthquake mentioned in Amos 1:1. Third, evidence was found for the sieges and destruction of the city in the ninth century, which agrees with the biblical account of sieges by Hazael (2 Ki. 12:17) and Uzziah (2 Ch. 26:6). Fourth, two names "etymologically similar" to "Goliath" were found inscribed on pieces of pottery in "Proto-Canaanite" letters. Though the inscriptions might not refer to the Goliath of Scripture, they prove that this name was in common usage at the time.

CHINA'S RICHEST MAN SAYS HE WAS HAPPIER BEFORE WEALTH (Friday Church News Notes, August 21, 2015, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Jack Ma, China's richest man, said in a speech this year that he was happier working as a teacher for \$12 a month than he is now as a billionaire. Ma's company, Alibaba, was valued at \$25 billion when it was listed on the New York Stock Exchange last September. In a speech before the Economics Club in New York City, he spoke about the



burden of being ultra-rich. He said that when you reach \$10 million, "you've got troubles" ("Jack Ma, China's richest man, was happier earning \$12 a month," *Business Insider*, Jun. 9, 2015). Ma told CNBS that there is a lot of pressure that comes with the responsibility of great wealth. The Bible says: "But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into *this* world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment let us be therewith content. But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and *into* many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows" (1 Timothy 6:6-10). The Bible also says, "Wilt thou set thine eyes upon that which is not? for *riches* certainly make themselves wings; they fly away as an eagle toward heaven" (Proverbs 23:5).

RACIST FARRAKHAN AGAIN CALLS FOR MURDER OF WHITE PEOPLE (Friday Church News Notes, August 21, 2015, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Nation of Islam founder Louis Farrakhan, a black supremacist, has again called for the murder of white people. Speaking from the Quran before a packed-out auditorium in a very deceived Baptist church, Farrakhan told his enthused audience that he is looking for ten thousand men who will disdain death and retaliate against alleged oppression of black people. Preaching from the pulpit of Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church in Miami, Florida, the



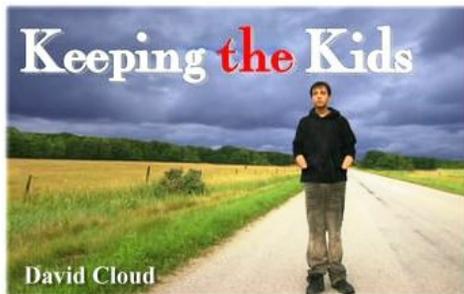
Muslim leader said, "I'm looking for ... ten thousand men who say, Death is sweeter than continued life under tyranny. ... [The Quran says,] 'Retaliation is prescribed in matters of the slain.' Retaliation is a prescription from God, to calm the breast of those whose children have been slain. So if the federal government will not intercede in our affairs, then we must rise up and kill those who kill us. Stalk them and kill them and let them feel the pain of death that we are feeling" (Facebook.com, Official Minister Farrakhan). Congregants shouted agreement and gave the delusional man a standing ovation. No one is stalking black people in America more than black people themselves. A frightful number of blacks are killed every year, but for the most part they are being killed by their fellow blacks in the violent neighborhoods created by their belly-serving, socialistic, race-baiting leaders who preach endless victimization. Massive numbers of black babies are killed in the womb by their own mothers and the abortion industry led by Planned Parenthood. Farrakhan has long been calling for violence, though he has never personally stepped up to the plate to "count death sweeter than continued life under tyranny." In November last year he used foul language in calling on the students at a black college in Baltimore (Morgan State) to "tear this ---- country apart." He urged black parents to teach their

children how to throw Molotov cocktails, claiming that whites will only listen to black concerns through murder and violence. In September last year, Farrakhan claimed that whites in the CIA invented Ebola to kill blacks ("Farrakhan crawls out from under rock," *Truth Revolt*, Oct. 1, 2014). This choice piece of nuttiness was stated in a hateful, error-filled rant called "Justifiable Homicide, Black Youth in Peril." In 2013, Farrakhan preached a year-long series of sermons on his wild-eyed views such as the "Mother Wheel," which is a gigantic spaceship that will rescue the Nation of Islam from the earth, and a "shadow government" called "Final Call" that will destroy America for her treatment of blacks. As for tyranny, we suggest that Farrakhan sell his mansion in Hyde Park, Chicago (in the same exclusive neighborhood as President Obama's mansion), and relocate to the Islamic State or some other Muslim entity that takes the Quran seriously so he can learn more perfectly about Islam, violence, and tyranny.

FARRAKHAN'S NATION OF ISLAM (Friday Church News Notes, August 21, 2015, www.wayoflife.org/fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Louis Farrakhan's Nation of Islam was founded in the 1930s by Wali Fared (or W.D. Fard), who disappeared in 1934. The leadership passed to Elijah Robert Poole who changed his name to Muhammad and taught a racist theory of black-white separatism. After Elijah Muhammad's associate, Malcolm X, denounced the Nation of Islam and rejected black racism, he was murdered by Nation of Islam members in 1965. Louis Farrakhan led a break-away group in 1979 after Elijah Muhammad's son also rejected black separatism and opened the organization to whites. Farrakhan claims that the original and superior race was black and that an inferior race of white people was created by a renegade scientist known as Yacub. Farrakhan calls for America to provide blacks with a separate territory for their own nation and to fund it for 25 years "until we are able to produce and supply our own needs."

FAITHFULNESS TO HEBREW AND GREEK IS WHY THE KJV IS AN EXCELLENT TRANSLATION (Friday Church News Notes, August 21, 2015, www.wayoflife.org/fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following statement is from Adam Nicholson, *God's Secretaries*, pages 210, 211. It refutes the nutty Ruckmanite position that the KJV is advanced revelation over the Hebrew and Greek and there is no longer a need to study the biblical languages, but it wisely affirms the KJV as an excellent and unique translation that is faithful to the original languages. The chief reason the King James Version is such an excellent version is that the peerless team of translators aimed to create in English a version faithful to the preserved Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek texts. They weren't willing to bend the original to fit English according to the prominent "dynamic equivalency" doctrine of our day. Rather they bent English to fit the original. They "pushed English toward the condition of a foreign language." Nicholson writes, "[The] English is there to serve the original not to replace it. It speaks in its master's voice, and is not the English you would have heard on the street, then or ever. It took up its life in a new and distinct dimension of linguistic space, SOMEWHERE BETWEEN ENGLISH AND GREEK (OR, FOR THE OLD TESTAMENT, BETWEEN ENGLISH AND HEBREW). These scholars were not pulling the language of the scriptures into the English they knew and used at home. The words of the King James Bible are just as much English pushed towards the condition of a foreign language as a foreign language translated into English. It was, in other words, more important to make English godly than to make the words of God into the sort of prose that any Englishmen would have written, and that secretarial relationship to the original languages of the scriptures shaped the translation."

TESTIMONY ABOUT THE BOOK KEEPING THE KIDS (Friday Church News Notes, August 21, 2015, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - "I found the book



Keeping the Kids one of the most helpful tools for parenting. My wife doesn't speak English so I translated portions. It really stirred our hearts how many blessed truths of the Bible had been obscured to us earlier by Christians, about whom since we learned that they are new evangelicals. An example is the promises regarding proper child discipline and training found in the book of Proverbs; we never before dared to think of them as you explained in the book, but those explanations made everything clear to us, and the Lord deepened our faith and trust in Him. ... In Hungary almost every Christian circle has been infected by the psychoheresy of Dobson, Campbell, Chapman and many others. My dear wife and I decided not to use those books about child training because we got disappointed. However, we started to look for sound Christian books on raising children. ... then the Lord gave us your book and the

videos with the lectures. Since then I tried to share the blessings we received with other pastor friends and parents. ... We really appreciated the rarely-seen focus of your book: how to keep the children in these last days. We found the basics on which the practical applications were laid thoroughly biblical. The practical consequences were very helpful, and we liked the examples drawn from many families you contacted. ... We are thankful to our heavenly Father that He enabled you and the families you work with to release this book! May the Lord uphold you and your ministry until He comes, for His name's sake and glory!" (*Keeping the Kids* is available in print and eBook editions from www.wayoflife.org.)

EVOLUTIONIST SPEAKS OUT AGAINST EVOLUTION (Friday Church News Notes, August 21, 2015, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is from CreationMoments.com, Mar. 25, 2015: "Meet Wolf-Ekkehard Lönnig, a brilliant scientist who worked at the Max-Planck Institute until his retirement. Though he has written four books on the subject of evolution, he has infuriated evolutionists everywhere by daring to challenge Neo-Darwinism on scientific grounds. He told the *Diplomacy Post* in March 2014: 'A scientific hypothesis should be potentially falsifiable.... However,' he added, 'the idea of slow evolution by "infinitesimally small inherited

variations," etc. has been falsified by the findings of paleontology ... as well [as] genetics. Yet its adherents principally reject any scientific proof against Neo-Darwinism,' he said, 'so that, in fact, their theory has become a non-falsifiable worldview, to which people stick in spite of all contrary evidence.' Scientists continue to support evolution despite the evidence that actually falsified evolution because 'without Darwinism, philosophic materialism has lost its battle against an intelligent origin of the world.' But Wolf had more to say. 'According to Neo-Darwinism, all important problems of the origin of species are, at least in principle, solved.



Further questions on the validity of evolutionary theory are thus basically superfluous. However, such a dogmatic attitude stops further investigations and hinders fruitful research in science.' Though Wolf-Ekkehard Lönnig has stopped short of giving recognition to God as the Intelligent Designer, we applaud his work for showing that evolution doesn't even deserve to be called scientific."

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