

# O Timothy

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

A Monthly Newsletter for Spiritual Protection and Edification

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*“The Christian is to live his life to please others instead of himself. Contemporary-style Christians, though, do not care if they offend others with their rock music and worldly appearance. They protest that they have liberty to do as they please. This is carnal rebellion, and it is the attitude that lies at the heart of apostasy. Those who desire to throw off restrictions on their lifestyles are not following the Bible but their own self-willed lusts.”* **Page 12.**

**Digging in the Walls:** A month's worth of news items, republished from Friday Church News Notes. **Page 14.**



America is a nation deeply influenced by Christianity and the Bible, but this does not add up to a “Christian nation.”

I love American history and have read hundreds of books directly bearing on this subject, including many dozens of biographies of America’s most influential early leaders as well as more recent ones.

It can surely be said that America is a *Christianized* nation in the sense that there has always been a strong Christian influence, using the term “Christian” in a general sense. America has been a nation of churches, a nation of Bible owners, a nation of Bible

readers, a nation that has witnessed powerful spiritual revivals, a nation of far-flung, unprecedented and unequalled missionary enterprise, a nation in which the president takes his oath of office with his hand on a Bible.

America is a nation whose founding institutions and authoritative documents have been deeply influenced by the Bible.

(We have documented the Bible’s powerful influence on America in the new book [The Bible and Western Society](#), available in print and in a free eBook edition from Way of Life Literature.)

But America was never a Christian nation in the sense that she was a nation in which true Bible-believing Christians ever formed a large percentage of the population, or in the sense that she was a nation submitted to God's Word, or that she was a nation that existed for the glory of God.

America has been heavily influenced by the Bible, but she has never been a truly biblical nation or a truly godly nation. From the 17th century, America has always been a mixed multitude, and genuine Christians have been a small minority.

What America has been above all else is a land of freedom: an unprecedented haven of personal liberty to pursue one's individual dream.

Many came to America for religious freedom, but more came purely for personal freedom and economic opportunity.

For this reason it has rightly been said that "the United States is both the most religious nation on earth and the most secular, the most devout and the most commercial" (John Gordon, *An Empire of Wealth*, p. xvii).

And this was true almost from its inception. The first Americans were "a colony of adventurers" who represented a bewildering assortment of nationalities and religious views and who came for all sorts of reasons.

Even those who came to America for religious freedom, such as the Pilgrims, came for economic opportunity as well. America has always been pre-eminently a nation of enterprise and commerce.

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The Jamestown Colony was founded by the English government as a profit-seeking, joint-stock corporation. The first settlers arrived in 1607, and within a mere eleven years, 20,000 pounds of tobacco were being grown and shipped to England, and within twenty-two years that had leaped to an amazing 1.5 million pounds.

Maryland was formed as a grant from King Charles I. Its Toleration Act of 1649 was the first passed by a colonial assembly to guarantee the religious rights of all Christians, including Roman Catholics and Jews. But religious liberty was only a small part of that enterprise, and Bible-believing Christians have never formed a large percentage of the citizenry of that part of America.

The colony of Carolina quickly became an economic powerhouse, driven by sugar, tobacco, rice, indigo, and deer skins, driven by a mixed multitude of citizens, both religious and profane. It wasn't a very godly place and it's hard to say how it could have been called a Christian colony by any biblical measure. The first governor of South Carolina, John Yeamans, was a ruthless, covetous man who had murdered a rival and married the man's widow.

New York originated as a Dutch colony in 1621 called the New Netherlands. It was religiously tolerant but definitely not godly and biblical. It was all about unbridled capitalism.

So busy were the early citizens engaged in making money that they didn't get around to building a church house for 17 years. The colony seal was a beaver encircled by wampum, which was the Indian form of money. It might as well have been the symbol for mammon! Manhattan was a real Babel with 18 languages spoken by the 1640s, representing a mixed multitude of religion and no religion.

Pennsylvania was established as a haven of religious liberty by the Quaker William Penn, but it was just as much about unbridled enterprise. Penn said, "Though I desire to extend Religious freedom, yet I want some recompense for my trouble." There was some real godliness and biblical reality in the colony, but that was not the only theme and perhaps not even the dominant one. Pennsylvania was a land of liberty and opportunity for all who could make the most of it. There was more "dog eat dog" than true Christian godliness.

The Puritans who first settled New England to build a "city on a hill" were there to obey God's commandments, there can be no doubt. They were the Bible readers and the Bible educators and the Bible printers, but they never formed any sort of majority in American society at large.

Many other parts of the nation were more like the wild west even during the colonial era. In fact, the word "cowboy" was

invented in South Carolina to describe rowdy black slaves who branded and herded cattle.

Consider the Revolutionary army under George Washington. In July 1779, the great general bemoaned the fact that even though many orders had been issued against swearing, “it prevails, if possible, more than ever” (Jerry Newcombe, *George Washington’s Sacred Fire*).

How does that reflect the moral character of a nation that can truly and honestly be called “Christian”?

In the very lifetime of George Washington, American politics had degenerated into the selfish, petty, power-hungry, covetous, divisive thing it has been ever since.

“In July 1799 Governor Jonathan Trumbull of Connecticut with the backing of many Federalists urged Washington once again to stand for the presidency in 1800. Only Washington, Trumbull said, could unite the Federalists and save the country from ‘a French President.’ Finally Washington had had enough. ... he talked about the new political conditions that made his candidacy irrelevant. In this new democratic era of party politics, he said, ‘personal influence,’ distinctions of character, no longer mattered. If the members of the Jeffersonian Republican party ‘set up a broomstick’ as candidate and called it ‘a true son of Liberty’ or ‘a Democrat’ or ‘any other epithet that will suit their purpose,’ it still would ‘command their votes in toto!’ But, even worse, he said, the same was true of the Federalists. Party spirit now ruled all, and people voted only for their party candidate. Even if he were the Federalist candidate, Washington was ‘thoroughly convinced I should not draw a *single* vote from the anti-Federal side.’ Therefore his standing for election made no sense; he would ‘stand upon no stronger ground than any other Federal character well supported’” (Gordon Wood, “The Greatness of George Washington,” *The Virginia Quarterly*, Spring 1992).

The Bible has had a unique influence on America, but the Bible has never been the final authority in American government or culture.

As Pastor Dave Halyaman observes: “There was corruption, bickering, and a God-denying population in American in 1790. There MAY have been more dedicated believers then, but the major power-brokers before, during, and at the end of the Revolutionary War were still corrupt, humanistic men who put ‘nation’ before God.”

In fact, the idea that America is a Christian nation has brought reproach to the name of true Christianity throughout the world, because while many people have assumed that America is indeed a “Christian nation,” it has been obvious that America doesn’t act Christian as a nation and that the average American doesn’t live according to the precepts of the Bible.

While doing evangelistic work on a university campus in South Asia, I found that one of the chief arguments objected

against the gospel of Jesus Christ is America’s gross moral failings (some real and some only perceived).

## WHAT IS A CHRISTIAN NATION?

Where in the New Testament do we even find the authority and pattern for a “Christian nation”?

Paul described three groups of people in the world today: Jews, Gentiles, and the church of God (1 Cor. 10:32). Gentiles are all of the people that aren’t Jews, and in the context of Paul’s statement they are the unsaved Gentiles that aren’t part of the church. The church of God is not a nation. It exists in the world today as Bible-believing congregations. In the apostolic writings we don’t read about a “a church of Asia” or “a church of Judea” or “a church of Macedonia” or “a church of Galatia,” but there were “churchES of Asia,” “churchES of Judea,” “churchES of Macedonia,” and “churchES of Galatia.”

The New Testament mentions Gentile governments as instruments of God (e.g., Romans 13:1-7; 1 Peter 2:12-15), but there is no mention of, or authority for, a “Christian nation.”

There never has been a time since 1776 when the majority of America’s citizens have been born again. Consider the following description of the state of Vermont soon after the Revolutionary War which was written by Nathan Perkins, a Congregational missionary who toured the state:

“About one quarter of the inhabitants and almost all of the men of learning are deists. I have rode more than 100 miles and seen no meeting house! ... Not more than 1/6 part of the families attend family prayer. About 1/2 --- would chose to have no Sabbath--no ministers--no religion--no heaven--no hell--no morality” (Willard Randall, Ethan Allen: *His Life and Times*, p. 619).

Not every state was in the same spiritual condition as Vermont in those days, but still, Vermont was very much a part of the newly-formed nation of America.

Does that add up to a “Christian nation”?

We must not confuse the founding of Plymouth Colony in the 17th century, which was established somewhat upon biblical principles\*, with the broader America that existed during the colony period or with the founding of the nation in the 18th century.

(\* Even the biblical principles of the original Christian colonies were corrupted by Reformed Theology, Replacement Theology, the church-state heresy, and the spirit of persecution that Protestants had brought out of Rome. See, for example, “[The Protestant Persecution of Baptists](#),” a free eBook available at the Way of Life web site -- [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org).)

## THE NATION'S FOUNDERS

Most of the nation's founders were Christian in name, but the evidence demonstrates that most of them were not born again. Many, in fact, were skeptics who were under God's curse for their blatant unbelief and their rejection of Almighty God, the Fall, and Christ's Divinity, Atonement, and Resurrection. They were wise men in a worldly sense, and even good in a worldly sense, and they were deeply influenced by the Bible. The Lord raised them up and gave them the wisdom to create a unique nation that has been a bastion of liberty and a headquarters for world evangelism and a helper of the nation Israel for nearly two and a half centuries.

America's founders accomplished many great things from a worldly perspective, and it would be a powerful thing if their lives and writings were given more serious attention today throughout the nations and even in America's own public schools. We can continue to benefit from the farsighted wisdom of these men.

Men such as George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, John Hamilton, Benjamin Franklin, and John Adams should be upheld as the great men and heroes and brilliant thinkers and inventors that they were, and the fact that America's educational system today slights and nitpicks and even viciously criticizes its own founders, judging them by the vapid principles of modern political-correctness, straining at gnats and swallowing camels, is evidence of the nation's apostasy.

At the same time, most of America's founders were not strong Bible-believing Christians, and some were, in fact, enemies of the cross of Christ. This has continued to be true throughout America's history. Very few of America's presidents, for example, have been born again Christians when measured by the standard of God's Word.

How does this add up to a "Christian nation"?

Consider some examples among the founding fathers:

### THOMAS JEFFERSON

Consider Thomas Jefferson, one of America's greatest founders, the principal author of the Declaration of Independence, the first Secretary of State under George Washington, the third President of the United States, purchaser of the Louisiana Territory, and instigator of the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

He said, "I am a Christian," but this was only in the sense that he believed in the moral precepts of Jesus. He rejected such fundamentals of the Christian faith as the Trinity, Christ's

Deity and virgin birth, the Fall, the Blood atonement, and bodily resurrection, and the judgment of hell.

He wrote to John Adams and blasphemously compared Christ's virgin birth with a pagan myth. "And the day will come when the mystical generation of Jesus, by the supreme being as his father in the womb of a virgin, will be classed with the fable of the generation of Minerva in the brain of Jupiter" (Letter from Thomas Jefferson to John Adams, April 11, 1823).

Jefferson made his own "bible" by cutting out of Scripture everything pertaining to the divine and miraculous in Jesus' life. This work began under the title "The Philosophy of Jesus of Nazareth" and was concluded in 1820 with the title "The Life and Morals of Jesus Christ Extracted Textually from the Gospels."

This "Jefferson Bible" was compiled with extractions from the moral teaching of Jesus.

Jefferson wanted to extract "the authentic Jesus" from Scripture, but his Jesus was a false christ with no saving power, a mere great moral teacher who did not die for man's sins and did not rise from the dead.

Jefferson claimed that the true teachings of Jesus were hidden in the "rubbish and dross of his biographers," thus brazenly denying the New Testament's own claim to divine inspiration.

Jefferson said that the Gospel writers added mythical accounts to Jesus' actual actions and words. He called many parts of the Gospel accounts "so much ignorance, so much absurdity, so much untruth and imposture" (Jefferson's letter to William Short, April 13, 1820, *The Writings of Thomas Jefferson*, edited by Andrew Lipscomb, 1907).

Jefferson's "Bible" left out references to angels, prophecy, the Messianic genealogies, Christ's deity, the virgin birth, and the Trinity. It blasphemously ends with Jesus' dead body lying in the tomb, a blatant denial of the resurrection, without which we have no hope of salvation and eternal life. Jefferson's unbelief and skepticism is no light matter.

Jefferson said that it is possible to believe that Christ was as "a man, of illegitimate birth, of a benevolent heart, enthusiastic mind, who set out without pretensions of divinity, ended in believing them, and was punished capitally for sedition by being gibbeted according to the Roman law" (Letter to Peter Carr, August 10, 1787).

This was one of two views that Jefferson said might be legitimate (the other being that Jesus was the virgin born Son of God) and instructed Carr not to "be frightened from this

inquiry.” Jefferson didn’t care whether or not the young man rejected God’s Word. Belief or unbelief, it was all the same to this Founding Father.

Jefferson said his Bible was “an abridgment of the New Testament for the use of the Indians,” though it was never published in his lifetime or used for that purpose. Even had it been published for the education of Indians, it would have been a wicked work, as he removed the gospel, which alone is the power of God unto salvation” (Romans 1:16), and left only the Bible’s moral precepts, which are true and good, but which are powerless to save a fallen sinner.

Thomas Jefferson, one of America’s most prominent founders, was an enemy of Jesus Christ and His Cross.

Exactly what was “Christian” about that?

### **BENJAMIN FRANKLIN**

Consider the brilliant, clever, and far-seeing Benjamin Franklin, who has been called “the first American” for the powerful influence that he had on the founding of the nation.

Franklin had sympathy toward “Christianity” as a system of morality, but he was an enemy of Christ’s atonement and of the divine inspiration of Scripture. In other words, he had a form of godliness but denied the power thereof, which is the essence of the end-time apostasy from which God’s people are to turn away (2 Timothy 3:5).

Franklin was not a bold skeptic. He did not brashly and publicly attack divine Revelation in public as Thomas Paine did, but he was a skeptic nonetheless.

Franklin wanted to maintain peace with men of all religious persuasions and did not want to rock the boat. At the end of his life he wrote to a friend and shared his disbelief in Christ’s divinity, but he concluded by asking him not to publish the letter, because, “I have ever let others enjoy their religious sentiments, without reflecting on them for those that appeared to me unsupportable and even absurd. All sects here [in America], and we have a great variety, have experienced my good will in assisting them with subscriptions for building their new places of worship; and as I have never opposed any of their doctrines, I hope to go out of the world in peace with them all” (H.W. Brands, *The First American*, p. 707).

Franklin was a pragmatist. On the one hand, he did not believe in the Bible’s divine inspiration and did not believe in man’s fall and salvation through Christ’s atonement. On the other hand, he saw the necessity of maintaining religion and morality as the foundation for a healthy society. For this reason, he was somewhat ambivalent toward deism. He shared the deist’s

rejection of a divinely-inspired Bible, but he feared its consequences if men took deist doctrine to heart and followed its natural consequences, fearing the moral consequences on society.

Toward the end of his life Franklin tried to discourage a skeptic from publishing a dissertation against “organized religion” purely on the basis of pragmatism. He said, “Think how great a proportion of mankind consists of weak and ignorant men and women, and of inexperienced and inconsiderate youth of both sexes, who have need of the motives of religion to restrain them from vice, to support their virtue, and retain them in the practice of it till it becomes habitual. ... If men are so wicked as we now see them with religion, what would they be without it?” (*The First American*, p. 658).

When defending the Presbyterian heretic Samuel Hemphill, who was condemned for denying fundamental Bible doctrines and suspended from the ministry, Franklin wrote that no one in this world can know “where lies true orthodoxy,” so the only thing that matters is “morality” (p. 143). He said, “I think vital religion has always suffered when orthodoxy is more regarded than virtue” (*The First American*, p. 153).

To reject the heart of the biblical Christianity, which is salvation through Jesus Christ, is to reject it all and is to destroy the power of true morality.

In fact, though Franklin praised “morality,” he wasn’t very moral. This is for the reason that true morality cannot be lived apart from supernatural salvation through faith in Christ’s cross. Franklin was a womanizer from his youth to his old age and had a child out of wedlock. “As much of his adult life would demonstrate, Franklin possessed a lively libido, which now hindered faithfulness to one so far away, when other females were close at hand” (*The First American*, p. 64).

Ben Franklin’s ultimate authority was his own mind rather than God’s infallible Word. He was a proud man who exalted his puny intellect above God’s Revelation.

Franklin’s closest drinking buddies were such ribald anti-God skeptics as Charles Darwin’s grandfather Erasmus and the movers and shakers among the Christ-denying Unitarians. He was drawn to the company of bitter skeptics such as Emmanuel Kant, David Hume, and the French poet Roucher.

While in France, Franklin was a member of the Lodge of the Nine Sisters, among the members of which were “the freest-thinkers in the realm.”

Franklin was a great fan of the blasphemous French skeptic Voltaire. Instead of bringing his grandson Benny Bache to the feet of Jesus, Franklin sought Voltaire’s blessing on the boy

(*The First American*, p. 563). Not long before Voltaire died, Franklin publicly embraced and kissed the proud, morally filthy skeptic at a session of the French Academy of Sciences.

Franklin participated enthusiastically in a eulogy following Voltaire's death. It was held in a hall dressed in black and lit by candles. Franklin took his Masonic crown and laid it at the foot of a large painting of Voltaire (*The First American*, p. 565).

"Franklin attacked the notion of the immortality of the soul. He identified the soul with consciousness and the ability to treat ideas absorbed by the senses ('The soul is a mere power or faculty of contemplating on and comparing those ideas'), and then argued that when consciousness ended, the soul in some way attached itself to a new body and new ideas. 'But that will in no way concern us who are now living, for the identity will be lost; it is no longer that same self but a new being'" (*The First American*, p. 73).

"Temperamentally, Franklin was a skeptic rather than a rebel. ... When it surfaced during his teens, at a time when his reading was rapidly expanding his intellectual horizons, it made him increasingly dubious of biblical revelation. Why should God speak to one insignificant desert tribe, to the exclusion of the vast majority of the human race? Yet unwilling--and in those pre-Darwinian days intellectually unable--to dispense with divinity entirely, Franklin gravitated toward the mechanistic approach of deism. One book written against deism by the chemist Robert Boyle in fact pushed Franklin further in a deistic direction. 'The arguments of the deists which were quoted to be refuted,' he wrote, 'appeared to me much stronger than the refutations'" (*The First American*, p. 94).

"Franklin codified his new thinking in what he called his 'Articles of Belief and Acts of Religion,' dated November 20, 1728. Borrowing from Cato, he declared, 'I hold: If there is a Power above us (and that there is all nature cries aloud, through all her works), He must delight in virtue, and that which He delights in must be happy.' As the deists did, Franklin measured the immensity of the universe against the minuscule of the earth and the inhabitants thereof, and concluded from this that it was 'great vanity in me to suppose that the Supremely Perfect does in the least regard such an inconsiderable nothing as man.' Moreover, this Supremely Perfect had absolutely no need to be worshipped by humans; He was infinitely above such sentiments or actions. Yet if worship filled no divine purpose, it did serve a human need. 'I think it seems required of me, and my duty as a man, to pay divine regards to *something*'" (*The First American*, pp. 94, 95).

Franklin believed in a type of reincarnation.

"When I see nothing annihilated, and not even a drop of water wasted, I cannot suspect the annihilation of souls, or believe that he will suffer the daily waste of millions of minds ready made that now exist, and put himself to the continual trouble of making new ones. Thus finding myself to exist in the world, I believe I shall, in some shape or other, always exist; and with all the inconveniences human life is liable to, I shall not object to a new edition of mine; hoping, however, that the errata of the last may be corrected" (*The First American*, p. 657).

At the end of this life, Franklin wrote the following to a friend who inquired as to his religious beliefs:

"As to Jesus of Nazareth, my opinion of whom you particularly desire, I think the system of morals and his religion, as he left them to us, the best the world ever saw or is likely to see; but I apprehend it has received various corrupting changes, and I have, with most of the present Dissenters in England, some doubts as to his divinity; though it is a question I do not dogmatize upon, having never studied it, and think it needless to busy myself with it now, when I expect soon an opportunity of knowing the truth with less trouble. I see no harm, however, in its being believed, if that belief has the good consequences, as it probably has, of making his doctrines more respected and better observed, especially as I do not perceive that the Supreme takes it amiss, by distinguishing the unbelievers in his government of the world with any peculiar marks of his displeasure" (*The First American*, p. 706).

In regard to the preaching of Revivalists such as Jonathan Edwards and George Whitefield, Franklin "was fairly certain he was neither beast nor devil, and his view of fire and brimstone was purely scientific" (*The First American*, p. 147).

Franklin liked Whitefield at a personal level and printed his sermons, but "for Franklin this was principally a profit-making enterprise" (p. 148).

"Yet though Franklin supported Whitefield's good works and defended his right to preach, he drew the line well short of his own conversion. Whitefield spared no effort on behalf of Franklin's soul, but Franklin rebuffed them all. He was as skeptical of organized religion as ever, even religion that challenged prevailing orthodoxy" (*The First American*, p. 149).

At age 60, Franklin told George Whitefield that his hope was in "God" but it was a vain hope that was not based on the Bible but upon his own human reasoning. To reject Jesus Christ as God and only Saviour is to reject the God of the Bible.

"Throughout, however, Franklin's God remained as reasonable as Franklin himself. ... Franklin replied [to Whitefield]: 'That being who gave me existence, and through almost threescore years has been continually showering his favours upon me, whose very chastisements have been blessings to me, can I doubt that he loves me? And if he loves me, can I doubt that he will go on to take care of me not only here but hereafter? This to some may seem presumption; to me it appears the best grounded hope: hope of the future, built on experience of the past'" (*The First American*, p. 380).

This sounds reasonable, but in reality it is a brash rejection of the clear teaching of Scripture, which says that God is holy and fallen man can be reconciled to Him only through the atonement made by Jesus Christ. “He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God” (John 3:18).

Benjamin Franklin insisted on knowing God on his own terms and rejected his personal need of the Saviour.

Benjamin Franklin was most definitely a Christ-rejecting rationalist.

### RICHARD HOOKER

Richard Hooker was a 16th century Anglican theologian who had a great influence on the American founders through his own writings and through his influence upon men such as William Blackstone and John Locke.

His view of “natural law” as the basis for human government, which was called “self-evident truth” by Thomas Jefferson, was heretical rather than sound doctrine.

While there is a law written in man’s heart, even in his fallen condition (Rom. 2:12-13), and it is enough to condemn him before God, it is corrupted by sin (Jer. 17:9). It is also corrupted by the invention and spread of false religion, and it is highly undependable. To know God’s moral laws properly, man is dependent on the written Revelation in Scripture.

Hooker “drew from Augustine and Aquinas” to describe the “law of nature” as “a moral law universally agreed upon by all men and able to be known from man’s reason.” He wrote,

“... those laws are investigable by reason, without the help of revelation, supernatural or divine. ... the knowledge of them is general, the world hath always been acquainted with them. ... It is not agreed upon by one, or two, or few, but by all. ... but this law is such that being proposed no man can reject it as unreasonable and unjust. Again there is nothing in it but any man, having natural perfection of wit and ripeness of judgment, may by labour and travail find out. And to conclude, the general principles thereof are such as it is not easy to find men ignorant of them. Law rational, therefore, which men commonly use to call the law of Nature, meaning thereby the law which human nature knoweth itself in reason universally bound unto, which also for that cause may be termed most fitly the law of reason, this law, I say, comprehendeth all those things which men by the light of their natural understanding evidently know, or at leastwise may know, to be beseeing of unbeseeing, virtuous or vicious, good or evil for them to do” (Hooker, *Laws of Ecclesiastical Polity*, 1593).

Hooker’s teaching is contrary to Scripture and even to human society as it existed in his own lifetime. For example, every sin was justified in Hindu society in the 16th century. They had “natural law,” but they did not thereby find out a semblance of absolute moral truth. Every sin was justified, including idolatry, lying, stealing, murder, human sacrifice, infanticide, and the burning of widows. Such things conformed to the pagan’s “natural law” and religion.

To emphasize “natural law” in the way that Hooker and others did is to detract from the authority of Scripture.

This was also the error of John Locke.

### ALGERNON SIDNEY

Algernon Sidney was an English political philosopher of the late 17th century who was put to death for allegedly plotting to overthrow the king.

Whether or not he was guilty of this, his writings certainly undermined the king’s authority, and they had a large influence on the American founders. His *Discourses Concerning Government* (1698) has been called “a textbook of revolution.” The Founding Fathers often mentioned the influence of John Locke and Algernon Sidney together. Thomas Jefferson cited Sidney as one of the influences on the Declaration of Independence and often recommended both Locke and Sidney. John Adams recognized the influence of Locke and Sidney in *A Defense of the Constitutions of Government of the United States of America* (1787).

“In addition, Locke and Sidney were influential among the clergy and often cited in political sermons in Boston during the revolutionary era. Revolutionary clergyman Rev. Jonathan Mayhew, for example, was greatly influenced by Locke’s writings” (Angela Kamrath, *The Miracle of America*).

Sidney argued that “since all men are equal, earthly political power resided with the people--hence the concept of popular sovereignty” (Kamrath). In summarizing Sidney’s position, Kamrath says that he argued that “God does not assign absolute rulers or forms of government over men, but rather the choice of rulers and government belongs to the people or multitude, made up of men who are all equal in position. Earthly civil power is given by God to the people” (*The Miracle of America*).

Sidney cited Scripture and appeared to hold it as authoritative, but a careful analysis of his thinking shows that he used Scripture as a “pretext” rather than a text. He did not interpret it properly within context. He wrote, “The creature having nothing, and being nothing but what the Creator makes him, must owe all to him, and nothing to any one from whom he

has received nothing. Man therefore must be naturally free unless he be created by another power than we have yet heard of. ... This liberty must continue, till it be either forfeited or willingly resigned.”

There is no biblical support for this. It is human reasoning. It ignores the fall and God’s judgment.

Sidney cites the Tower of Babel and the families that went forth from there after the confusion of the tongues. He said that since God did not assign any one group to rule over the others, this means that man is free. “But because I cannot believe God hath created man in such a state of misery and slavery. ... I am led to a certain conclusion, that every father of a family is free and exempt from the domination of any other, as the seventy-two that went from Babel were.”

Note that he says, “I cannot believe that...” His human reason was his final authority. To cite Genesis 5 as the standard for human government in all ages is to ignore the plain teaching of the rest of Scripture.

Sidney wrote, “The only sort of kings mentioned there [in Scripture] with approbation, is such a one ‘as may not raise his heart above his brethren’ (Deuteronomy 17).”

But Sidney was wrong. He overlooks or slights the fall and God’s judgment on sinful man. God put kings over the nations, and not just good kings but evil as well. God chose cruel, arrogant, boasting Nebuchadnezzar and gave him authority over a large part of the world, as Daniel explained (Daniel 2:37-38). In the same chapter of Scripture we see that God raised up the wicked kingdoms of Persia, Greece, and Rome, with their unrighteous and unjust and often vicious rulers. This is because of mankind’s rebellion and stubbornness in the face of divine light.

Sidney’s fundamental error was the same as that of Richard Hooker and John Locke. He used human reasoning rather than Scripture to determine what rights God has given to men and then argued from that faulty foundation. In practice, he exalted human reason over Scripture, and this is no small error.

## THOMAS PAINE

Consider Thomas Paine, whose *Common Sense* was the best-selling book of the American Revolution and had a massive role in turning the minds of the citizens toward independence from Britain. It sold more than 500,000 copies. “More than any other single publication, *Common Sense* paved the way for the Declaration of Independence” (“Thomas Paine,” *Encyclopedia Britannica*). Paine’s “Crisis” papers, which were published during the war, were equally influential. *The American Crisis Number 1 (Dec. 19, 1776) began with*

*the memorable words:* “These are the times that try men’s souls.”

Yet Thomas Paine was one of the most brazen skeptics of any age. In *The Age of Reason; Being an Investigation of True and Fabulous Theology*, Paine attacked the divine inspiration of the Bible and its miracles, exalting human reason as the final authority. He replaced the holy Almighty God of the Bible with a deistic God who is not involved in the affairs of man and is not Judge and Saviour. He rejected the doctrines of man’s fall and of Christ’s deity, virgin birth, blood atonement, and bodily resurrection. He denied both heaven and hell. The book began with the following statement:

“I do not believe in the creed professed by the Jewish Church, by the Roman Church, by the Greek Church, by the Turkish Church, by the Protestant Church, nor by any church that I know of. MY OWN MIND IS MY OWN CHURCH.”

Paine described the Bible as “fabulous mythology” and “a book of lies, wickedness, and blasphemy” and a “pretended word of God.” He likened the Bible’s miraculous accounts to “Arabian tales, without the merit of being entertaining.” He called the God of the Old Testament “tyrannical.” He labeled the book of Genesis “an anonymous book of stories, fables, and traditionary or invented absurdities, or of downright lies.”

Paine’s blasphemous book, which was dedicated to his “Fellow Citizens of the United States of America,” was rejected and attacked by many, but it also became a bestseller, spreading the heresy of Deism and undermining the faith of many. It helped lay the groundwork for the skepticism that has flashed through American society since the 19th century.

## JOHN ADAMS

John Adams was a chief American statesman, diplomat, and a leader of the Independence from Britain. He was a delegate to the Continental Congress and assisted Thomas Jefferson in drafting the Declaration of Independence in 1776. He was the first Vice President under George Washington, and the second President of the United States

Adams was a Unitarian. He rejected belief in the Trinity, in Jesus’ divinity, and in the supernatural inspiration of the Bible. He called the doctrine of the Trinity “absurdity.”

“David Barton also denied that he quotes history out of context, when Stewart confronted him about a quote from John Adams concerning ‘the Holy Ghost,’ as is shown in the film, *The Hidden Faith of the Founding Fathers* by Adullam Films. In this quote, Barton makes it appear as if John Adams was speaking favorably about the Holy Ghost in a letter he wrote to Benjamin Rush. In reality, Adams was mocking the idea of

‘Holy Ghost authority’ and called Christians ‘dupes’ for believing in it” (“David Barton Approves,” *Christian Newswire*, May 12, 2011).

### ETHAN ALLEN

Ethan Allen was one of the fathers of the state of Vermont and an influential figure in the American Revolution.

His 1785 book *Reason, the Only Oracle of Man* was a vicious attack upon the divine inspiration of the Bible, which he labeled “a torrent of superstition.” He “employed his special brand of ridicule to mock the idea that the devil was turned loose on two innocent young people in the Garden of Eden” (Randall, *Ethan Allen: His Life and Times*, p. 619). He mocked the doctrines of original sin and hell, exalting human reason as the ultimate standard of truth. When Allen died, Ezra Stiles, then president of Yale College, wrote in his diary, “Died in Vermont the profane and impious Deist General Ethan Allen, author of the *Oracles of Reason*, a book replete with scurrilous reflexions on Revelation. ... And in Hell he lift up his eyes being in torments” (Randall, *Ethan Allen: His Life and Times*, p. 528).

### UNITARIANISM

Unitarianism and humanism were permeating America’s churches and thinking even before her independence from England.

**John Locke** (1632-1704) was one of the most influential American writers. He was often recommended by Thomas Jefferson. Benjamin Rush called Locke “an oracle as to the principles ... of government” (*Observations upon the Present Government in Pennsylvania*, 1777). But Locke was a Unitarian who rejected the Bible as ultimate authority and replaced it with man himself. He exalted human reason above Scripture: “Our observation employed either, about external sensible objects or about the internal operations of our minds perceived and reflected on by ourselves, is that which supplies our understandings with all the materials of thinking. These two are the fountains of knowledge, from whence all the ideas we have, or can naturally have, do spring” (Locke, *An Essay Concerning Human Understanding*, vol. 1). Locke seemed to defend Christianity, but actually he taught that man is not required to believe that which he cannot understand, thus laying the foundation for the rejection of doctrines such as the Trinity and the Atonement. “Since it is impossible explicitly to believe any proposition of the Christian doctrine, but what we understand, or in any other sense, than we understand it to have been delivered in; an explicit belief is or can be required in no man, of more than what he understands of that doctrine” (*The Reasonableness of Christianity*). Locke downplayed the role of God in human affairs and exalted man himself. “It was

John Locke who set the trajectory towards the secular democracies and republics” (Kevin Swanson, *Apostate: The Men Who Destroyed the Christian West*). French revolutionary philosopher Voltaire praised Locke as a “sage.” Thomas Jefferson quoted from Locke in the *Declaration of Independence*. It was Locke’s influence that resulted in the U.S. Constitution’s omission of God. Instead of exalting God, as the Mayflower Pilgrims had done in the very first words of their compact, the framers of the U.S. Constitution exalted man: “We the people of the United States...”

By 1800, one-third of the Congregational churches in Boston had become Unitarian. By 1810 “nearly every prominent Congregational pulpit in eastern Massachusetts was held by a preacher of Unitarian doctrine” [www.bibliomania.com/2/3/270/1820/21935/1/frameset.html](http://www.bibliomania.com/2/3/270/1820/21935/1/frameset.html).

By 1805, Unitarians took control of *Harvard College*. A divinity school was established at Harvard in 1816 and “became the centre of Unitarian thought.” Harvard botanist Asa Gray was Charles Darwin’s most important popularizer in America. Under the leadership of Charles Eliot, from 1869 to 1909, Harvard had a massive influence in spreading Unitarianism, theological liberalism, and Darwinianism. Eliot appointed John Fiske to the post of science and history “specifically to introduce evolutionism in the Harvard curriculum” and “as America’s leading university, Harvard became the example to others, and almost the entire university world quickly followed her down the evolutionary trail” (Henry Morris, *The Long War Against God*, p. 47).

**Ralph Waldo Emerson**, one of America’s most famous poets, was introduced to Hinduism as a child by his aunt Moody Emerson. Though he was for a while the pastor of Second Baptist Church in Boston, he held Hindu concepts of pantheism and the divinity of man. He wrote, “... the currents of the Universal Being circulate through me; I am part or particle of God” (Emerson, *Nature*), and, “... there is no bar or wall in the soul where man, the effect, ceases, and God, the cause, begins” (Emerson, *The Over-Soul*, 1841). Emerson taught that man is his own ultimate authority. In his message to the Phi Beta Kappa society at Harvard in 1837, entitled “The American Scholar,” Emerson exhorted scholars to free themselves of tradition (such as the Bible) and to maintain a “self-trust.” He taught that man should follow his own heart. “To believe your own thought, to believe that what is true for you in your private heart is true for all men,—that is genius” (Emerson, *Self-Reliance*).

**Henry David Thoreau** (1817-1862), another of America’s prominent authors, author of *On Walden Pond*, was a Unitarian. He denied man’s fall, the necessity of the new birth, and Christ’s sacrificial atonement. He rejected God’s Word and exalted human thinking. He sought for “truth” through

communion with nature, study of eclectic philosophies, and reflection. He was his own god. In Walden, Thoreau said, “No man ever followed his genius till it misled him.” Like Emerson, Thoreau loved Hindu doctrine. He wrote, “In the morning I bathe my intellect in the stupendous and cosmogonical philosophy of the Bhagavad Gita, since whose composition years of the gods have elapsed, and in comparison with which our modern world and its literature seem puny and trivial” (*On Walden Pond*).

**Henry Wadsworth Longfellow** (1807-82), another of America’s famous poets, was a Unitarian. He was a professor of modern languages at Bowdoin College in Brunswick, Maine, which was a hotbed of Unitarianism and abolitionist thinking fueled by the liberal social gospel.

Influential Unitarian Hezekiah Packard was a trustee of Bowdoin in the 1830s and 1840s. Packard’s son Alpheus was a professor of Latin and Greek at Bowdoin from 1824-65.

Harriet Beecher Stowe, author of *Uncle Tom’s Cabin* (1852), was the wife of a Bowdoin professor and wrote her book in her husband’s office. She is known as “the little woman who started the big war,” as her book incited anger against the slavery states and provoked hotheads on both side of the issue.

Her brother Henry Ward Beecher was the liberal pastor of Plymouth Church in Brooklyn. During Beecher’s career there, he opened his pulpit to Unitarians such as Ralph Waldo Emerson and Horace Greeley and even to agnostics such as Mark Twain.

Henry Beecher “once argued that a Sharps rifle held a better argument than a Bible for persuading slaveholders--hence these rifles were nicknamed ‘Beecher’s Bibles’ when used to combat the spread of slavery in the Kansas Territory before the American Civil War” (<http://www.embassy.org.nz/encycl/ulencycl.htm>).

The Beechers were related to Julia Ward Howe, a Unitarian universalist and the author of the “The Battle Hymn of the Republic,” which confused the coming of Christ with the American armies of the North. She misidentified God’s altar with “the watch-fires of a hundred circling camps” and falsely claimed that His gospel was “writ in burnish’d rows of steel.” Julia Ward Howe delivered a pantheistic, universalistic message at the Parliament of the World’s Religions in 1893 entitled “What Is Religion?” ([http://womenshistory.about.com/library/etext/bl\\_1893\\_pwr\\_howe.htm](http://womenshistory.about.com/library/etext/bl_1893_pwr_howe.htm)).

## THE NATION’S FOUNDING DOCUMENTS

America’s founding documents themselves are an unholy mixture of biblical thinking and enlightenment humanism.

The U.S. Constitution is an amazing document, but it is influenced not only by the Bible, but also by enlightenment thinking that cited the Bible but that was actually founded on human reasoning that did not conform to biblical truth.

The following is by Stephen Douglas Wilson, dean emeritus and chair of the history department of Mid-Century University:

“No Bible verses and/or expressions from historic Christian works are contained in the document.

“In fact, the major influences on the men who drafted both the Constitution and the Bill of Rights originated from the writings of the enlightenment philosophers of the 17th and 18th centuries who, for the most part, believed that faith could be expressed purely by use of reason and intellect, and that God’s intervention in the process was not a necessary element -- hardly a Christian concept.

“For instance, Englishman Thomas Hobbes argued that government should be a contract between those that govern and the people. John Locke, taking up Hobbes’ theme in his work, *Two Treatises of Government*, felt that government should look out for the well-being of its citizens and respect their individual rights. He especially promoted the rights of ‘life, liberty, and estate’ (or property) for all citizens. Interestingly enough, when Thomas Jefferson drafted most of Locke’s theme into the Declaration of Independence, he slightly revised Locke and instead wrote that the people had a right to ‘life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.’ Perhaps Jefferson thought that future American governments should not guarantee that all citizens possess a property entitlement. Locke’s phrase, however, does show up in the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution. In that amendment the document states that citizens cannot ‘be deprived of life, liberty, or property without due process.’ When the 14th Amendment applied federal guarantees to the individual states, the phrase and its context was repeated.

“Other enlightenment philosophers also directly impacted the Constitution. Baron Montesquieu in his work, *The Spirit of the Laws*, proposed that government should be divided into branches. Each branch would then maintain ‘checks and balances’ on the others -- thereby limiting the power of each branch. Cesare Beccaria, along with Voltaire, expressed concerns about how citizens were punished. Beccaria’s concerns, published in his work, *On Crimes and Punishments*, advanced the principle that punishments should not be ‘cruel or unusual.’ He obviously influenced the Eighth Amendment that bans such punishments.

“Enlightenment philosophers, like Voltaire (in the *Treatise on Tolerance*) and others, ironically agreed with the Baptists and other communities of dissenting 18th century Christians and argued against the tyranny of state-supported churches. Voltaire, along with other like-minded philosophers, instead advocated that all faiths should be allowed to worship without state interference. This influence is most evident when the Founding Fathers abolished the religious tests for federal office seekers and created the First Amendment guarantee for religious liberty. While the constitutional convention operated in a society heavily influenced by a Christian worldview, the U.S. Constitution itself was a product of enlightenment thinking, and the United States became the first modern nation to base itself on enlightenment principles” (“*The Constitution and Its Benefits to Christians in America*,” Baptist Press, March 4, 2013).

## AMERICA'S ECONOMY

America's economy has largely reflected selfish greed rather than godliness, and an economy is a reflection of a nation's true character. The first "home-grown depression" was in 1818, shortly after the nation's founding, when it should have still been in its pristine godliness if indeed it ever were a "Christian nation."

Banks collapsed. Farmers were ruined. Soup houses were established for the unemployed.

The depression was a product of unabashed greed and economic folly. The Second Bank of America had been established in 1816 to bring some semblance of financial order to the nation, but its head, William Jones, had gone through a personal bankruptcy and was therefore a ridiculous choice for the job. Not surprisingly, he ruled over a frenzy of foolish lending sprees and outright embezzlement. But Jones wasn't alone in his lack of character; rather he reflected the character that was generally prevalent at that time. "Philadelphia State Senator Condy Raguet, observed, "The whole of our population is either stockholders of banks or in debt to them. It is not the interest of the first to press the banks and the rest are afraid to ask. ... An independent man ... who would have ventured to compel the banks to do justice, WOULD HAVE BEEN PERSECUTED AS AN ENEMY OF SOCIETY" (Peter Bernstein, *Wedding of the Waters: The Erie Canal and the Making of a Great Nation*).

Another observed that the depression was the result of dissipation and vice.

When the U.S. Treasury called on the Bank of the United States to deliver \$3 million in gold to the French as payment toward the amount due on Jefferson's Louisiana Purchase, the bank had to borrow the money from creditors in London, even though it was obligated under law to keep at least \$7 million in silver or gold on hand at all times.

The first Bank of America was established by Alexander Hamilton, one of America's founding fathers, but he "had no inhibitions about employing his banks to further his political ambitions and to deprive his political enemies of financial accommodations" (*Wedding of the Waters*, Kindle location 3557).

It was Hamilton who established America's economy on the principle of debt, which is so contrary to Biblical wisdom. "The rich ruleth over the poor, and the borrower *is* servant to the lender" (Proverbs 22:7).

America's economic system has gotten ever more ungodly since its founding.

## AMERICA'S POLITICS

American politics has also been an ungodly business since its inception. In the early 1800s, when some of the nation's founders were still alive, American politics was described as "the great game of political brawling" (Peter Bernstein, *Wedding of the Waters: The Erie Canal and the Making of a Great Nation*, Kindle location 3481). Some banks refused credit to supporters of Thomas Jefferson. Newspapers were vicious in their opposition to candidates on the opposing political side. The reports were "descents into the gutter." Jefferson's opponents slanderously predicted that his election would result in the "teaching of murder, robbery, rape, adultery and incest."

New York mayor DeWitt Clinton observed, "Our ingenuity has been employed, not in cultivating a vernacular literature, or increasing the stock of human knowledge; but in raising up and pulling down the parties which agitate the community. ... The style of our political writings has assumed a character of rude invective, and unrestrained licentiousness, unparalleled in any other part of the world, and which has greatly tended to injure our national character" (*Wedding of the Waters*, Kindle location 3496).

New York's Tammany party was formed during the lifetime of the founding fathers, and it was known for "corruption and unabashed stealing from public funds." This was documented by Gustavus Myers in his 1901 *Tammany Hall*.

## AMERICA'S GREAT BUILDING PROJECTS

America's major building projects have been glorious, but typically they have been done to the glory of man rather than the glory of God and they have often been shot through and through with corruption. For example, the Erie Canal, America's first gigantic construction project, required a 25 year slugfest before the ground could be broken in 1817, and the battle royal continued to the very end of the project. The battle consisted of lies, character assassination, and every sort of ungodly tactic and selfish scheme. None of the main players on either side of the project were godly by any biblical definition.

The same can be said of the transcontinental railroad, the Panama Canal, the interstate highway system, and the Apollo moon program, to mention a few. We conclude that America has been strongly and uniquely influenced by Christianity and the Bible, but America has never been a Christian nation in a biblical sense.

For the other side of this coin, see our new book [The Bible and Western Society](#), which is available in print and in a free eBook edition from [Way of Life Literature](#).

# Tattooing for JESUS

By David Cloud

The following is from the book [Dressing from the Lord](#), which is available from [Way of Life Literature](#).

A survey in Canada found that “75% of young conservative Christians believe tattooing is a valid spiritual expression” (“For the Love of God,” *The Vancouver Sun*, Vancouver, British Columbia, February 1999).

Reporter Douglas Todd of *The Vancouver Sun* visited the Vineyard Christian Fellowship in Langley, British Columbia, and found that tattoos are the newest “in thing” for Vineyard Christians. Amy Bonde, who is a staff member at the Vineyard in Langley, has a large Celtic cross tattooed on the small of her back. Encircling the cross are Hebrew letters that allegedly mean, “I am my beloved’s, and he is mine.” Bonde says the tattoo signifies that she looks upon Jesus Christ as her “lover.”

*The Vancouver Sun* report notes that the TATTOOING REPRESENTS “A SIGN OF A SEISMIC SHIFT IN EVANGELICAL CHRISTIANITY, which has been associated for most of this century with harsh rules about controlling one’s body: no long hair on men, no pants on women, no drinking, no dancing, no jewelry and certainly no tattooing.”

The *Bismarck Tribune* (North Dakota) ran an article in November 1998 about the Christian Tattoo Association operated by Randy Mastre and two other members of New Song Community Church in Bismarck. Their goal is “to bring Christianity to tattooers.”

What is wrong with “Christian” tattooing?

## First of all, the Old Testament plainly forbade tattooing.

“Ye shall not make any cuttings in your flesh for the dead, nor print any marks upon you: I am the LORD” (Lev. 19:28).

“They shall not make baldness upon their head, neither shall they shave off the corner of their beard, nor make any cuttings in their flesh” (Lev. 21:5).

This is such a clear command, that one would need a compelling reason to disregard it, even though it is an Old Testament law.

In some cases we are told in the New Testament that something in the Old is not for us. That is true for the Old Testament dietary laws (Rom. 14:2-3; 1 Tim. 4:1-5) and for the sabbath (Col. 2:16), but there is no such statement in regard to tattooing.

For a Christian to get a tattoo would be to say that he or she can be certain that what God was concerned about in Leviticus 19:28 and 21:5 He no longer cares about, and I don’t see what basis of interpretation allows that.

## Second, God’s people are not to be identified with evil.

God forbade the Israelites to cut their flesh because it was an identification with paganism and idolatry, and the New Testament contains the same principles and restrictions.

“Abstain from all appearance of evil” (1 Thessalonians 5:22).

“And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them” (Ephesians 5:11).

“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world...” (Romans 12:1-2).

“But I say, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to devils, and not to God: and I would not that ye should have fellowship with devils. Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils: ye cannot be partakers of the Lord’s table, and of the table of devils. Do we provoke the Lord to jealousy? are we stronger than he?” (1 Corinthians 10:20-22).

Tattooing is still intimately associated with idolatry, paganism, moral debauchery, and rebellion.

An article by Clay Thompson in the Pacific News Service for July 27, 1996, was titled “Pagan Fashion’s New Frontier - Facial Tattoos.” Note that the author, who in this article makes no claim to be a Christian, associates tattoos with paganism. He connects it with a “new reverence for pagan beliefs.”

A prominent book on tattooing is *Pagan Fleshworks*. It is by Maureen Mercury and contains photos by Steve Haworth, identified as “the foremost body modification artist in the United States.” “Body modification” is the practice of burning, inking, cutting, piercing, and otherwise desecrating one’s God-given body.

A July 2003 survey of more than 2,000 people in the United States, reported in the AFP for Oct. 11, found that among women who get tattoos, 34% “feel sexier,” and 29% overall “FEEL MORE REBELLIOUS.” One woman interviewed by the *Vancouver Sun* admitted that she got a tattoo “PARTLY OUT OF REBELLION against the normal Christian stereotype of ‘You can’t do this, you can’t do that.’” She admits that her mother did not want her to get a tattoo and did not like it (“For the Love of God,” *The Vancouver Sun*, Vancouver, British Columbia, Feb. 1999). Another Vineyard member, Peter Davyduck, who has a tattoo of the word “SIN” on his ankle, says this is a message to “judgmental Christians that everyone is a sinner and should be accepted in spite of it.” Note the rebellious attitude in this statement. Every born-again Bible-believing Christian knows that everyone is a sinner, but this does not mean that it does not matter how professing Christians should live.

Such rebellion is forbidden in God’s Word. 1 Peter 4:5 says, “Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.” And Ephesians 5:21 says, “Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God.”

A young woman who got tattoos before she was saved told me that tattooing is addictive. Wherein is the addiction?

**A third reason against tattoos is that the Bible warns the Christian not to cause moral offence and cause of spiritual stumbling.**

“Give none offence, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God” (1 Cor. 10:32).

“Giving no offence in any thing, that the ministry be not blamed” (2 Cor. 6:3).

“Wherefore, if meat make my brother to offend, I will eat no flesh while the world standeth, lest I make my brother to offend” (1 Cor. 8:10).

This was one of the apostle Paul’s guiding principles. He did not want his actions to cause someone to be offended and to stumble spiritually. For this purpose, he was willing even to forego lawful things such as eating meat. How much more should Christians in this age forego highly questionable things such as tattooing and pants on women and “Christian” rock for the sake of being a blessing and encouragement to their

conservative brethren! But, sadly, the Christian rock-tattooing culture comes decked out with the rock & roll attitude of “no one is going to take away my fun; I’m not going to let some old foggy tell me what to do.”

This is an unscriptural attitude, to say the least. What if a professing Christian follows the example of the “Christian tattoo crowd” and gets involved in the tattoo culture and is drawn into sin?

Not only is the Christian to avoid things that are obviously evil, but he is to avoid things that would cause offense to others even if those things are in not necessarily wrong in themselves:

*“It is good neither to eat flesh, nor to drink wine, nor any thing whereby thy brother stumbleth, or is offended, or is made weak”* (Romans 14:21).

The Christian is to live his life to please others instead of himself. Contemporary-style Christians, though, do not care if they offend others with their rock music and worldly appearance. They protest that they have liberty to do as they please. This is carnal rebellion, and it is the attitude that lies at the heart of apostasy. Those who desire to throw off restrictions on their lifestyles are not following the Bible but their own self-willed lusts. They are fulfilling 2 Timothy 4:3-4:

*“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; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.”*

**A final reason against tattooing is that the believer’s body is not his own; it is the temple of the Holy Spirit.**

*“What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?”* (1 Corinthians 6:19).

For the born-again Christian, tattooing is graffiti on someone’s else’s temple.

The following is a testimony of Pastor Charlie Haddad who got tattoos before he was saved:

“I was a professing Christian for 24 Years (Catholic) and growing up I was hanging out with some Muslim friends. Some of them got tattoos of a sword and the moon. I then thought I wanted to get a cross and the face of Jesus, and I did, one on each shoulder. Looking back I got them out of pride, it was more of religious pride. I was a Christian only by name, thinking these tattoos would identify me as a Christian, far from it, I didn’t know the Lord. Had I really known the Lord and wanted to walk in His ways and the way of His Word I would have obeyed Him and written His Word upon my heart and not on my body. I would have memorised and mediated on His Word instead of having a form of godliness (Proverbs 3:3; 7:2-2). I regret getting these tattoos, and I am ashamed. I know it is not pleasing to the Lord.”

## 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?



### ECUMENICAL PRAYER FOR REVIVAL (Friday Church News Notes, September 30, 2016,

[www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143) -

There are many calls these days for ecumenical revival prayer. The latest is an initiative of the Archbishop of Canterbury geared for the spring of 2017. "Catholics, Baptists, Pentecostals, Copts, Methodists, Orthodox Christians and members of free churches will unite under the Anglican umbrella after the presidents of Churches Together in England (CTE) announced on Monday they would accept the invitation to pray in the 10 days before Pentecost 2017. ... They will write to their churches--which range from Seventh-Day Adventists churches to Coptic Orthodox churches--and encourage them to participate. 'We pray to the Father that his family, called to be one in Jesus Christ, may see the outpouring of the Holy Spirit to transform many lives and communities in our land,' they said" ("Missions of Christians to Unite in Prayer for Revival," ChristianToday.com, Sept. 19, 2016). Prayer is exactly what we need today. It is the only thing powerful enough to solve the problems we face. But ecumenical prayer is blatant disobedience to God's Word. The unity spoken of in the New Testament is a unity of being "perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment" (1 Corinthians 1:10). This speaks of the unity found in a sound New Testament church, but these are churches that typically aren't praying much. The mid-week prayer amounts to a few minutes of half-hearted supplication, mostly for physical ailments. Typically, there are no earnest

prayer sessions preceding special meetings. There is little to no prayer for the nation in obedience to 1 Timothy 2:1-2 and for God to send forth laborers into the harvest in obedience to Luke 10:2. Fasting and prayer is a foreign thing to the typical Bible-believing church. Prayer is mentioned 407 times in the Bible and 121 times in the New Testament. It is one of the four foundational characteristics of the first church in Jerusalem ("they continued steadfastly in the apostles doctrine and fellowship and breaking bread and prayer," Acts 2:42). Prayer is to be first of all (1 Tim. 2:1-2). It was a major emphasis of Christ's teaching (Mat. 6:5-13; 7:7-11), and the apostle Paul mentioned prayer in practically every one of his Epistles. But it is grossly neglected in our day.

### 3D TECHNOLOGY PROVES HEBREW BIBLE UNCHANGED FOR 2,000 YEARS (Friday Church

News Notes, September 30, 2016, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143) -

The following is excerpted from "3D tech proves," *The Times of Israel*, Sept. 22, 2016: "The charred lump of a 2,000-year-old scroll sat in an Israeli archaeologist's storeroom for decades, too brittle to open. Now, new imaging technology has revealed what was written inside: the earliest evidence of a biblical text in its standardized form. The discovery, announced in a *Science Advances* journal article by researchers in Kentucky and Jerusalem on Wednesday, was made using 'virtual unwrapping,' a 3D digital analysis of an X-ray scan. Researchers say it is the first time they have been able to read the text of an ancient scroll



The Virtually Unwrapped Ein Gedi Scroll

without having to physically open it. ... The digital technology, funded by Google and the US National Science Foundation, is slated to be released to the public as open source software by the end of next year. Researchers hope to use the technology to peek inside other ancient documents too fragile to unwrap ... The biblical scroll examined in the study was first discovered by archaeologists in 1970 at Ein Gedi, the site of an ancient Jewish community near the Dead Sea. Inside the ancient synagogue's ark, archaeologists found lumps of scroll fragments. The synagogue was destroyed in an ancient fire, charring the scrolls. The dry climate of the area kept them preserved, but when archaeologists touched them, the scrolls would begin to disintegrate. So the charred logs were shelved for nearly half a century, with no one knowing what was written inside. ... The text discovered in the charred Ein Gedi scroll is '100 percent identical' to the version of the Book of Leviticus that has been in use for centuries, said Dead Sea Scroll scholar Emmanuel Tov from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, who participated in the study. 'This is quite amazing for us,' he said. 'In 2,000 years, this text has not changed.'"

#### PERSECUTION IN NORTH KOREA

(Friday Church News Notes, September 30, 2016, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from "New Report on Religious Freedom in North Korea," Christian Solidarity Worldwide, Sept. 23, 2016: "A new report on freedom of religion or belief in North Korea, released today by Christian Solidarity Worldwide (CSW), provides further evidence that freedom of religion or belief

is a human right that is 'largely non-existent' in the country. *Total Denial: Violations of Freedom of Religion or Belief in North Korea*, details the persecution of Christians and discrimination against other religions and beliefs including Buddhism and Shamanism. ... CSW's new report states: 'Christians usually practice their faith in secret. If discovered they are subject to detention and then likely taken to prison camps (kwanliso); crimes against them in these camps include extra-judicial killing, extermination, enslavement/forced labour, forcible transfer of population, arbitrary imprisonment, torture, persecution, enforced disappearance, rape and sexual violence, and other inhumane acts. Documented incidents include Christians being hung on a cross over a fire, crushed under a steamroller, herded off bridges and trampled under-foot.' Practitioners of other religions, such as Buddhism, Shamanism and the native Korean Cheondoism--which combines elements of Confucianism, Buddhism, Taosim and Shamanism--also face restrictions and discrimination, but are treated more leniently. Christianity is repressed most harshly because it is viewed as a foreign religion, and Christians are suspected of being spies."

#### FIRST CENTURY TEMPLE RESTORED BY TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY TECHNOLOGY

(Friday Church News Notes, September 30, 2016, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from "The Temple Has 'Reappeared,'" *BreakingIsraelNews.com*, Sept. 19, 2016: "A new project from The Temple Mount Heritage Foundation and ArchTour is perhaps the closest you can get to experiencing the Temple, at least until it is really built. The newly unveiled project uses virtual reality, a new technology used mainly for gaming and entertainment, in a way its innovators probably did not anticipate: immersing the user in a religious journey. The participant sits while wearing a special



set of virtual reality goggles, which put him into a three-dimensional depiction of the world of the Second Temple. The tour begins in the open air shuk (market) in Jerusalem of approximately 2,000 years ago. It wanders by Robinson's Arch and the Royal Stoa in the southwest corner in all their full glory, before passing in through the gates of the Temple. The virtual tour brings "visitors" through the Temple courtyards, past the altar, into the midst of the priests and their daily activity. The tour ends inside the Temple, where the visitor can see the *menorah*, the seven branched lamp, and the rack that held the show breads. Though animal sacrifices are not shown, the High Priest is seen performing the *ketoret*, the daily service in which the incense composed of 11 spices was burned on the small 'Gold Altar.' ... Creating this project was no simple task. It entailed bringing together cutting edge technology with esoteric learning, history, and live actors. Matanel Libi, the CEO, began the project five years ago, driven by a desire to create a way for people to see the Temple in all its glory."

#### SCIENTISTS SAY HEALTH BENEFITS FROM ALCOHOL MAY BE GREATLY EXAGGERATED

(Friday Church News Notes, September 30, 2016, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143) - The following is from "Scientists Say," *Fox News*, Sept. 26, 2016: "Despite claims in recent years that a glass of red wine could reduce chances of getting heart disease, new research is discovering that the information may be faulty. Scientists are now saying that many of the studies touting alcohol's benefits were actually subsidized by alcohol





companies, reports *Wired*. The real science behind these so-called benefits may have been grossly exaggerated and may have led to the systemic burying of a serious risk of imbibing too much alcohol--cancer. Research conducted in 2014 by Boston University professor Curt Ellison led to the declaration that the consumption of moderate amounts of red wine could help in the fight against heart disease. The study was widely cited and heralded by wine industry insiders. But Ellison's research was supported by 'unrestricted educational donations' from the liquor industry, according to *Addiction* magazine. ... The science behind much of the research is also allegedly flawed. ... A study released earlier this year in the *Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs* reviewed findings from 87 previously published reports on drinking and death, from all causes. The report found that all but 13 of those reviewed had critical flaws. ... The 13 studies that did account for abstainer bias found no health benefits associated with drinking. The re-evaluation of alcohol consumption is already causing governments to make policy changes. In January new guidelines put forth by the U.K.'s Chief Medical Officers warned that any level of drinking alcohol increases the chance of getting several different types of cancers. ... In January, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services removed language in its guidelines on alcohol consumption that said light drinking could lower the risk of heart disease for some people." Three thousand years ago the last word about alcoholic consumption was given in God's Word: "Wine *is* a mocker, strong drink *is* raging; and whosoever is

deceived thereby is not wise" (Proverbs 20:1).

### THE ROOTS OF MODERN SCIENCE IN THE MIDDLE AGES

(Friday Church News Notes, September 30, 2016, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143) - The roots of modern science lie in a biblical worldview, a view that the universe is rational, that it was made by a Creator, that its laws are dependable. In *God's Philosophers*, James Hannam traces the roots of modern science back to the Middle Ages. Though we understand the errors and limitations of Catholicism, Hannam makes the point that Catholicism was largely a friend of science. Following is a summary of *God's Philosophers: How the Medieval World Laid the Foundations of Modern Science*: "Hannam debunks many of the myths about the Middle Ages, showing that medieval people did not think the earth was flat, nor did Columbus 'prove' that it is a sphere. Contrary to common belief, the Inquisition burnt nobody for their science, nor was Copernicus afraid of persecution. No Pope tried to ban human dissection or the number zero. On the contrary, as Hannam reveals, the Middle Ages gave rise to staggering achievements in both science and technology: for instance, spectacles and the mechanical clock were both invented in thirteenth-century Europe. Ideas from the Far East, like printing, gunpowder and the compass, were taken further by Europeans than the Chinese had imagined possible. The compass helped Columbus to discover the New World in 1492, while printing allowed an incredible 20 million books to be produced in the first 50 years after Gutenberg published his Bible in 1455. And Hannam argues that scientific progress was often made thanks to, rather than in spite of, the influence of Christianity. Charting an epic journey through six centuries of history, *God's Philosophers* brings back to light the discoveries of neglected geniuses like John Buridan, Nicole Oresme and Thomas Bradwardine, as well as putting

into context the contributions of more familiar figures like Roger Bacon, William of Ockham and Thomas Aquinas. Besides being a thrilling history of a period of surprising invention and innovation, *God's Philosophers* reveals the debt modern science and technology owe to the supposedly 'dark' ages of medieval Europe."

### ANCIENT GARDENS FOUND IN PETRA

(Friday Church News Notes, October 7, 2016, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143) - Archaeologists have discovered the ancient gardens of Petra with its amazing aqueduct system. "Recent excavations at Petra have revealed a startlingly advanced irrigation system and water storage system that enabled the desert city's people to survive--and to maintain a magnificent garden featuring fountains, ponds and a huge swimming pool. The engineering feats and other luxuries attest to the ancient Nabatean capital's former splendor and wealth some 2,000 years ago" (Monumental forgotten Gardens of Petra," *Haaretz*, Sept. 28, 2016). The water, channeled from a spring located in the hills outside of Petra, irrigated a large garden with trees, date palms, plants, fountains, and a 44-meter wide swimming pool. Petra was located in the midst of the mountains of Edom, and the Edomites who built the mysterious city were called Nabateans. Later the Romans controlled Petra when they conquered the Negev and part of Arabia. Petra was a wealthy city on the Spice Route from southern Arabia to Egypt, Israel, and beyond. The distance from Southern Arabia to Israel is 2,400 kilometers (1,490 miles). This is the distance the queen of Sheba journeyed on her visit to



Solomon. There were 65 camel stations along the way, and the Nabataeans controlled them in their day. The Nabateans engaged in trade and collected taxes from the camel caravans that traveled across the deserts. Petra had idolatrous temples devoted to many false gods. They worshipped a goddess called Allat, which was similar to the immoral Roman goddess Aphrodite. They also worshipped the sun. The altar to the sun is located high above Petra at the top of 600 steps.

**THE PASSION: MIXING HOLY WITH UNHOLY** (Friday Church News Notes, October 7, 2016, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143) -



“And that ye may put difference between holy and unholy, and between unclean and clean” (Leviticus 10:10). God’s Word commands separation between the holy and the unholy, yet that is exactly what is *not* found in contemporary Christianity. It is a dangerous, heretical mixing of sacred and secular, and any Bible-believing church or home that messes with contemporary Christian music in any fashion is most foolish. Consider *The Passion*, a two-hour FOX television special scheduled to air on October 20. It purports to “tell the story of the last hours of Jesus Christ’s life on earth through passages from the Bible and a variety of well-known pop songs” (“The Passion: New Orleans Soundtrack Set for Release,” Fox.com). One of the actors is Michael W. Smith, a prominent CCM artist. Jesus Christ is played by Jencarlos Canela, a sensual rocker, dancer, and actor who announced in 2011 that he and his girlfriend, Gaby Espino, were expecting a baby out of wedlock.

Canela rose to fame for his role in the morally filthy soap opera *Más Sabe el Diablo* (*The Devil Knows More*), which was recorded in 2009-2010. Canela played the part of Angel, though he is known as *El Diablo* (the devil), who supposedly has a good heart even though he is a foul-mouthed thief, fornicator, etc. The violent series “features lovers embroiled in intrigue, betrayal, vengeance and unbridled passion.” In *The Passion*, Mary, the mother of Jesus, is played by the thrice-divorced Trisha Yearwood. The soundtrack to *The Passion* is by Adam Anders and Peer Astrom, who have previously produced the Backstreet Boys and the incredibly filthy, anti-Christ singer Madonna. Songs for *The Passion* include hits by exceedingly unholy musicians. Consider Katy Perry, whose “Dark Horse” promotes ancient Egyptian occultism and idolatry, complete with serpents, demonic animals, spells, the god Horus, and the filthy goddesses Isis and Aphrodite. Perry says that her album *Prism* was influenced by the New Age universalist Eckhart Tolle’s *The Power of Now* (“Katy Perry’s Prism,” *Billboard*, Sept. 27, 2013). “Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?” (2 Cor. 6:14).

**THE ISLAMIZATION OF EUROPE CONTINUES** (Friday Church News Notes, October 7, 2016, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143) - Denmark and Germany have overruled their own marriage laws to favor Islamic law and practice. Though the legal minimum age for marriage in Denmark



is 18, its immigration service has ruled that immigrants can have brides as young as 14. German courts have made the same ruling, allowing more than 1,000 child brides to immigrate (“Denmark Allows Migrants to Break Law,” *Breitbart*, Sept. 29, 2016).

**STUDENT DEMANDS TO BE CALLED “HIS MAJESTY”** (Friday Church News Notes, October 7, 2016, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143) - The following is from “Preferred



Pronouns Done Right,” *Truth Revolt*, Sept. 30, 2016: “A conservative student at the University of Michigan brilliantly worked the school’s new pronoun policy in a way that shows just how absurd things have gotten on college campuses. From now on, Grant Strobl’s professors have to address him as ‘His Majesty.’ It’s genius, really. Recently, U of M caved in and announced a policy of inclusiveness through allowing students to choose the preferred pronouns with which they’d like to be addressed: ‘Students can designate pronouns in Wolverine Access through the new Gender Identity tab within the Campus Personal Information section. This page can be used to enter, update or delete pronoun information. Designated pronouns will automatically populate on all class rosters accessed through Wolverine Access.’ Strobl, a member of Young Americans for Freedom, saw an opportunity to capitalize on the absurdity and entered ‘His Majesty’ as for how he would like to be addressed on campus.”

**MAJORITY OF EVANGELICALS IN U.S. BELIEVE “EVERYONE WILL GO TO HEAVEN”** (Friday



Church News Notes, October 7, 2016, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143) - According to a new survey by LifeWay, 64% of “evangelicals” say everyone will go to heaven. But the survey also found that 84% of “evangelicals” believe that “hell is a place of eternal judgment, where God sends all people who do not personally trust in Jesus Christ.” Among non-evangelical Americans, 30% believe this (“More US Evangelicals,” *Christian Post*, Oct. 3, 2016). The survey shows that American “evangelical” Christians are confused about their faith and that “contradictory and incompatible beliefs are OK for most people.” This is the fruit of 70 years of compromise and apostasy. Among other findings, about 70% of all Americans disagree that those who do not trust in Jesus Christ go to hell, 44% say sex outside of traditional marriage is not a sin, 40% say that abortion is not a sin, and 42% believe that the Bible’s condemnation of homosexual behavior doesn’t apply today.

**THE SELFIE GENERATION** (Friday Church News Notes, October 7, 2016, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143) - The selfie generation was on full display at an appearance of U.S. presidential candidate Hillary Clinton in Orlando,



September 21. The backs of all of the supporters in the first rows were turned to the candidate so they could take selfies of themselves with her. The selfie generation doesn’t take photos of things; it takes photos of itself with things. It’s all about me, which is a fulfillment of Scripture. “This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves... (2 Timothy 3:1-2).

**FARRAKHAN BLAMES SIN ON WHITE MAN** (Friday Church News Notes, October 7, 2016, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from “Farrakhan to black congregation: White Americans Made You,” *Christian Examiner*, Sept. 19, 2016: “Blacks kill other blacks, push drugs, rape and lie because white Americans have made them do it, Louis Farrakhan, leader of the Nation of Islam, told a packed and enthusiastic audience at a church in Washington, D.C., Sept. 18. During the hour-and-a-half address at Union Temple Baptist Church, Farrakhan said the idea that the white man is responsible for the sins of black people did not originate with him, but with his predecessor, Elijah Muhammad--whom he holds up as the messiah who will one day return to earth on a vehicle like a spaceship. According to Farrakhan, Muhammad said blacks were not violent and not guilty of the sins associated with whites until they were forced to ‘sojourn’ among them for nearly half a millennium. That is why Jesus didn’t come to save blacks from their sins, but from the sins of the white man. ... Elijah Muhammad was accused by Malcolm X of fathering multiple children with teenage staff members in the 1960s. Malcolm X was later assassinated for making the claim and supposedly challenging Muhammad’s leadership. ... Union Temple Baptist Church claims it was founded as a Missionary Baptist Church. It also offers an ‘Afro-Centric’ version of religion. On its web page, it describes its sanctuary which features a



“30-foot by 19-foot mural depicting the Last Supper. It not only has the image of a black Christ, but also has the twelve disciples depicted as twelve significant Africans and African Americans, among them Martin Luther King, Jr., Rosa Parks, and Malcolm X.”

**SOME FAVORITE QUOTES** (Friday Church News Notes, October 7, 2016, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143) -

“Eternity of penalty rests on eternity of character, and if Scripture gives no hope of any change after this life, then equally is there no hope of limitation of penalty-varied however as this is by the measure of privilege enjoyed” (F.C. Jennings, *Studies in Isaiah*).

“There is no success without sacrifice. If you succeed without sacrifice it is because someone has suffered before you. If you sacrifice without success it is because someone will succeed after” (Adoniram Judson, missionary to Burma).

“Discipline is the soul of an army. It makes small numbers formidable; procures success to the weak and esteem to all” (George Washington).

“... public utility pleads most forcibly for the general distribution of the Holy Scriptures. Without the Bible, in vain do we increase penal laws and draw entrenchments around our institutions. ... Bibles are strong protections. Where they abound, men cannot pursue wicked courses and at the same time enjoy quiet conscience” (James McHenry, signer of the U.S. Declaration of Independence, cited from *One Hundred and Ten Years*

of *Bible Society Work in Maryland*, 1921, pp. 13, 14).

“I love those that thunder out the Word. ... The Christian world is in a deep sleep. Nothing but a loud shout can awake them out of it” (George Whitefield).

**DAWKINS: THE BLIND BOOKMAKER** (Friday Church News Notes, October 14, 2016, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143) - Richard Dawkins, author of *The Blind Watchmaker*, claims that there is no evidence for intelligent design in nature. He ridicules the argument from design, claiming that design, though “apparent,” is not real, because Darwinian naturalism can explain everything. He says that atheists should be proud of their position because it is superior to and more reasonable than belief in a Creator God. The Bible says, “For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world ARE CLEARLY SEEN, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse” (Romans 1:20). If the invisible things of God are clearly seen in creation, why can’t Richard Dawkins see them? The answer is that he is spiritually blind. I have a blind preacher friend who lives in the Himalayan mountains and has preached in our church in Kathmandu. If he were to say to me, “Brother Cloud, I have heard that there are beautiful snow-covered mountains nearby, but I don’t believe it because I haven’t seen them,” I would say to him, “Prem, you can’t see them because you are blind. I can describe them to you, but you still won’t be able to see them.” Prem won’t be able



to see until he has his resurrection body, and Dawkins won’t be able to see as long as he is spiritually blind. To obtain spiritual sight would require that he humble himself before the Almighty Creator God, admit his fallen condition and rebellion against God’s law, and cast himself upon God’s mercy in Jesus Christ. Dawkins is a poor blind bookmaker. Before the watchmaker argument, he can only huff and puff with Darwinian myths, but he cannot refute it. In fact, it is irrefutable. The mind boggling complexity and design we find in nature--the wing, the eye, the heart, the brain, the butterfly, DNA, pollination, metamorphosis, human intelligence--cannot be explained by “natural selection” or “chance mutations” or any other evolutionary mechanism that has been proposed.

**PASTOR WARNS THAT FALSE CONVERSIONS ARE SUICIDE FOR CHURCHES** (Friday Church News Notes, October 14, 2016, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143) - Speaking at the 2012 Together for the Gospel Conference, Mark Dever warned that churches that aren’t careful about conversion are committing suicide. The leaders of the conference were “conservative evangelicals” such as Dever, Al Mohler, and John Piper. Dever, senior pastor of Capitol Hill Baptist Church, said that “thousands, if not millions, of church members sitting in America’s pews aren’t really born-again Christians” (“False Conversions,” Associated Baptist Press, April 11, 2012). “The problem I am pointing to is not just that of the occasional hypocrite lost in their own unrepentant sin,” Dever said. **“I’m talking about systems which seem to produce false converts so much that it’s not just one man ... but whole congregations that like Israel of old are typified and characterized not by holiness but by worldliness.”** This is a perfect description of the Southern Baptist church in which I grew up in the 1950s and 1960s, but it is also a warning that is appropriate for the average Inde-



pendent Fundamental Baptist church. The reason that churches become mixed multitudes populated with nominal Christians include a shallow Quick Prayerism soul winning program, carelessness and hastiness in receiving church members, failure to preach the whole counsel of God, lack of a clear, forceful, consistent call to discipleship, and neglect of discipline. What Dever and his “conservative evangelical” friends do not see is that their own sensual, mystical “Christian” rock, their renunciation of separatism, their phony definition of “legalism,” and their amillennialism are as suicidal to a church’s spiritual life as carelessness about conversion. The allegorical approach to the interpretation of prophecy is no light matter in that it destroys the power of the prophetic Word and fails to produce a proper biblical worldview.

**A HAPPY HOME AND A DEVOTED HUSBAND** (Friday Church News Notes, October 14, 2016, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143) - “Let thy fountain be blessed: and rejoice with the wife of thy youth” (Proverbs 5:18). “Live joyfully with the wife whom thou lovest all the days of the life of thy vanity which he hath given thee under the sun, all the days of thy vanity: for that is thy portion in this life, and in thy labour which thou takest under the sun” (Ecclesiastes 9:9). “In all of the realms of their marriage relationship, the husband is to rejoice and find joy with, in, through, and concerning his wife. He must not be filled with annoyance over her troublesome attributes, but must be filled with joy over her endearing qualities. He must not be regularly

complaining about her faults and failures, but must be ever rejoicing over her efforts and accomplishments. He must not seek to avoid her company as much as possible, but must choose to enjoy her company. Yea, the husband must seek to make their time together upon this earth as happy and enjoyable as possible. He must live joyfully with his wife all the days of their life together. He must seek, as much as he is able, to create a happy, joyful, and enjoyable atmosphere within their marriage relationship, that he may find joy in and with his wife and that she may find joy in and with him. Let the husband then seek for ways to put a smile on his wife's face, a bounce in her step, and a song in her heart" (Scott Markle, *God's Wisdom for Marriage and the Home*, pp. 119, 120; this excellent book is available by contacting 810-378-5323 or [www.shepherdingtheflock.com](http://www.shepherdingtheflock.com)).

**A HAPPY HOME AND A DEVOTED WIFE** (Friday Church News Notes, October 14, 2016, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org),



[fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143) - "Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband" (Ephesians 5:33). "What then does it mean for the wife to reverence her husband? It means that she is to maintain a spirit and attitude of respect, esteem, and honor toward him. She is to hold him in an exalted place within her heart and to treat him with honor through her behavior. She is not to be critical of him, but to lift him up with honor. She is to adore him as her husband, to be attentive unto his thoughts and desires, and to be supportive of him and his pursuits. She

is to be ever concerned to please him and to be ever cautious not to offend him. Though the wife will certainly be aware of her husband's weaknesses and unworthiness, yet in her submission unto him she is to maintain a spirit of reverence toward him 'as unto the Lord'" (Scott Markle, *God's Wisdom for Marriage and the Home*, p. 134; this excellent book is available by contacting 810-378-5323 or [www.shepherdingtheflock.com](http://www.shepherdingtheflock.com)).

**KNOWLEDGE SHALL INCREASE** (Friday Church News Notes, October 14, 2016, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org),

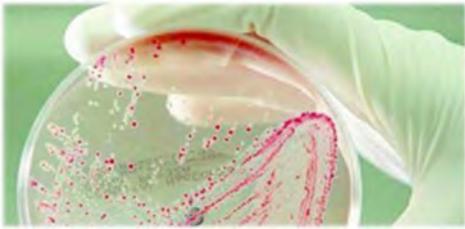
[fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143) - About 2,500 years ago, during the Persian Empire, an angel told the prophet Daniel, "But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased" (Daniel 12:4). We are seeing a dramatic fulfillment of this in our day. Recent inventions include the following: **Scientists have tested nano-robots inside living rats for the first time** ("Scientists Implant," *Fox News*, Mar. 13, 2015). After researchers from the Department of Nanoengineering at the University of California, San Diego, introduced the zinc-based nano-robots into rats, "the zinc reacted with the animal's stomach acid, producing hydrogen bubbles that propelled the robots into the stomach lining. As soon as the robots attached to the stomach, they dissolved, delivering the medicine into the stomach tissue." **NASA's New Horizons spacecraft arrived for a flyby of Pluto on July 14, 2015, after a journey of nearly 10 years, capturing excellent photos of the dwarf planet and its moons.** The historic three-billion-mile journey began with a launch from Cape Canaveral in January 2006.



This is the last of the nine "classic" planets to be visited by spacecraft. Pioneer 10 and 11, launched in the early 1970s, visited Jupiter and Saturn. The technological brilliance of NASA's achievements is tainted by its unscientific evolutionary presumptions and its aspiration to find evidence for a mythical event (the Big Bang). **The global undersea cable system stretches 550,000 miles, enough to circle the earth 22 times** ("Animated map reveals the 550,000 miles of cable," *Business Insider*, Sep. 1, 2015). The cables transmit 99% of all international data. The longest has 39 landing points from Germany to Korea, spanning 24,000 miles. Some are laid 25,000 feet below the ocean's surface. The cables are less than three inches thick and house several optical fibers. **In December 2015, a 14-year-old boy received a 3D-printed nose transplant which has a fully functional sense of smell and taste**



("14-year-old receives fully functional 3D-printed nose," UPI, Dec. 31, 2015). The landmark medical technology was performed at Mount Sinai hospital in New York City. Dallan Jennet lost his nose and part of his face at age nine when he fell onto a live power line. **Scientists at the University of Southampton have developed a five dimensional digital data storage mechanism that is capable of recording 360TB of information that can survive for 13 billion years.** The data is written by an ultrafast femtosecond laser in "three layers of nanostructured dots separated by five micrometers (one millionth of a meter)" ("Eternal 5D data storage," University of Southampton, Feb. 15, 2016). **Scientists have figured out how to store lines of computer code in living bacteria so that it is reproduced.** A team at Harvard successfully stored 100



bytes of data in *E. coli* bacteria, which passed along the information to its offspring. The scientists used the bacteria's natural process of cutting and pasting a part of a virus's DNA into its own genome, so it can recognize that virus again in the future. They disguised their own code as a virus, and the bacteria embedded the information into its DNA ("Scientists Turn Bacteria into Living Hard Drives," **Popular Mechanics**, June 9, 2016).

**JUSTICE IS COMING** (Friday Church News Notes, October 14, 2016, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbs@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbs@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143) -



There is a statue of Blind Justice outside of the Albert Bryan Federal Courthouse in Alexandria, Virginia, that signifies true justice. The female statue is holding scales to signify the weighing of evidence righteously before the law. She is blindfolded to signify equality before the law. She does not see who is standing before her and therefore does not show favoritism. She is in a posture of running,

signifying that she is hastening to do justice. Below the statue are the words "Justice delayed is justice denied." Equality, righteousness, and swiftness of justice are not found in America today and lesser still in most nations, but these will characterize the justice system in Christ's kingdom. "And in mercy shall the throne be established: and he shall sit upon it in truth in the tabernacle of David, judging, and seeking judgment, and hastening righteousness" (Isaiah 16:5).

**COMMENT ON THE U.S. PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION** (Friday Church News Notes, October 21, 2016, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbs@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbs@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143) - "Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people" (Proverbs 14:34).

**PRESIDENT OBAMA CALLS FOR TAMING OF WILD WEST MEDIA ENVIRONMENT** (Friday Church News Notes, October 21, 2016, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbs@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbs@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143) - President Barack Obama's greatest legacy is oppression, lawlessness, and division. The Obama government has exalted the homosexual lifestyle above freedom of speech and freedom of religion. Try, for example, speaking against homosexuality in any government institution, such as the U.S. military, federal law enforcement agencies, or the public school system, and you will soon understand that such a right no longer exists. The cases of government persecution of those who have dared to challenge its thought police have piled up under the Obama administration. You can't even refuse to bake a cake acclaiming homosexuality or host a homosexual wedding on the grounds of religious conviction. The president of the United States is now calling for government involvement in media, which is a direct and frightful assault on the constitutional guarantee of freedom of speech. On October 13, he said at a conference in Pittsburgh, "We are going to have to rebuild within this



wild-wild-west-of-information flow some sort of curating function that people agree to. There has to be, I think, some sort of way in which we can sort through information that passes some basic truthiness tests and those that we have to discard, because they just don't have any basis in anything that's actually happening in the world" ("Obama Decries," *Business Times*, AFP, Oct. 14, 2016). Beware of government "truthiness tests!" While it is true that modern technology has created a Wild West media environment and there are plenty of wrongheaded things floating around, that is none of the government's business, except when the speech becomes revolutionary and violent. We have eight years of evidence that it is not Islamic jihad or some other clearly dangerous, violent philosophy that Obama is worried about, so much as speech on "the right" that opposes his pet agendas, such as the homosexual agenda, man-made global warming, globalism and open borders, and the "Palestinian" cause. Obama is not speaking mere theory. His act of releasing the Internet from U.S. control is clearly aimed at destroying freedom of speech and religion. The U.S. government is rapidly becoming an enemy to truth and righteousness, and this is happening because a majority of the people of the United States are enemies to truth and righteousness, having rejected the Word of God. "The wise *men* are ashamed, they are dismayed and taken: lo, they have rejected the word of the LORD; and what wisdom *is* in them?" (Jeremiah 8:9).

**CCM BLASPHEMY** (Friday Church News Notes, October 21, 2016, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org),



[fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143) - We have long warned about the blasphemy which has been accepted within the Contemporary Christian Music scene, and the evidence was presented loudly and clearly at the 2010 GMA Dove Awards. The awards themselves are an illicit imitation of the world from top to bottom, in the commercialism, the music, the dress, the worldly “cool.” God commands that His people not be conformed to this world (Romans 12:1-2), yet that is blatantly ignored by the Contemporary Christian Music crowd. It is impossible to see how they could be more conformed to this world. To unite the holy things of Jesus Christ with the unholy things of this world is itself a form of blasphemy, so it is no surprise that they are comfortable with such things as “Funky Jesus Music.” It was sung by TobyMac at the 2010 awards. He was introduced as “cool, relevant, and incredibly ageless.” The words go like this: “Rock, rock/ Give me that rock/ That hip, that rock/ Give me that funky/ Give me that funky/ Yo stick it in red/ We got the cred/ No need to say what’s already been said/ Don’t need to please/ When we got the proof/ We be on our knees/ When we raise the roof/ ‘Cause we got the/ Wow pow mix of flavor/ We got the funky Jesus blazer/ No equal/ Diverse people/ Come get it now/ Won’t be a sequel/ None of that mumbo jumbo/ Give me that hip hop funk soul/ Give me that funky Jesus music/ Give me that soulful gumbo.” The rap-dancing, party dude Jesus is a false christ. Jesus is indeed a friend of sinners. He is the greatest Friend of sinners! He came to seek and to save that which was lost, but Jesus was not worldly cool in any sense. When

people were with Jesus, it wasn’t party time; it was discipling time. “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 warned all men to repent and “go and sin no more.” He spent a lot of time describing the horrors of hell and warning men in the sharpest language not to go there. That type of preaching would put a halt to any worldly party! The Lord Jesus Christ didn’t come to earth to play games and hold a cool party. He came to earth to fulfill a specific, very solemn purpose, and He was single-minded in pursuit of that purpose. Someone might argue that “Funky Jesus Music” doesn’t represent Contemporary Worship Musicians such as Townend/Getty, but where have they spoken out against this wickedness? Where have they applied “the fear of God” to their fellow CCM musicians and plainly reprovved the heresy, the sin, the worldliness that permeates the field? By their silence, they are participants in evil. And as we have documented, Townend/Getty are as radically ecumenical as anyone in the realm of CCM, with their association with and approval of Roman Catholics such as Matt Maher. (See [The Directory of Contemporary Worship Musicians](#), available as a free eBook from [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org).)

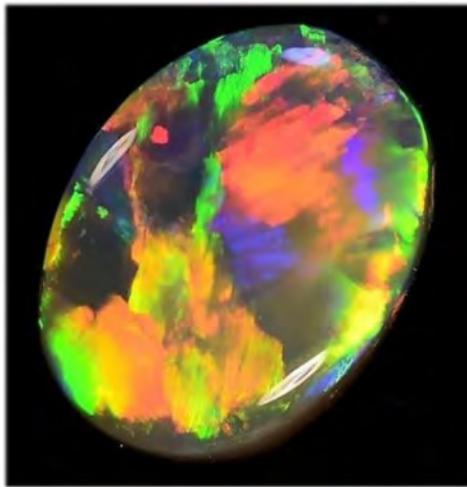
**UNITED NATIONS DENIES ISRAEL’S HISTORIC CONNECTION TO THE TEMPLE MOUNT** (Friday Church News Notes,

October 21, 2016, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143) - Last week the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) voted 24 to 6 to approve a resolution denying the historical connection between Jews and sacred sites in Jerusalem, including the Temple Mount (“Egregious and Sinister,” CBN.com, Oct. 14, 2016). The only countries voting against this ridiculous and godless resolution were the United States, Britain, Germany, Holland, Lithuania, and Estonia. Twenty-six nations took the cowardly path of abstaining and thus allowing the resolution to pass. Israel’s Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu responded, “Even if they do not read the Bible, I would suggest that UNESCO members visit the Arch of Titus in Rome. On it one can see what the Romans brought back to Rome after they destroyed and looted the Second Temple on the Temple Mount 2,000 years ago. There, engraved on the Arch of Titus, is the seven-branched menorah that is the symbol of the Jewish People and, I remind you, is also the symbol of the Jewish state today. Soon, UNESCO will say that the Emperor Titus engaged in Zionist propaganda. But I believe that historical truth is stronger and that truth will prevail. And today we are dealing with the truth.” Indeed, truth will prevail, but Israel remains in rebellion to her Creator and her immediate future is not bright. According to Bible prophecy, she will be deceived by the Antichrist’s “peace” program. In Revelation 11 we



see the measuring of the Third Temple in the midst of the preaching of two miracle-working prophets, and that temple will be occupied by the Antichrist who will claim to be God and force the world to worship him on pain of death. "And there was given me a reed like unto a rod: and the angel stood, saying, Rise, and measure the temple of God, and the altar, and them that worship therein. But the court which is without the temple leave out, and measure it not; for it is given unto the Gentiles: and the holy city shall they tread under foot forty *and* two months. And I will give *power* unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred *and* threescore days, clothed in sackcloth" (Revelation 11:1-3).

**GROWING OPALS AND DISPROVING EVOLUTION** (Friday Church News Notes, October 21, 2016, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from Dr. Andrew Snelling, "Growing Opals--Australian Style," *Creation*, Dec. 1989: "Len Cram is a committed Christian with a dogged determination in his work. His experiments have turned traditional theories about opal upside-down, even challenging accepted ideas of evolutionary geology and its alleged millions of years for the formation and age of opals. ... Few people know more about opal than Len does. Even scientists who refuse to acknowledge his work



admit he is a world authority on the subject. ... Len started his association with opal in Queensland in the 1950s. ... He studied every scientific paper on silica he could lay his hands on. He went through years of experiments--trial after trial, failure after failure. Each experiment was carefully recorded. Results were documented. Often discouraged, but still hopeful, he carried on. ... It was not until 1975 that Len had his first success. He poured a bit of 'this' and a bit of 'that' into a bottle. He gave it a shake, put it on the shelf, and forgot about it. Sometime later he and a friend were in the shed-laboratory doing something else when his friend noticed the bottle. On the bottom was a three millimetre (one-eighth inch) growth of precious opal! Len built on this success. Having now unlocked the door, he could grow the most natural-looking opal anyone could imagine. On his shelves

are Andamooka blue/greens; Coober Pedy whites and 'crystals'; Mexican oranges, and Lightning Ridge blacks--all grown in his shed. ... Len's opal looks real, simply because it is real. His process apparently is a mimicking of the process which formed opal in nature. ... Len's latest opal looks identical to natural opal even under the electron microscope. ... Len's work is motivated by his strong Christian convictions. He is a creationist and claims his experiments discredit uniformitarian geology theories of slow-and-gradual opal formation (evolution) over thousands and millions of years. While developing his system for growing opals, he learned a great deal about how opal is formed. Len believes it took only a few months within suitable portions of the voluminous sediment layers laid down catastrophically by the Great Flood—and he says he can prove it. ... Current scientific theory, based on the geologists' uniformitarian belief in slow and gradual processes over millions of years, states that opal formation was a sedimentary process. ... But Len has proved that the opal formation process is probably very different to this. In his jars, the first touch of colour appears within 15 minutes! In three months he gets more than one centimetre (half an inch) of vertical growth. Len says the longest part is the drying-out process, as the water contained within the developing opal structure is expelled over subsequent months and years."

## Aim of O Timothy Magazine

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



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