The very popular T.D. Jakes is considered a great preacher, but in reality he is a great politician. When questioned on his position on the Trinity, he fudges and faces two ways. (See “The Elephant Room,” April 5, 2012, www.wayoflife.org.) When questioned about his position on homosexuality by a liberal secular newspaper, he fudges again. In a recent interview with the Huntington Post, he not only fudged about the issue of homosexuality, he also questioned the divine inspiration of Paul’s epistles, which is a fundamental error. Instead of plainly stating what the Bible teaches about homosexuality, Jakes described his views as “evolved and evolving.” To justify evolution in doctrinal and moral thinking, he used the example of the apostle Paul’s teaching in 1 Corinthians 11, saying, “Paul spends a lot of time wrestling back and forth, trying to understand should a woman wear a head covering, should you cut your hair. I mean, they grappled back then and we’re grappling now because we’re humans and we are flawed and we’re not God” (“T.D. Jakes Comes Out for ‘Gay Rights’ and ‘LGBT Churches,’” Christian...

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ATHEIST PASTOR FIGHTING THE ATTEMPT TO REMOVE HER FROM THE MINISTRY

An atheist United Church of Canada pastor is fighting the denomination’s effort to fire her. Gretta Vosper of West Hill United Church of Toronto, who was ordained in 1993 and has been at West Hill since 1997, says, “I don’t believe in … the god called God. Using the word gets in the way of sharing what I want to share” (“Atheist Minister,” The Globe and Mail, Aug. 5, 2015). We have no idea what she wants to “share,” but she claims that the Bible and Jesus are “mythology,” so her highest authority is her own opinion. The Globe and Mail says Vosper has been teaching atheism and mythology at West Hill since 2001, but when she did away with the Lord’s Prayer in 2008, 100 of her 150 members left. The denomination did nothing until she wrote a letter this year to the Toronto Conference executive secretary stating that belief in God can motivate things such as the Charlie Hebdo massacre, making no distinction between faith in the God of the Bible and faith in Allah. As a result, the denomination is reviewing whether Vosper is being “faithful to her ordination vows” which include a belief in “God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.” An ecclesiastical court is to hear her case in the fall. This is a denomination that allows “pastors” to deny the historicity of the Pentateuch, the miraculous nature of Bible prophecy, the virgin birth, deity, substitutionary atonement, and bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ, and any number of other cardinal doctrines, but perhaps Vosper has gone a bit too far even for the United Church of Canada. We will see.
T.D. JAKES, ONE OF AMERICA’S PREACHER POLITICIANS

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

CANADA SUPREME COURT STRIKES DOWN PROHIBITION AGAINST EUTHANASIA

In February, the Supreme Court of Canada unanimously struck down the federal prohibition against physician-assisted euthanasia, ruling that it violates Canadians’ Charter rights to “life, liberty and security of the person” (“Supreme Court Strikes Down,” Global News, Feb. 6, 2015). Federal and provincial governments are given a year to introduce legislation to permit the practice. The Supreme Court laid out some conditions: the individual must be an adult, must consent to his own death, must have a “grievous and irremediable” medical condition which can be an “illness, disease, or disability,” the condition must cause “endless suffering,” and this suffering can be either physical or psychological. It is very difficult for most people to see a right to die in the language of “the right to life, liberty, and security,” but for these judges it is as clear as crystal. It is as clear as the right to abortion and the right to homosexual marriage. In truth, these are not rights guaranteed either by Canada’s Charter or by the American Constitution. They are rights invented by judges. A 2014 survey by Ipsos Reid found that 84% of Canadians approved of doctor-assisted suicide. That same year, the Canadian Medical Association voted to allow its members to “follow their own conscience” in regard to helping people kill themselves. Euthanasia would make sense if there were no God and no eternity, but God knows better than man, and His law says, “Thou shalt not kill” (Exodus 20:13).
Euthanasia has proven to be a slippery slope wherever it has been practiced. It begins with “irremediable” physical suffering and ends with psychological suffering. It begins with adults and ends with children. It begins with personal consent and ends with the consent of second parties. In February 2014, Quebec became the first province in Canada to legalize euthanasia, and immediately doctors began calling for less restrictions. In fact, before the bill even passed, Yves Robert, secretary of Quebec’s College of Physicians, said, “It’s only a step. There are many questions that are still unanswered” (“As Quebec set to legalize euthanasia, doctors already looking to expand who qualifies,” National Post, Feb. 13, 2014). The “questions” are not “about who is receiving euthanasia but who is being denied it.” He used the example of an advanced Alzheimer’s patient who would not be eligible because he is no longer capable of giving consent. He also addressed the requirement that the individual be an adult, implying that those who are younger should be eligible. “We will have to think about that, not only for [incapable] adults but obviously for youngsters who face terminal diseases,” Dr. Robert said. Belgium is leading the way. It legalized euthanasia in 2002, and already it has extended the practice to minors and has euthanized “people suffering depression and a set of deaf twins who were losing their eyesight.”

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GAMING WIDOWS

We are living in a weird age. Thousands of husbands and wives have been virtually abandoned for make-believe games played in cyberspace. An article on MSNBC.com was titled “Game Widows Grieve Lost Spouses.” Consider an excerpt: “Though their spouses and partners haven’t gone to the great beyond, these particular widows and widowers say their loved ones have gone someplace that’s almost as distant and unreachable. Some have left this world for the World of Warcraft, others have forsaken this life for Second Life and still others have been taken away by EverQuest, Final Fantasy XI, and Dark Age of Camelot. ... As the ranks of those playing video games in general—and massively multiplayer online games in particular—continue to grow, so grow the ranks of those who refer to themselves as ‘game widows.’ They are the husbands, wives, girlfriends and boyfriends of gamers whose playing habits have consumed their lives. The bereaved say their mates have suffered a kind of digital death that has left only the shell of the person they loved behind. And like a real death, it has left the people who remain heartbroken, scared and angry.” The article listed the five most addictive games as World of Warcraft, EverQuest, Peggle, Doom, and Tetris. Three of these are multiplayer online role-playing games. World of Warcraft, which boasts millions of subscribers, allows players to be “mythical characters with incredible powers,” and players band together to go on raids in large scale battles. Because of EverQuest’s addictive power it is known by its fans as “EverCrack” and “NeverRest.” I wouldn’t be surprised if some people are becoming demon possessed through these dark games. “And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them” (Eph. 5:11).
The following is from CreationMoments.com, July 2, 2015: We love it when one of our listeners brings something of interest to our attention that we can pass along to other listeners. A listener sent us a link to an article at the National Geographic website on little-known facts about the eyes of animals. Though National Geographic treats evolution as fact, no mention was made that God created the eyes of these animals, but we are sure that our listeners will be quick to give credit where credit is due! When asked which creature has the most eyes, the magazine replied that the world record holder is a type of mollusk called chiton. This ocean dweller has thousands of eyes embedded in shells on their backs. Most scallop species also have up to hundreds of eyes, as do giant clams. What’s more, certain types of tubeworms called sabellids and serpulids have hundreds of small, compound eyes on their feeling appendages. When asked which animal has the most advanced vision system, the article gave the nod to another underwater creature – the mantis shrimp. Their stalked eyes have three separate regions, and they are even able to see ultraviolet and circularly polarized light. Compared to our own three photoreceptors, mantis shrimp have up to sixteen! The crustaceans may use their photoreceptors to recognize colors right in the eye, rather than processing them in the brain, as we do. If you come across anything in a book or a film that would be of interest to other listeners, please let us know by sending an e-mail to info@creationmoments.com.”

Amazing Underwater Eyes

The Friday Church News Notes is designed for use in churches and is published by Way of Life Literature’s Fundamental Baptist Information Service. Unless otherwise stated, the Notes are written by David Cloud. Of necessity we quote from a wide variety of sources, but this obviously does not imply an endorsement. We trust that our readers will not be discouraged. It is God’s will that we know the times (1 Ch. 12:32; Mat. 16:3) and that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light. Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfill the lusts thereof” (Rom. 13:11-14). This material is sent only to those who personally subscribe to the Fundamental Baptist Information Service mailing list. To SUBSCRIBE, go to http://www.wayoflife.org/wayoflife/subscribe.html. TO UNSUBSCRIBE OR CHANGE ADDRESSES, go to the very bottom of any email received from us and click “Manage My Subscription.” Way of Life Literature, P.O. Box 610368, Port Huron, MI 48061, 866-295-4143, fbns@wayoflife.org.