LIBERTY UNIVERSITY YOKING WITH EMERGING PREACHERS

Liberty University and Thomas Road Baptist Church have been on the "slippery slope" of compromise for decades. They have been building dangerous bridges ever since Jerry Falwell turned his back on separatism and strict obedience to God's Word for the sake of pragmatism (bigness, influence, prestige, political power, etc.). They are now yoking together with emerging preachers. Rich Wilkerson Jr., pastor of Vous Church near Miami, spoke at Liberty's chapel service on January 20, and Erwin McManus, pastor of Mosaic of Los Angeles, is scheduled to speak on February 3. Wilkerson is so cool that he is close friends with foul-mouthed, blasphemous rapper Kanye West, who appeared as a thorn-crowned Jesus on the cover of Rolling Stone in 2006. His 2013 album was titled Yeezus, which is a play on West's nickname Yeezy and the name Jesus. The cover art depicts West being crowned king by angels. In the song "I Am a God," he raps, "I just talked to Jesus/and he said, 'What up, Yeezus?'/ ... I know He the Most High/But I am a close high/... I am a god." The Book of Zeezus: A Bible for the Modern Day, published in 2015, is a version of the book of Genesis that replaces every mention of God with the rapper's name. Wilkerson performed West's marriage to pop icon and Playboy model Kim Karshashian. Wilkerson says he collaborates with West on a number of projects, including the "Yeezus Tour." In a promotional video for his reality show Rich in Faith, Wilkerson says, "I come from a different perspective. I don't think people are interested in a bunch of religion, like tell me what I can and can’t do. But I think people are interested in having a relationship with a higher power." Wilkerson doesn’t warn about sin and judgment. He says, “I don’t know who’s going to Hell. I just know that followers of Jesus are going to Heaven--that’s what the Bible says. My message isn’t ever who’s going where" (“Liberty University Welcomes Reality Show ‘Pastor,’” ChristianNews.net, Jan. 20, 2016). Wilkerson doesn’t explain how his “Jesus” differs from the false christs that Paul warns about (2 Cor. 11:1-4). Erwin McManus is author of The Barbarian Way, in which he urges Christians to reject rules and boundaries. As “evidence” he shows his complete disregard for sound principles of biblical interpretation by citing John the Baptist’s statement in Matthew 3:11 that Jesus would “baptize us in both Spirit and fire.” McManus’s amazing interpretation is that “Barbarians are guided by the wind of God and ignited by the fire of God” and that “the way of the barbarian can be found only by listening to the voice of the Spirit” (The Barbarian Way, p. 13). This is blind mysticism divorced from the protection of “sola Scriptura,” but it has nothing to do with what John was teaching in this passage. In fact, the baptism with fire is interpreted by John himself in the very next verse as eternal judgment, something that the emerging guys don’t talk much about. Mosaic is one of the many Southern Baptist Churches that have been taken into an emerging direction by a new generation of worldly cool pastors. Jerry Falwell Jr., pastor of Thomas Road and head of Liberty University, would pretend that his associations aren’t indicative of his own beliefs and that he has liberty in such matters, but the Word of God exposes this lie. “Can two walk together, except they be agreed?” (Amos 3:3), and, “Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them” (Romans 16:17), and, “Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners” (1 Corinthians 15:33).
On the Jim Bakker Show in December 2015, Tom Horn promoted his book *Zenith 2016* in which he predicts that the Antichrist will appear this year. Like many others, Horn specializes in speculative prophecy. To look at world events and see the “day approaching” (Hebrews 10:25) is biblical, but to engage in prophetic speculation about the timing of the Tribulation and Christ’s return is not biblical, though it does sell books and videos and draw traffic to web sites. Conveniently, Horn also sells survivalist “Prepper” materials, including gas masks and off-grid supplies. There are some fundamental biblical reasons why I know that all date setters and semi-date setters are wrong and not worth listening to. (Semi-date setters are those who present dates for prophetic events as strong possibilities rather than absolutes.)

**First, Christ said that no man knows the day of His return** (Mat. 24:36; Mark 13:32). If it is not possible to know the day of Christ’s return, then it is not possible to know the time of the Antichrist’s appearance, since Christ’s return can be prophetically dated from that event. **Second, the Bible says that “he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way”** (2 Th. 2:7). The context is the devil’s mystery of iniquity program to put the Antichrist on the throne of the world, and the One who restrains this program is God the Holy Spirit. Paul is saying that the Spirit of God will restrain the forces of evil until He is ready to allow the final events to proceed to fulfillment. The times are always in God’s hands (Dan. 2:21). 2 Thessalonians 2:7 has some wonderful implications. For one, regardless of how brightly the prophetic signs glow, we can never know when the church age will end and Daniel’s Seventieth Week will begin. Another implication of 2 Thessalonians 2:7 is that God’s people never have to get into a fret about the times (Psalm 37:1-4). **Third,** Jesus taught His people to focus on the Great Commission, not on speculative prophecy (Acts 1:6-8). This doesn’t mean that the study of prophecy is without value. In fact, a large part of Scripture consists of prophecy, and it has great value. Acts 1:6-8 is a warning that constant speculation about the “times and seasons” is the wrong emphasis, at best. These three biblical truths have helped me through the years. Not only have they enabled me to reject every date setter but also to avoid being swept up in various hysterias, such as Y2K. Jim Bakker is presenting himself these days as a “seer.” He was called this by Tom Horn in December, and he has been presenting his own dreams as divine revelations and warnings for America, but he has a long history of being full of baloney. In 1989, Bakker went to prison for defrauding the followers of his *PTL Club* empire out of $158 million. Bakker also committed adultery with his secretary and paid more than a quarter of a million dollars in an attempt to hush up the matter. Bakker’s wife and co-host of the *PTL Club*, Tammy Faye, divorced Jim while he was in prison and married Roe Messner, an old family friend whose company helped build PTL’s resort complex. After his imprisonment, Bakker got a new wife. Through Christ’s blood, God forgives sin that is confessed and repented of by true and sincere believers, but preachers who have brought this level of public reproach upon the cause of Jesus Christ should be content to keep their mouths shut and to stay out of the ministry, even if they are sound in doctrine, which Bakker certainly isn’t.
SPIRITUAL BLINDNESS AND DEEP COMPROMISE AT
WHEATON COLLEGE

The Faculty Council of Wheaton College has unanimously agreed to ask the administration not to terminate a professor who says that Christians and Muslims worship the same God (“Wheaton College Faculty Council,” ChristianNets.net, Jan. 22, 2016). In December 2015, Larycia Hawkins, associate professor of political science, wore a hijab to express solidarity with Muslims and to fight “Islamophobia,” saying on her Facebook page that she agrees with Pope Francis’ statement that “we worship the same God.” She was placed on administrative leave and eventually given a notification of termination. Throughout the process, Hawkins has tried to make the issue one of whether or not she can wear a headscarf and whether or not she can show love to Muslims, but the administration had stated that the issue is her beliefs. Islam plainly, emphatically, and very brashly teaches that Allah is not a Trinity, that Allah has no Son, and that Jesus did not die for man’s sins or rise from the dead. (See Islam and the Bible, available at the Way of Life web site in print and free eBook editions, www.wayoflife.org.)

ISLAM A RELIGION
OF PEACE

A popular narrative today is that Islam is a religion of peace, and terrorists are not true Muslims. It is one of the most ridiculous things ever invented in this world of crazy inventions. Today’s Islamic fundamentalists are not “extremists.” They are the true Muslims who are taking their religion seriously. They are walking faithfully in the footsteps of Islam’s founding father. Islam means surrender, and the Islamic definition of peace is Islamic control over the world. According to Islam, the world is divided into Dar al-Harb (the world of war or the non-Islamic people) and Dar al-Islam (the world of peace or the Muslim world). “The presumption is that the duty of jihad will continue, interrupted only by truces, until all the world either adopts the Muslim faith or subjects to the Muslim rule” (Gene Gerganus, Peril of Islam: Telling the Truth, pp. 59, 60). Within 200 years after Muhammad, Muslim armies had conquered many kingdoms and created an Islamic caliphate that covered more than five million square miles. They had conquered the Sassanid Empire (Persia, Mesopotamia, Assyria). They had conquered much of the Byzantine Empire. They had conquered northern Africa and Spain. This was done by the edge of the sword and was accompanied by unspeakable cruelty. This is an irrefutable fact of history, and facts are stubborn things that always outlive the naysayers. (For extensive documentation, see The Bible and Islam, available at the Way of Life web site in print and free eBook editions, www.wayoflife.org.)
CHRISTIANS AND LITERARY CLASSICS

The following is excerpted from Kevin Swanson, *Apostate: The Men Who Destroyed the Christian West*: “What is our general disposition towards the literary classics produced by the revered geniuses of our age? Shall we assume the worst or the best of them? ... In most cases, Christian universities incline towards viewing these authors favorably for several reasons, both legitimate and illegitimate. ... In higher academia, there is a strong academic hubris that gives too much glory to the intellectual accomplishments of men. Within these institutions, men and women imbibe deeply at the trough of the knowledge that puffs up (1 Cor. 8:1). A fraternity of the intellectual elite forms, wherein critical treatment of the fundamental ideas produced in the brotherhood becomes the ultimate faux pas. Hence, the ‘great’ authors are beyond criticism, and they stand in a class of their own. Their novels, plays, and treatises may be fawned over, appreciated, reviewed, and analyzed, but none dare accuse the writers of wicked, rebellious heart motives or render their literature heterodox and dangerous.” The Word of God commands, “Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ” (2 Corinthians 10:5).

ISIS FEMALE SLAVE POPULATION IN IRAQ IN THE THOUSANDS

The following from Breitbart, Jan. 20, 2016: “The United Nations Assistance Mission in Iraq (UNAMI) released a report estimating the slave population of the Islamic State (ISIS/ISIL/IS) in Iraq at 3,500. ... ‘Those being held are predominately women and children and come primarily from the Yezidi community, but a number are also from other ethnic and religious minority communities.’ The Islamic State has targeted Yazidis as they spread their Caliphate across northern Iraq. The terrorist group considers the Yazidis, a religious minority, devil worshippers. As militants storm through Yazidi areas, they demand Yazidis convert to Islam or die. Iraq Human Rights Minister Mohammed Shia al-Sudani has claimed the militants have buried over 500 Yazidis alive in Sinjar. Kurdish forces managed to retake the town in November 2015. The liberators found one grave filled with 78 elderly women and another with at least 50 people. ... Yazidi activists released a video showing the Islamic State tearing families apart and abducting girls and women to be their sex slaves.”