American Christianity is breathtakingly shallow. Typically, the words “I love Jesus” mean absolutely nothing. This is most evident in the entertainment industry, but the members of even the staunchest Bible-believing churches are in love with the pop culture and blink, even smile, at its filth and blasphemy. Consider the comedian Larry the Cable Guy (Daniel Whitney). Many of his routines are too filthy to quote. A friend who wrote to me recently about this said, “I would just point out that most of Larry the Cable Guy’s ‘stand up’ comedy routine is nothing but filth. He constantly uses profanity and sexually explicit material and then says ‘forgive me Lord’ to the howling laughter of the audience. I wanted to show a clip of his routine but the content was just too bad.” Yet foul-mouthed Larry was recently interviewed by evangelical leader David Jeremiah as a man who loves the Bible. The interview occurred on Jeremiah’s Stand Up Tour, which has been packing out arenas throughout America. The one in Lincoln, Nebraska, in which Larry the Cable Guy appeared, was attended by 10,000. Larry said that he has been listening to Jeremiah for several years and has been “impacted.” But the comedian hasn’t been impacted enough to quit spreading filth in American society, which is a very great sin before a holy God. And the “preacher” doesn’t have enough spiritual discernment and conviction to rebuke Larry for his filth according to the command of Ephesians 5:11 and many other passages. No wonder Larry likes the man’s preaching. If David Jeremiah’s preaching were more like 2 Timothy 4:2 and less like 2 Timothy 4:3-4, the Larry’s of American society wouldn’t like it. Instead of

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An atheist group is ridiculing the Noah’s Ark project that is being completed in Kentucky by Answers in Genesis. The atheists want to post a billboard depicting “the ark with people drowning around it and the words ‘Genocide and Incest Park: Celebrating 2,000 Years of Myths.’” Though the ad has been rejected by billboard companies, the group is still trying to find a way to display it, perhaps outside of Kentucky. The atheists in this case are not only obnoxious to their fellow citizens and Nazi-like in their war against freedom of speech and freedom of religion; they are ridiculous in the extreme. Consider: They claim that there is no God, yet they rail against God and care deeply about things of God. The very mention of God’s name sends them into an outrageous frenzy. But there is more. They claim that

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reproving Larry (and all others like him) for his filth and border-line blasphemy, Jeremiah had a merry old time. “Together, the two men laughed and joked, and enjoyed each others company. Whitney’s wife even had her Bible signed by Jeremiah” (“Larry the Cable Guy Shares Love for the Bible,” Christian Post, April 30, 2016). Isaiah 30:10 describes what America has said to her preachers in my lifetime, and what the vast majority of her preachers have agreed to do. “Which say to the seers, See not; and to the prophets, Prophesy not unto us right things, speak unto us smooth things, prophesy deceits” (Isaiah 30:10). Larry the Cable Guy Christianity and David Jeremiah style preaching is the root problem in America. Liberal politics is only a symptom and product.

Bible-believing churches that are messing around with contemporary praise music by “adapting it” are building bridges to an extremely dangerous world. The adapters, who are trying to take the rock out of Christian rock, argue that since Baptist churches sing Lutheran or Methodist hymns from the past, it is inconsistent to reject music written by contemporary worshippers. This is a ridiculous argument used by people who are following their feelings and lusts rather than living strictly by God’s Word. I don’t know of one Baptist church that became Lutheran by singing Martin Luther’s “A Mighty Fortress,” but I know of many that have become contemporary by messing around with contemporary worship music. Further, I don’t know of any teenagers in Bible-believing Baptist churches that became worldly rock & rollers by listening to Fanny Crosby’s hymns, but I know of many that have become out-and-out rock & rollers by messing around with Christian rock. Whatever Luther was, he left Rome and was not trying to yoke together with the Harlot to build a one-world church, but playing footsie with Rome and building the one-world church is exactly what contemporary worship musicians are doing. We have documented this extensively and irrefutably in The Directory of Contemporary Worship Musicians, which is available in print or as a free eBook from Way of Life -- www.wayoflife.org. See also the free eVideo The Foreign Spirit of Contemporary Praise Music.
PAUL’S DOCTRINE OF REPENTANCE

In Acts 26:13-20, the Apostle Paul recounted the ministry that Christ had given to him by revelation. He was sent to the Gentiles “to open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God” by exhorting them “that they should repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance” (Acts 26:18, 20). Consider three lessons from this. First, repentance was at the very heart of Paul’s ministry. His objective was not to get men merely to “believe” in Christ in a shallow sense, not just to get them to pray a “sinner’s prayer,” but to have them experience a radical turning by God’s power. Second, we see that repentance must issue in faith (Acts 26:18). Repentance alone does not save; it must be accompanied by faith. In Acts 20:21 Paul described salvation as “repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.” Third, repentance results in a change of life (Acts 26:20). Paul preached the same thing as John the Baptist in the matter of repentance (Mat. 3:8). Some preachers today call this doctrine of repentance a “lordship” or even a works salvation, but that is a slander. How can it be wrong to follow Paul’s doctrine of repentance? Those who don’t like it need to examine their own faith and trade their man-made “quick prayerism” tradition for the pure Word of God. Biblical repentance is not works. It is not a change of life; it is a dramatic change of mind toward God that results in a change of life. Charles Spurgeon wisely commented, “Do you imagine that the gospel is magnified, or God glorified by going to the worldlings and telling them that they may be saved at this moment by simply accepting Christ as their Saviour, while they are wedded to their idols and their hearts are still in love with sin? If I do so, I tell them a lie, pervert the gospel, insult Christ, and turn the grace of God into lasciviousness.”

WEAK LEADERSHIP IS HARMFUL

Leadership is difficult, especially when it involves reproof, warning, and discipline, as it often does. Who would not rather be popular than unpopular? But this can get in the way of helping those we should be leading. It is a snare into which any leader can fall, from a father and mother to a policeman to a pastor. Recently I read about a grizzly bear attack in a national park in America. The two people who were killed worked at the park, and they had been instructed and warned about how to conduct themselves around bears, but the leaders (in this case, park rangers and concession managers) didn’t always enforce the rules. It was said of one of these that he “was highly popular with his employees; his manner tended to be light and jocular.” And though he “laid down the law” about bear safety, he didn’t follow through with enforcement. When informed that his female employees were ignoring his “law” and walking on trails at night near the bears to romantic interludes with boyfriends, he “threw up his hands” and said “there was a limit to how much advice one could hand out without becoming a bore, and he felt he had reached the limit.” His motive was to be popular. In this particular case, the girls in question were not harmed by bears, but they could have been, as two others were killed in the same area. We all want to be “liked,” but true love exercises godly reproof and discipline. The Bible says, “He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes” (Proverbs 13:24). The wise parent who loves his child will correct and chasten him even though it is difficult, because the parent cares more about the child’s relationship with God and the child’s character and future than he does about his own feelings and conveniences. This is one of the great motivations for a pastor to exercise discipline. Reproof and discipline is never easy, not for the giver nor for the recipient, but it is necessary in this fallen world, and when done right according to God’s Word, it is an act of great love. One wise man said, “He who reproves me gives me a gold coin.” That is a biblical sentiment, as the study of Proverbs would quickly show.
THE FASTEST FLOWER IN THE FOREST

The following is from CreationMoments.com, May 10, 2016: “The peace and serenity of North America's spruce forests is occasionally broken by little other than the rustle of a deer passing by. At least that's what most people think. In truth, there are things going on which would cause us profound wonder. The bunchberry dogwood flower stands only about one-tenth of an inch tall. Scientists knew that the flowers opened explosively. The flowers do this to propel their pollen further. The scientists decided to find out precisely how fast the flowers really opened. So they decided to tape a flower opening with a high speed camera that is capable of taking 1,000 pictures a second. But the camera proved to be too slow. It was only with a camera that takes 10,000 pictures a second that they could clearly see what was going on. They saw that the petals opened, and in a separate action, the stamens unfold so fast that they catapult pollen into the air. All of this happens in four tenths of a thousandth of a second. That's more than a hundred times faster than a chameleon's tongue captures lunch. The stamens unfold so fast that they subject the pollen to 2,400 times the force of gravity. There are no limits to the wonders God can conceive and create. His greatest wonder is His mercy which resulted in forgiveness and salvation.”