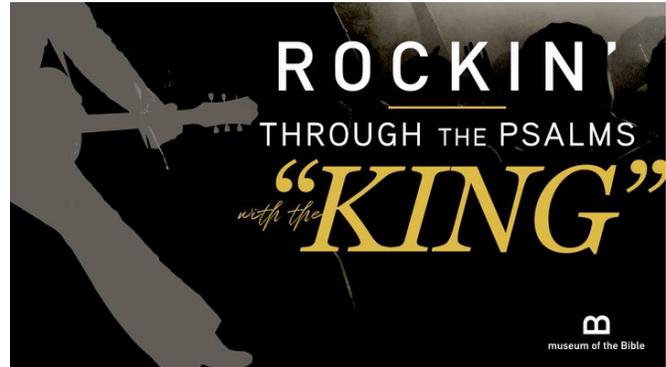


FRIDAY CHURCH NEWS NOTES

STUDY THE BIBLE WITH THE KING OF ROCK & ROLL

The Museum of the Bible in Washington, D.C., has published a new Bible reading plan for Psalms featuring notes from Elvis Presley's personal Bible. Called "Rockin' Through the Psalms with the 'King,'" the plan is designed for the YouVersion Bible app.

That's a great name for a Bible for the "me" generation, and no one represents that generation better than Elvis. As the "king of rock & roll," he was one of the fathers of the music that has done more to destroy biblical morality in modern society than any other one thing. Journalist David Halberstam observed: "In cultural terms, [Elvis's] coming was nothing less than the start of a revolution" (*The Fifties*). Elvis biographer Peter Harry Brown observed, "Elvis Presley didn't just represent a new type of music; he represented sexual liberation" (*Down at the End of Lonely Street*, p. 55). Elvis Presley stood for everything rock & roll stands for: sexual license, rebellion against authority, self-fulfillment, moral debauchery, all glossed over with a thin veneer of humanistic spirituality. In a television interview last week in memory of the 40th anniversary of Elvis's death, his wife of six years, Priscilla, mentioned the multiple affairs that the rock & roll king had during their marriage. She said, "Living a lifestyle of rock & roll is difficult, because it's that old saying, you know, sex, drugs, and rock & roll. It is there." When the interviewer asked, "He was living that life?" Priscilla replied, "They all did." In an interview with Mike Amor, she said, "He wasn't faithful." It was his unfaithfulness that destroyed their marriage. As for Elvis's testimony of faith in Christ and his love for Gospel music, the Bible says, "They profess that they know God; but in works they deny *him*, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate" (Titus 1:16).



KILLING OFF DOWN SYNDROME BABIES

A report by *CBS News On Assignment* describes the disappearing of Down syndrome due to prenatal testing and abortion. Since the tests were introduced in Iceland in the early 2000s, "the vast majority of women--close to 100 percent--who received a positive test for Down syndrome terminated their pregnancy" ("What kind of society do you want to live in?" *CBS News*, Aug. 15, 2017). Denmark has a "termination rate" for Down syndrome of 98%; France, 77%, and the United States, 67%. Helga Olafsdottir, a counselor at Landspítali University Hospital says, "This is your life--you have the right to choose how your life will look like. We don't look at abortion as a murder. We look at it as a thing that we ended. ... Life isn't black and white. Life is grey." In fact, God's Word is black and white, and it says, "Thou shalt not kill" (Exodus 20:13).

NEW \$72 MILLION STADIUM FOR THE FOOTBALL GOD

A high school in Katy, Texas, has unveiled a new \$72 million football stadium. Currently it is the most expensive high school stadium in America, but there are plenty of outrageously expensive ones, such as a \$60 million one in Allen, Texas. One being built in McKinney, near Dallas, will cost more than \$70 million. (That is peanuts, of course, in comparison with professional football stadiums, such as the new one for the Atlanta Falcons that cost \$1.6 BILLION.) Texas was once known for its Bible-believing churches, but football is God today. In a report on a drought in west Texas that was killing the grass on football fields, the *Los Angeles Times* observed that this is serious because “football is God and the field is church” (“In West Texas,” *Los Angeles Times*, Oct 3, 2011). In 1982, the famous sports announcer Howard Cosell, while viewing the largest Sunday football game attendance in Texas history, said, “The Cowboys are more than a football team in Dallas; they are a religion.” He was right. Professional sports is a religion in America, and it is not only professional sports. Collegiate Memorials markets “alma mater caskets” featuring the logos of more than 200 colleges and

universities. By choosing an alma mater casket, individuals show “an expression of loyalty to their alma maters as well as their favorite collegiate sports teams.” With the love for college football at near insane levels, someone is cashing in on the fervor by offering to allow the sports fan to take his favorite college team logo with him to the grave. Morality and sports are almost completely separated in the minds of large numbers of people. A 1995 survey of 1,240 adults in *Sports Marketing Newsletter* asked people to name the athletes they most admired. The first four were Magic Johnson (an admitted serial adulterer), Tonya Harding (convicted conspirator for the violent attack upon fellow-skater Nancy Carrigan), O.J. Simpson (held financially liable by a jury for murdering his wife), and Mike Tyson (convicted rapist). The situation has only gotten worse since then. A person’s god is that which he loves and serves. Sports is one of the chief idols in the lives of people today, and God hates idolatry. The prophets and apostles of old preached directly against idolatry. So should we. “Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen” (1 John 5:21).

SMILEY EMOJIS DON'T COMMUNICATE FRIENDLINESS

The following is excerpted from “Wipe that smile off your screen if you want to be taken seriously,” *The Times of Israel*, Aug. 17, 2017: “Putting a smiley in work-related emails is not a virtual replacement for a real smile and can transmit incompetence, according to a recently published study by researchers at the Ben-Gurion University of the Negev. ... [‘The Dark Side of a Smiley’ was published in *Social Psychological and Personality Science* on July 31:] ‘Our findings provide first-time evidence that, contrary to actual smiles, smileys do not increase perceptions of warmth and actually

decrease perceptions of competence. Perceptions of low competence in turn undermined information sharing. These results indicate that a smiley is not a smile. In face-to-face contact, smiling individuals are perceived as warmer and as more competent than non-smiling individuals.’ Other experiments explored the use of actual photographs of senders in their emails. Smiling senders were seen as more friendly and competent than those who had a neutral expression in their photographs, but including a smiley in a work-related email dropped the perceived competence of the sender.”

BARCELONA'S CHIEF RABBI SAYS JEWS ARE DOOMED IN EUROPE

The following is excerpted from "Following attack, Barcelona's chief rabbi says his community is doomed," *The Times of Israel*, Aug. 18, 2017: "The Jewish community in Barcelona is 'doomed,' because authorities in Spain do not want to confront radical Islam, the chief rabbi of Barcelona warned on Friday, a day after the deadly car-ramming attack in the city. Rabbi Meir Bar-Hen has been encouraging his congregants to leave Spain, which he called during an interview with JTA a 'hub of Islamist terror for all of Europe,' for years before the attacks Thursday and Friday, he said. At least 14 victims and five suspected terrorists were killed in Barcelona and the resort town

of Cambrils, 75 miles south of the city. 'Jews are not here permanently,' he said of the city and region. 'I tell my congregants: Don't think we're here for good. And I encourage them to buy property in Israel. This place is lost. Don't repeat the mistake of Algerian Jews, of Venezuelan Jews. Better [get out] early than late.' ... Part of the problem exposed by the attacks, Bar-Hen said, is the presence of a large Muslim community with 'radical fringes.' Once these people are 'living among you,' he said of terrorists and their supporters, 'it's very difficult to get rid of them. They only get stronger.' He also said this applied to Europe as a whole. 'Europe is lost,' he said."

THE GREATEST SECRET OF PREVAILING PRAYER



"The greatest secret of prevailing prayer is what John records from his own joyous experience in 1 John 3:22: 'And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.' Notice those wonderful words: 'Whatsoever we ask, we receive of him.' Think of it! Not one prayer, great or small, goes unanswered. Then notice the reason: 'Because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight' (1 John 3:22). A life entirely surrendered to doing God's will as revealed in His Word and to doing the things that are pleasing in His sight--a life completely at God's disposal--is the secret of prevailing prayer. Do you wonder why you do not get what you ask for, why you cannot say, like John, 'Whatever I ask I get'? It is not because he was an apostle and you are just an ordinary Christian. It is because he could say, 'I keep His commandments and do those things (and only those things) that are pleasing in His sight,' while you cannot. It is because his life was entirely surrendered to God, while yours is not" (R.A. Torrey, *God's Power in Your Life*).

THE FLOWER THAT UNDERSTANDS ITS POLLINATORS

The following is from CreationMoments.com, August 1, 2017: “What color is the scarlet gilia? Well, that depends on where and when it’s blooming. Despite its name, the scarlet gilia can be red, pink, and even white. Near sea level, the flowers remain red all season. This is because the flower is pollinated throughout the summer by hummingbirds who are drawn to the red flowers. At higher elevations, the hummingbirds leave as summer moves into August. As they leave, the plants change their red flowers to pink and, later, white. The higher-elevation plants change over to white flowers because they have a new pollinator. As the hummingbird population decreases, hawk moths take over. During this transition, the flower produces pink blossoms as it invites both of its pollinators. Once the hummingbirds are gone, the hawk moth takes over. The hawk moths pollinate at night, so they prefer white flowers, which are easier to see in the dark. Scientists were amazed by the fact that the color changes take place exactly when pollination shifts from hummingbird to moth. As one startled scientist put it, these plants cannot be considered passive in their environment. Who taught the scarlet gilia when and how to change the color of its flowers? Who taught it that hummingbirds will be attracted

to red flowers? Or that hawk moths will be attracted to white flowers? The scarlet gilia may be clever, but only our all-wise Creator could have given this knowledge and ability to the plant.” Notes: D.D. Bennett, “Scarlet Gilia: Flowering Chameleon,” *Science News*, Feb. 1985, p. 69.



Scarlet Gilia

INFORMATION

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 we be as wise as serpents and harmless as doves. The News Notes remind us that the hour is very late, and we need to be ready for the Lord’s coming. Are you sure that you are born again? Are you living for Christ? “And that, knowing the time, 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 fulfil 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.