CONTEMPORARY CHRISTIANS LOVING THE WORLD PASSIONATELY

We received some timely information and video clips this week from Jeff Royal that dramatically illustrates the worldliness of many contemporary churches. The first video clip Jeff sent is of “Christian entertainer” Tim Hawkins singing “On Eagles’ Wings” during a concert late last year. Hawkins says he used to sing this song at church youth camp. It is a combination of “Amazing Grace” by John Newton and “Peaceful Easy Feeling” popularized by the secular rock band the Eagles. Hawkins sings it as a tribute to the late Glenn Frey, founding member and lead singer of the Eagles. This is an illicit and wicked merger of Christ and the world. “Peaceful Easy Feeling” is about romance and fornication. The lyrics begin, “I like the way your sparklin’ earrings lay against your skin so brown; I want to sleep with you in the desert tonight with a billion stars all around.” The singer is not talking about holy matrimony, friends! John Newton represented the “old” born again conversion Christianity that dramatically changes one’s life and

TRUMP STATE DEPARTMENT COMMEMORATES “TRANSGENDER DAY”

The following is excerpted from “State Dept. Marks Transgender Day of Remembrance,” CNSNews.com, Nov. 20, 2017: “The State Department on Monday commemorated Transgender Day of Remembrance, honoring transgenders who died through ‘acts of violence.’ ‘On Transgender Day of Remembrance, the United States honors the memory of the many transgender individuals who have lost their lives to acts of violence,’ Secretary of State Rex Tillerson [a member of a Congregational church] said in a statement. ‘Transgender individuals and their advocates, along with lesbian, gay, bisexual and intersex persons, are facing increasing physical attacks and arbitrary arrests in many parts of the world. Often these attacks are perpetrated by government officials, undermining the rule of law,’ Tillerson added. He said, ‘[the] transgender person should not be subjected to violence or discrimination, and the human rights they share with all persons should be respected.’ Tillerson said the U.S. is ‘committed to advancing the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all persons.”’

CONCLUDING NOTE: When homosexuals get special rights, Bible-believing Christians lose their rights to freedom of religion and freedom of speech.
CONTEMPORARY CHRISTIANS LOVING THE
WORLD PASSIONATELY
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turns one from love of the world to love of the holy Christ. But Tim Hawkins represents a “new” Christianity that is described in 2 Timothy 4:3-4, a live after your own lusts Christianity. The second video clip that Jeff sent was of a church using “On Eagles’ Wings” in a worship service. There was nothing righteous about the Eagles; their influence on society was evil. Some of their hit songs are “Witchy Woman,” “Chug All Night,” “Take the Devil,” “Tequila Sunrise,” “Good Day in Hell,” “Journey of the Sorcerer.” After the Eagles broke up in 1980, Frey pursued a solo career with hits such as “Sexy Girl” and “The Heat Is On.” God plainly commands His people to not love the world (1 John 2:15-17), to be not conformed to the world (Romans 12:1-2), to not be the friend of the world (James 4:4), and to have no fellowship with the darkness of the world (Ephesians 5:11), but contemporary churches brazenly ignore these warnings. In fact, love of the world is one of their chief characteristics. They love the world’s music, the world’s attitude, the world’s fashions, the world’s entertainment, and the world’s “judge not” philosophy. They sing of “grace,” but it is not biblical grace. It is Antinomian license. The true grace of God is defined in Titus 2:11-14. The true grace of God doesn’t save the sinner so that he can love the world; it saves the sinner so that he will “deny ungodliness and worldly lusts.” Contemporary Christian Music is a major bridge to the “contemporary church,” and pastors that are not properly educating their people on this issue and effectually fighting this battle are bridge builders.

ATHEIST CONVENTION CANCELLED FOR LACK OF INTEREST

According to the Sydney Morning Herald, the third annual Global Atheist Convention has been cancelled for lack of interest. Scheduled for February 2018 in Sydney, the convention was to feature Salman Rushdie and Richard Dawkins. Rushdie and Dawkins fail to distinguish between dead “religion,” including dead Christianity, and the truth of Jesus Christ, whose resurrection from the dead was witnessed by hundreds and has dramatically changed the lives of multitudes of people such as the apostle Paul, formerly a persecutor of Christians. The lack of enthusiasm for the convention is not surprising. The proposed theme was “Reason to Hope,” but what “hope” is in atheism? Its gospel is “you came from nothing; you are nothing; your life has no ultimate meaning; and you are going nowhere.”
CHILDREN BAD FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

In an opinion piece for NBC News, Travis Rieder presents a case that the number of children should be restricted in order to save the world from climate change. He writes, “A startling and honestly distressing view is beginning to receive serious consideration in both academic and popular discussions of climate change ethics. According to this view, having a child is a major contributor to climate change. The logical takeaway here is that everyone on Earth ought to consider having few children” (“Science Proves Kids Are Bad for Earth,” NBC News, Nov. 15, 2017). A couple of years ago, the Boston Globe ran an article entitled “Here’s why China’s one-child policy was a good thing” by Sarah Conly. The thesis is that world population is increasing too rapidly and “trying to support this many people will bring about environmental disaster.” This crowd has been predicting disaster since Rachel Carson’s Silent Spring, but Carson was a false prophet, and the doomsayers who have followed in her misguided footsteps are also false prophets. There is climate change, but it is not disastrous. Their gloomy predictions fail, but instead of admitting error and apologizing, they rush to issue yet another prediction of doom. One thing this crowd has in common is a strongly-held philosophy of evolution. They believe the universe, including man, happened by chance. But this would mean that there is no ultimate purpose in life, and no absolute basis for “ethics.” Talk of “ethics” by evolutionists is a ridiculous exercise in vanity. If the earth evolved, it is a meaningless sphere in a meaningless universe populated by meaningless creatures. It will die one way or the other, why not by global warming? The opinion piece by Rieder is published by a segment of NBC News called “Think.” We would challenge them to think much deeper. It is impossible to understand life apart from a knowledge of the Creator as revealed in Scripture. There we find the truth that “the earth is the LORD’S, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein” (Psalm 24:1).

HILLSONG PASTOR REFUSED TO CONdemn abortion

In a recent interview, Carl Lentz, co-pastor of Hillsong New York, refused to condemn abortion as sin. When Lentz was asked whether he believes abortion is wrong. He replied, “That’s the kind of conversation we would have finding out your story, where you’re from, what you believe. I mean, God’s the judge. People have to live to their own convictions” (“Hillsong Pastor,” ChristianHeadlines.com, Nov. 7, 2017). This is moral relativism. The man is not a Bible preacher; he’s a psychological therapist. Every preacher is commanded to reprove, rebuke, and exhort (2 Timothy 4:2). All of God’s people are commanded, “And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them” (Ephesians 5:11). As for God being the judge, how true that is. He is the Judge, and He has already judged on this issue. Consider some clear and simple biblical truths: First, God is in control of conception (Genesis 20:18; 29:31; 30:22). Second, God forms the child in the womb (Psalm 139:13-16). Third, God forbids man to shed innocent blood (Deuteronomy 19:10-13; 2 Kings 21:16). Fourth, the unborn is not a “fetus”; it is called a “child” and an “infant” in the Bible (Genesis 25:22; Job 3:16). Fifth, God’s law requires punishment if an unborn child is harmed (Exodus 21:22-23). The Bible teaches that
The Mount Zion Group is preparing special olive oil in preparation for the Third Temple. “The oil-making is part of an ongoing effort by the Mount Zion Association to recreate Temple rituals and become familiar with them in every detail, so they can be reinstated without delay, should the need arise in the near future” (“Sanhedrin/Mount Zion Group Prepares Oil,” BreakingIsraelNews, Nov. 16, 2017). The oil is made from trees in Amona in the territory of the tribe of Benjamin. The oil is made by beating, as per the instructions in Exodus 27:20, as opposed to the normal method of crushing and pressing. Olive oil comes from the olive seed, not from the meat or pulp. Beating the olives produces oil in less quantity but of a superior quality. About 450 pounds of olives produces 25 quarts of oil. The preparation for the Third Temple is in high gear. The Temple Institute and others will tell you that they do not know how it will be built, but they are sure that it will be built and they sense that the time is drawing near. Not believing Bible prophecy, they do not know that the Third Temple will be occupied by the Antichrist. See Daniel 9:27; Matthew 24:15; 2 Thessalonians 2:3-9. Revelation chapter 11 describes the measuring of the temple during the ministry of the Two Witnesses who will prophesy during the first 3.5 years of the Antichrist’s reign during which a peace covenant will be in effect.

HILLSONG PASTOR REFUSED TO CONDEMN ABORTION

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the unborn child does not belong to the mother; it belongs to the Creator. The infant in a woman’s womb is a separate body and a separate life. In an interview with CNN in 2014, Laura Lentz, Carl’s wife and “co-pastor,” spoke to the issue of homosexuality by saying, “It’s not our place to tell anyone how they should live, it’s--that’s their journey.” In their haste to be the world’s friend, Hillsong has made itself the enemy of God (James 4:4). They are the poster child for the apostasy described in 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” (2 Timothy 4:3-4).

PREPARING OIL FOR THE TEMPLE MENORAH

The Mount Zion Group is preparing special olive oil in preparation for the Third Temple. “The oil-making is part of an ongoing effort by the Mount Zion Association to recreate Temple rituals and become familiar with them in every detail, so they can be reinstated without delay, should the need arise in the near future” (“Sanhedrin/Mount Zion Group Prepares Oil,” BreakingIsraelNews, Nov. 16, 2017). The oil is made from trees in Amona in the territory of the tribe of Benjamin. The oil is made by beating, as per the instructions in Exodus 27:20, as opposed to the normal method of crushing and pressing. Olive oil comes from the olive seed, not from the meat or pulp. Beating the olives produces oil in less quantity but of a superior quality. About 450 pounds of olives produces 25 quarts of oil. The preparation for the Third Temple is in high gear. The Temple Institute and others will tell you that they do not know how it will be built, but they are sure that it will be built and they sense that the time is drawing near. Not believing Bible prophecy, they do not know that the Third Temple will be occupied by the Antichrist. See Daniel 9:27; Matthew 24:15; 2 Thessalonians 2:3-9. Revelation chapter 11 describes the measuring of the temple during the ministry of the Two Witnesses who will prophesy during the first 3.5 years of the Antichrist’s reign during which a peace covenant will be in effect.

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.