FRIDAY CHURCH NEWS NOTES

ANDERSONITE PREACHER SAYS LESTER ROLOFF IS IN HELL FOR PREACHING REPENTANCE

Jesse Michael, a follower of Steven Anderson, claims that Lester Roloff is in hell for preaching repentance. Michael preached the following at Stedfast Baptist Church in Oklahoma City: “I expose the deceased false prophet Lester Roloff and his wicked ‘repent and turn from your sins’ works salvation as heresy. This guy’s a fraud and a false prophet. He’s in hell right now. He had wicked intentions. It’s pretty obvious to me.

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MATTEL RELEASES GENDER NEUTRAL DOLLS

The following is excerpted from “Woke Barbie,” Dailywire.com, Sept. 25, 2019: “Toy company Mattel on Wednesday launched a new line of dolls that are ‘gender inclusive’ because, you know, kids everywhere are demanding them. Called ‘Creatable World,’ the line allows children to interchange hair, clothes, and accessories on the dolls--meaning they can be both male and female. ‘We see this line as an opportunity for us to open up that dialogue around what dolls are for and who dolls are for;’ said Kim Culmone, senior vice president of Mattel Fashion Doll Design. ‘And also as the world begins to celebrate the positive impact of inclusivity, we absolutely fundamentally believed it was time to launch a doll line free of labels and free of rules for kids.’...

The company touted the new product on Twitter, linking to a story by Time magazine, ‘A Doll for Everyone,’ Sept. 25, 2019: ‘Mattel’s first promotional spot for the $29.99 product features a series of kids who go by various pronouns--him, her, them, xem--and the slogan, “A doll line designed to keep labels out and invite everyone in.”’ With this overt nod to trans and nonbinary identities, the company is betting on where it thinks the country is going, even if it means alienating a substantial portion of the population. A Pew Research survey conducted in 2017 showed that while 76% of the public supports parents’ steering girls to toys and activities traditionally associated with boys, only 64% endorse steering boys toward toys and activities associated with girls.”
Repenting and turning from your sin for salvation is works salvation. ... He’s saying that basically there has to be a change in your life.” This is pure Andersonite heresy. As a former student of Hyles Anderson College, Steven Anderson is the product of quick prayerism and the change in definition of repentance that equates it with faith. But the apostle Paul preached both repentance and faith (Acts 20:21) and he defined repentance as follows: “But shewed first unto them of Damascus, and at Jerusalem, and throughout all the coasts of Judaea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance” (Acts 26:20). Paul’s repentance is not a works salvation; it’s an evidence salvation. Biblical repentance is not a change of mind that results in a change of life, and it always results in a change of life. Paul’s repentance is the repentance that we see in the Prodigal Son (Lu. 15:18), the woman at the well (Jo. 4:39), the 3,000 on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:41-42), the Ethiopian eunuch (Acts 8:36-39), the Philippian jailer (Acts 16:30-34), and Paul himself (Acts 19:18-20). This is the repentance that Lester Roloff preached. He preached a pure gospel of salvation by God’s grace without works, but, like Paul, he preached that salvation is “unto good works” (Eph. 2:8-10). 

The following is excerpted from “Benn Hinn,” Hallels News, Sep. 7, 2019: “Earlier this week, televangelist and faith healer Benny Hinn announced that he will no longer preach the ‘prosperity gospel.’ Prosperity gospel teaches that financial blessing and physical well-being are always the will of God for them, and that faith, positive speech, and donations to religious causes will increase one’s material wealth. However, two days after Hinn’s confession, he is already asking for donations. In a live video posted to his Facebook page on Monday, Hinn apologizes, ‘I’m sorry to say that prosperity has gone a little crazy and I’m correcting my own theology and you need to all know it. Because when I read the Bible now, I don’t see the Bible in the same eyes I saw 20 years ago.’ ‘I think it’s an offense to the Lord, it’s an offense to say give $1,000. I think it’s an offense to the Holy Spirit to place a price on the Gospel. I’m done with it. I will never again ask you to give $1,000 or whatever amount, because I think the Holy Ghost is just fed up with it.’ Two days after renouncing the prosperity gospel, Hinn’s website still asks donors to give up to $1,000 a month to Hinn’s ministry. Additionally, just two days after Hinn’s video aired, he asked his followers to send him seed money for ‘debt elimination.”
Chinese Christians Throwing Away Bibles to Raise "Social Credit Score"

The following is excerpted from “Chinese Christians,” PulpitandPen.org, Sept. 19, 2019: “According to the South China Morning Post, Christians in China have been visited by government officials and told that to raise their ‘Social Credit Score,’ they needed to replace all religious imagery with portraits of Communist leaders and replace the Holy Bible with Communist quotations. According to the news reports, hundreds of thousands of Chinese Christians are surrendering their Christian paintings and writings to comply with government rating standards. The so-called Social Credit Score is a nationwide “reputation scoring system” implemented in China in 2014 that has the entire world spooked. By providing a credit score for reputation, the Chinese government is more effectively controlling their populace than by violent force. The system gives scoring based upon social media posts, neighbor opinions, employer records, and stats provided by public utilities. These scores are then used to determine hiring eligibility and social standing in Chinese institutions.”

Intervarsity Introduces “Queer Bible Study”

The following is excerpted from “Intervarsity Introduces,” ReformationCharlotte.org, Sept. 27, 2019: “Intervarsity is an interdenominational Evangelical fellowship designed for college students to interact and fellowship with each other. But, like CRU — formerly Campus Crusade for Christ — Intervarsity has taken a progressive nose dive into apostasy .... Intervarsity is closely tied to the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) and SBC churches have a habit of connecting their students to Intervarsity teams on campuses when they’re away at college. In 2016, Intervarsity officially affirmed that marriage was between a man and a woman, however, the organization has gay and lesbian groups on campuses. One such campus is at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC), where a Bible-study group has been formed and named, ‘Queer Bible Study.’ ... The group was started by a lesbian named Alyssa Walter who says she came out as a ‘queer Christian’ in 2018. She said she felt she could not lead other “queer Christians” without being fully out herself.”
The following is excerpted from “Trump’s Finest Hour,” The Stream, Sept. 26, 2019: “That’s very sad, in many ways.’ That’s the President speaking to world leaders at the United Nations’ first ever summit on international religious liberty. He was shocked to learn it was the UN’s first-ever such event. ‘The United States,’ he explained, ‘is founded on the principle that our rights do not come from government; they come from God. This immortal truth is proclaimed in our Declaration of Independence. … Our Founders understood that no right is more fundamental to a peaceful, prosperous, and virtuous society than the right to follow one’s religious convictions.’ We can be grateful that an American President had the courage to say this not only to the many brutal regimes represented in the UN assembly hall. But also to Americans who believe our rights come from the government. Or the majority of voters. And who think, if we lose religious liberty, is it really a big deal? Yeah, it is. Religious liberty is about the ability to live-out one’s faith in the day-to-day. It involves not just private but also public actions and speech. From it flow the rights of assembly, speech, and press, to keep and bear arms, and so forth. Our duty to our Creator outweighs duty to anyone else, including the state. Our obligation is not just to worship Him on occasion, but to live and speak as He commands all day, every day. If our main duty isn’t to Him, then what is it to? The government? That’s a terrifying thought. In our country, a growing number of Americans have been penalized for refusing to surrender their faith. Consider Baronelle Stutzman, an elderly Christian grandmother who runs a florist shop in rural Washington State. Several years ago, she refused to create floral arrangements to celebrate the wedding of two men. Since then, the state of Washington and the ACLU have brought her to court several times. The Alliance Defending Freedom has now petitioned the Supreme Court to hear her case. This is but one example of many. Cakebakers and pharmacists, professors and sheriffs, even nurses, all attacked because they will not bend the knee to the Baal of a hostile culture. Thankfully, unlike his predecessor, Trump has defended domestic religious liberty strongly.”