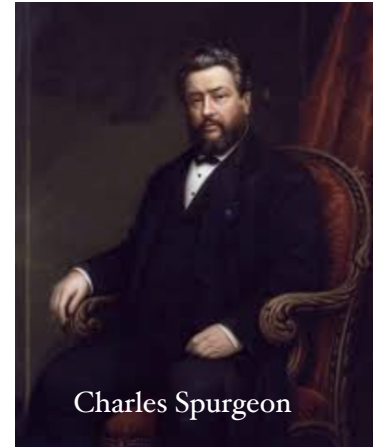


## FRIDAY CHURCH NEWS NOTES

### COLLEGE THAT SPURGEON WOULD CONDEMN CONFERS DEGREE UPON HIM

On July 8, Spurgeon's College posthumously bestowed an honorary Master in Theology degree upon its namesake, Charles Spurgeon. He pastored the Metropolitan Tabernacle in its heyday and founded the Pastor's College in 1856. About 900 preachers were trained in his lifetime. The entrance requirement was the new birth with a clear salvation testimony, doctrinal soundness, a good Christian character, a demonstrable call to preach, two-years' preaching experience, and the ability to do the course work. The most important of those things are not required today. In 1887, Spurgeon led the Metropolitan Tabernacle out of the Baptist Union because of its theological liberalism. He called the matter the "Downgrade Controversy," warning that heretics were



Charles Spurgeon

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### RED SOX MANAGER SORRY FOR HURTING LGBT FEELINGS

After firing pitcher Matt Dermody for a tweet quoting the Bible, Red Sox General Manager Brian O'Halloran said, "We celebrated Pride Day the other day and that was an incredible day at the ballpark. The atmosphere was so joyous and celebratory on the field and in the stands. We're proud of our history celebrating Pride Night and standing next to the LGBTQ+ community. We're sorry that a roster decision that we made caused harm to that community. We regret that it hurt people in the community, it hurt our fans, it hurt people that work in the organization" ("Red Sox Relieves," *Boston Globe*, July 16, 2023). Matt Dermody had tweeted that "homosexuals will not inherit the kingdom of God" and "will go to hell," citing 1 Corinthians 6:9.



Brian O'Halloran

On a recent podcast with Tomi Lahren, Dermody said, "I don't want anybody to go to Hell. I saw the list of all the things ... that lead people to Hell, and I was on that list. That instilled the fear of the Lord in me. And so now, it's not really about me anymore, but it's about helping others and preaching the Gospel and the Good News of Jesus Christ, that He saves us from ... the fires of Hell." He said he is "far from homophobic" and doesn't "hate anybody in this world." We would ask baseball manager Brian O'Halloran how it is that he is so concerned about offending the homosexual folks, but appears to be completely unconcerned about offending Bible-believing Christians, Jesus Christ, and Almighty God?

## COLLEGE THAT SPURGEON WOULD CONDEMN CONFERS DEGREE UPON HIM

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downgrading Bible truth. Spurgeon died in 1892, and the Baptist Union has continued down the path of apostasy. The Pastor's College was renamed Spurgeon's College in 1923, by which time it was associated with the Baptist Union and no longer associated with the Tabernacle. From 1961-1977, the college was led by George Beasley-Murray who claimed that Jesus was wrong about the timing of His Second Coming, that John's Gospel was not written by John, and that salvation is not complete without baptism. Lynn Green, the first female president of the Baptist Union (2013), was a graduate of Spurgeon's College. She received a standing ovation for her inaugural sermon, when she proclaimed, "I believe that our union is ready for generational change ... It is time to ... embrace a new way of being for the 21st century." This is the philosophy of the emerging church: a new church for a new time. Charles Spurgeon pulled no punches in his earnest defense of the faith once delivered unto the saints, and there can be no doubt that if the old spiritual warrior were alive today, he would denounce the school that bears his name. (For more on this, see "Spurgeon's Pastor's College Yesterday and Today," [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org).)

# CANCEL CULTURE BACKFIRE

The following is excerpted from "Cancel Culture in Retreat," PowerLineblog.com, July 26, 2023: "The story that has consumed the United Kingdom over the last week or two is the cancellation of Nigel Farage by Coutts, an exclusive private bank owned by National Westminster Bank, commonly known as NatWest. Farage, as you may remember, was a driving force behind Brexit, and Britain's establishment has never forgiven him. Coutts precipitously fired Farage as a client and canceled his accounts. Later, Coutts lied about the incident, claiming that Farage was canceled because he didn't have enough money to qualify for their services. That turned out to be false. ... There have been many articles about the controversy in the British press, but today's article in the *Wall Street Journal* is a good place to catch up: 'Farage ultimately landed a sucker punch. He acquired a 40-page document from Coutts that included a list of his political views that the bank felt created significant *reputational risks of being associated with him*.' ... As the story has continued to escalate, Alison Rose [chief executive of NatWest] herself has now resigned from NatWest. BBC has apologized for its incorrect report. ... 'Tories joined Farage to speak out about the risk that banks could cut off customers for having antiestablishment or strong conservative views. David Davis, a former cabinet minister, called the decision to close Farage's account *thinly veiled political discrimination*.' ... Farage, meanwhile, has gone on offense, demanding that the entire NatWest board of directors resign. And he pledges to help others who have been hurt by left-wing prejudice in the banking industry. For now, what we can say for sure is that cancel culture has sustained a welcome setback."

## “TRANS” MEN BEING PUSHED OUT OF FEMALE SPORTS

“Trans” men are being pushed out of women sports, which is an encouraging sign of sanity. In 2022, World Aquatics (formerly the International Swimming Federation) prohibited males from competing in women’s swimming events. This month they announced a separate category for “trans-identified athletes.” (We suspect that will be a neglected category.) The organization intends to “protect the rights of our female athletes.” Other sports organizations that have taken this step are the World Boxing Council, British Cycling, and USA Powerlifting. The latter made the statement that “biological males” have “increased body and muscle mass, bone density, bone structure, and connective tissue.” British Cycling announced that female

racers will be “for those whose sex was assigned female at birth” (*BBC Sport*, May 26, 2023). In America, 22 states “have enacted policies requiring athletes to compete on sports teams that correspond with their biological sex.” These organizations and state politicians are saying there is such a thing as biological sex, and there are only two of those. These sane-thinking states are Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Florida, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, West Virginia and Wyoming. I believe this is an answer to prayer for God to restrain the Mystery of Iniquity (2 Thessalonians 2:7).

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## WHAT DO ISRAELIS THINK OF JESUS?

The following is excerpted from *Israel Today*, Nov. 11, 2022: “Are Jewish attitudes towards Jesus and Christianity changing since the miraculous return of the Jewish people to Zion, an event that sent shockwaves through Christianity? ... Our survey was conducted among a representative sampling of Israeli Jews. ... Question: As far as you remember, did you learn about Christianity and Jesus in school in Israel? Just one in three Israelis (34%) say they learned about Christianity in school. ... Question: What is your general opinion regarding Jesus? Only 16% of those who responded see Jesus in a positive light. 36% are not interested and 25% have no opinion. ... It is also interesting to note that twice as many older folks (22%) said that they have a positive view of Jesus, than younger Israelis aged 18-24 (just 11%). ... Meno Kalisher, a Jerusalem based Messianic pastor, had this to say: ‘Half of the population is secular, religious or traditionalist--showing the state of our nation. ... For 50% of the Jewish nation, if someone taught them about Christianity, they would close their ears so they wouldn’t be exposed to what they claim is *rubbish*. ... The overall 16% that are positive are mainly secular, and they measure Jesus from a social and moral standpoint--not a theological one. When they measured him that way, their conclusion is that he was a great guy, a great Jew. The 36% that are *not interested* shows the nation’s general state regarding spiritual issues.’”

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## SEEING EYE FISH

The following is from CreationMoments.com, July 21, 2023: "There's an old saying that people seldom remember how rapidly the job was done, but they do appreciate good workmanship. However, the staggering variety and number of things created by God did not limit the elegance of His fine workmanship. The relationship between the snapping shrimp and a fish called the goby is a good example of the Creator's attention to the finest detail. The snapping shrimp has very poor eyesight, while the goby has excellent eyesight. Both share the same burrow, which is dug by the shrimp and guarded by the goby. The shrimp uses the goby as a blind person uses a Seeing Eye dog. Whenever the shrimp is outside its burrow, it always keeps one antenna on the goby. The shrimp stays hidden inside the burrow if the goby should temporarily swim away. When danger approaches, the goby signals and disappears inside the burrow. The shrimp is right behind him. Neither the goby nor the shrimp can survive without each other, so pairs are established for life when both goby and shrimp are very young. In order for this system to work, both goby and shrimp reproductive systems, which differ greatly, are synchronized so that shrimp and goby youngsters are ready to pair at the same time. This astonishing relationship shows us how our Creator's standards of excellence bring His love to every corner of the creation. REF: Yanagisawa, Y., 'Strange seabed fellows,' *Natural History*, Aug. 1990, p. 46."



Goby and Snapping Shrimp

### 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](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org).