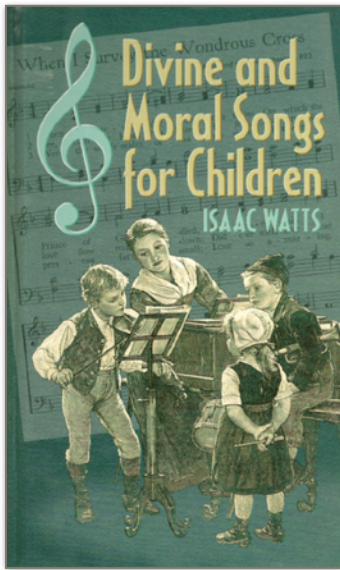


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# FRIDAY CHURCH NEWS NOTES

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## FURNITURE FOR THE MINDS OF CHILDREN



In the 18th and 19th centuries, Baptists and Protestants typically understood the power of godly hymns to assist in child training. Consider Isaac Watts' *Divine Songs for Children* (1715). Writing to parents in the Preface, he said, "The wisdom and welfare of the succeeding generation are intrusted with you, and depend much on your conduct. **The seeds of misery or happiness in this world, and that to come, are oftentimes sown very early; and, therefore, whatever may conduce to give the minds of children a relish for virtue and religion ought in the first place, to be proposed to you.** ... What is learned in verse is longer retained in memory, and sooner recollected. The like sounds and the like number of syllables exceedingly assist the remembrance. And it may often happen that the end of a song, running in the mind, may be an effectual means to keep off some temptation, or to incline to some duty, when a word of scripture is not upon their thoughts. **This will be a constant furniture for the minds of children,** that they may have something to think upon when alone, and sing over to themselves. This may sometimes give their thoughts a divine turn, and raise a young meditation. Thus they will not be forced to seek relief for an emptiness of

mind out of the loose and dangerous sonnets of the age." Charles Spurgeon learned Watts' hymns and metered psalms as a child. And these are hymns of great substance. Watts' *Divine Songs for Children*, #2, was "I Sing the Mighty Power of God." Guarding children's minds requires filling their minds with truth and godliness. It also requires protecting their minds from error, ungodliness, and foolishness. Wise parents will reject the mindless entertainment of this age (Ec. 7:5-6) and everything else that is not good "furniture for the minds of children."

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## THE RETURN OF MOLECH'S FURNACE

The following is excerpted from "The Return," *The BridgeHead*, June 6, 2023: "In 2017, Dr. Jerry Coyne of the University of Chicago complained that the residual effects of Christianity were holding Western civilization back. How? It was Christian ethics, he said, that were preventing legal infanticide from making a comeback. He wrote, 'When religion vanishes, as it will, so will much of the opposition to both adult and newborn euthanasia.' ... Princeton bio-ethicist Peter Singer argues that only religious superstition is keeping us from killing infants, a practice he believes to be perfectly ethical. As he wrote in *Practical Ethics*: 'Killing a defective infant is not morally equivalent

**'Killing a defective infant is not morally equivalent to killing a person. Sometimes it is not wrong at all.'** !

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## THE RETURN OF MOLECH'S FURNACE

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to killing a person. Sometimes it is not wrong at all.' ... Canadian cognitive psychologist Steven Pinker of MIT doesn't go quite as far as Singer, but likely shares his views. In 1997, Pinker wrote in the *New York Times* that laws against infanticide were difficult to defend. ... In his test balloon essay, Pinker quotes the Michael Tooley's 1972 essay 'Abortion and Infanticide.' ... Tooley himself noted that he would establish 'some period of time, such as a week after birth, as the interval during which infanticide will be permitted.' ... On August 2, 2020, a study titled 'Healthcare professionals' attitudes towards termination of pregnancy at viable stage' released by the Research Foundation Flanders and Ghent University found that 89.1% of medical professionals and 93.6% of Belgian medical professionals indicated that infanticide is acceptable in certain circumstances. Of those surveyed, 87.9% 'agrees that Belgian law should be changed to make this possible.' ... Infanticide has already been de facto legal in limited circumstances in the Netherlands for some time. Children under the age of one with a terminal prognosis can be euthanized under the 2004 Groningen Protocol, which one journal described as an attempt 'to regulate the practice of actively ending the life of newborns and to prevent uncontrolled and unjustified killing.' ... On October 7, 2022, Dr. Louis Roy of the Quebec College of Physicians told the Canadian House of Commons' Special Joint Committee on Medical Assistance in Dying that, in the view of his organization, euthanasia for infants under the age of one should be legal if the baby in question has 'grave and severe syndromes' or 'severe malformations' or 'prospective of survival is null, so to speak.'"

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## ISLAMIC STATE CALLS FOR MURDER OF ALL CHRISTIANS AND JEWS AND NON-SUNNI MUSLIMS

On January 4, 2024, the Islamic State (ISIS or IS) issued an audio recording entitled "And Kill Them Wherever You Find Them" which is Koran 9:5. Watch your back, because these boys take their religion seriously. The following is the last segment of this recording: "Lions of Islam: Chase your preys whether Jewish, Christian or their allies, on the streets and roads of America, Europe, and the world. Break into their homes, kill them and steal their peace of mind by any means you can lay hands on. Understand that you are the arm of the Islamic State hitting in the kuffar's [infidels'] homelands, and are avenging the Muslims in Palestine, Iraq, Sham, and other Muslim countries. Solidify your plans and diversify the attacks: detonate explosives, burn them with grenades and fiery agents, shoot them with bullets, cut their throats with sharp knives, and run them

over with vehicles. A sincere person will not lack the means to draw blood from the hearts of the Jews, the Christians, and their allies, and thus ease the suffering in the hearts of the believers. Come at them from every door, kill them by the worst of means, turn their gatherings and celebrations into bloody massacres, do not distinguish between a civilian kaffir, and a military one, for they are all kuffar and the ruling against them is one. ... Intentionally seek easy targets before hard ones, civilian targets before military one, religious targets like synagogues and churches before others, for this will satisfy the soul and will demonstrate the characteristics of the battle, as our battle with them is a religious one and we kill them wherever we come upon them in response to Allah Almighty's command" (cited from "Islamic State," *PJMedia*, Feb. 23, 2024).

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## EMERGING CHURCH CHANGE AGENTS

Emerging church leaders like Brian McLaren are very effective change agents. His popular book *A New Kind of Christian* presents theological liberalism in the guise of a wiser, kinder, gentler type of Christianity called “Postmodern.” The book recounts a pastor’s journey from a position of holding the Bible as the absolute standard for truth, a position in which doctrine is either right or wrong, to a pliable stance in which “faith is more about a way of life than a system of belief, where being authentically good is more important than being doctrinally right” (from the back cover of *A New Kind of Christian*). Chameleons like McLaren can talk like Bible believers when it suits their purpose, as he did in an interview with me at the 2009 National Pastor’s Conference in San Diego. But he has publicly rejected (by re-definition and foggy language) such fundamentals of the faith as the inerrancy of Scripture, the necessity of the new birth, the substitutionary blood atonement, the literal return of Christ, and eternal judgment. In other words, he has rejected the New Testament Christian faith and has become its enemy. He is a dangerous man, but he is clever and patient, and he is by no means alone in his war against biblical Christianity. He is joined by

thousands of “new thinkers” who are leavening individuals, homes, churches, and schools with heresy. McLaren has indicated that he is targeting the children and grandchildren of today’s “fundamentalists,” and he will doubtless win in a

**McLaren has indicated that he is targeting the children and grandchildren of today’s “fundamentalists,” and he will doubtless win in a large number of cases because today’s “fundamentalists” aren’t well enough grounded in the truth to recognize error nor are they spiritual enough to care.**

large number of cases because today’s “fundamentalists” aren’t well enough grounded in the truth to recognize error nor are they spiritual enough to care.

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## PASTOR’S TESTIMONY ABOUT WAY OF LIFE MATERIALS

“I would like to commend Way of Life Literature for the excellent materials that you have put together over the many years. We have used the Way of Life materials for the last 24 years in our church for Sunday School, our Youth program, our Bible Institute and even in our preaching services. We have that the materials to be well put together, methodical, but most importantly true to the Word of God. This is such a rarity in this great day of compromise! They are easy to implement in any setting whether Sunday School, institute programs, and even as an outline for preaching. Any church that is looking for good, solid, uncompromising Bible materials to use in any setting will find these materials very helpful. Thank you for your faithfulness to God’s Word and your dedication to the Lord!”

# WHO SAID THE EARTH IS FLAT?

The following is from CreationMoments.com, Feb. 13, 2024: "Many of us have heard the old legend about why Christopher Columbus was told he could not sail too far west. According to the legend, Columbus was repeatedly told that he could not sail west to India because the Earth was flat. If he sailed too far, he would fall off the edge. That story was a piece of fiction cooked up by Washington Irving in the 1830s. Only one writer can be found in Western history who believed the Earth was flat--that writer was Lactantius in the third century AD. All the others--for example, Pythagoras, still noted today for his mathematical proofs --simply assumed the Earth was spherical. Two hundred years later, the Greek mathematician Eratosthenes, also assuming that the Earth was round, calculated that the Earth was 25,000 miles in circumference. He was off by only 200 miles. A century later, using Eratosthenes' figure for the Earth's diameter, Hipparchus calculated that the moon was 240,000 miles away from the Earth. He was off by only 100 miles--less than half a percent! Nor does the Bible teach that the Earth is flat. Isaiah 40:22 tells us how God looks down on the inhabitants of a round Earth. Job 26:7 talks about the Earth floating in space, hung on nothing. Today we have exposed two myths. One is the myth that most people used to think the Earth was flat. The other myth is that the Bible is not accurate when it describes the same creation that modern science talks about. Isaiah 40:22, '*It is he that sitteth upon the circle of the earth, and the inhabitants thereof are as grasshoppers; that stretcheth out the heavens as a curtain, and spreadeth them out as a tent to dwell in.*' Ref: Lemonick, Michael D. 'Measuring the earth.' *Science Digest*, July 1985. p. 72."



## 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).