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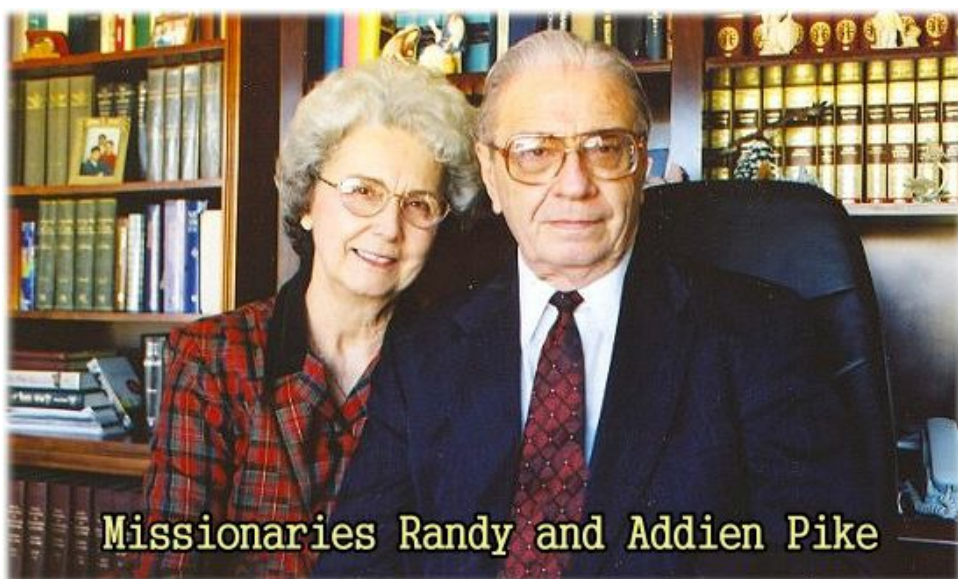
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FEATURE ARTICLE - HEALTH, WEALTH, AND PROSPERITY

OR ROMANS 8:28,29? - *By MISSIONARY RANDY PIKE*



Romans 8:28-29 "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren."

(Almost 50 years ago we met Randy Pike when he spoke at a little church in Aurora, Mo. He was a crippled man just over thirty years of age, and he was a missionary to Australia. He was the first Independent Baptist missionary to Australia, as far as we know. We were in our first pastorate at Grace Baptist Church in Galena. You can imagine how challenged we were to meet this dear brother and hear him preach boldly the word of God. The last night he spoke we saw half an hour of photos from Australia depicting the places and people where he would shortly return to minister. The last photo was of an old broken down aboriginal drunkard pointing his finger at the camera when Bro. Pike took his photo. Bro. Randy used that pointed finger to challenge us that night to ask God if he would have us, all of us, any of us to serve Him in Australia. The rest is history, 43 years of it this month. We receive Bro. and Mrs. Pike's prayer letters, so when the last one came, I decided to use it as the Feature Article in the March Heads Up, along with several other biographical excerpts from his letters. Valley View Baptist Church has done a great service to God's children by listing many of Bro. Randy's sermons and making them available for downloading. If you are one of those rare saints that look for good sermons to listen to, then you ought to go to this site and grab the lot.

<http://www.valleyviewbaptistflintstone.com/randypike.html>

If you don't, then maybe it's time you got started. - Ed.)

Dear helpers of our faith -
"IT TAKES A LICKING AND KEEPS ON TICKING!"

Years ago, the Timex Watch Company advertised their product under the above motto. Various ads showed their watches being submerged under water, ran over by a truck, dug out of the ruins of a collapsed building, buried in sand and soil - and it was still ticking! From his death cell in Rome, Paul wrote his dearest friend Timothy these words: *"Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ"* (2 Tim. 2:3). He did not say, "Have prayer and your hardships will go away." The New Testament doctrine of "enduring" is greatly unknown among modern day Christians.

We have been taught that prayer will solve all problems: pray and your suffering vanishes; your bills ended; your children will behave, your boss will be nice; your paycheck increase, and so on. In other words, prayer is the cure all for all things unpleasant in our lives.

Only a fool would play down or diminish the power and Divine benefits of holy prayer. However, to make it an escape hatch from the sorrows and sufferings of human life is sheer tomfoolery.

Most physical hardships and sufferings have to be endured. God may choose to remove something here or there, but the rule is to "endure."

A pastor phoned me and said he was going to resign his church because of the trouble and problems caused by carnal, mean, (and possibly unsaved) members. I told him he was doing wrong and must learn to "endure" these awful things.

My wife and I have had to live much of our 60 years together like this; "take a licking and keep on ticking." The past six months dropped on us, a major heart attack (for my wife) and surgery following, an accident with me suffering both legs broken. All of this entailed weeks of hospitalization and loss of work, Prayer did not remove any of it, but gave grace and comfort to bear it !!!!!

Slowly, these calamities have turned into avenues for the gospel of Christ to run into the lives of many. And we had to "endure" it all.

In [Galatians 6:2](#), Paul commanded, *"Bear one another's burdens."* In verse 5, he wrote, *"every man shall bear his own burden."* We ask, "Which is it, Paul?" Simply this: you have burdens that I can help you carry; but you also have sorrows and sufferings that I am unable to share. Thus, we help where we can and "endure" the rest. Readers, learn to "take a licking and keep on ticking" for Jesus.

In 2 Cor 11, Paul lists over 30 horrible experiences in his service as a missionary covering some 20 years. He could not pray his way out of any of them, they had to be endured while praying. In the next chapter 12, he gloried in it all for they gave him the power of Christ in Christian service (verses 8-10). He took the lickings and kept on ticking for Jesus!

NEWS: We are still recovering from all the above lickings! My legs will not get any better with the steel rods; this is accepted under Rom. 8:28. My wife is doing well from heart surgery and the aftermath. Both of us are helping one another over the last few miles to heaven's open gates. We are ticking on for our Lord and the saving gospel. It is shared with all who come our way. Thank you for traveling along with us; helping where you can and still trusting and praying where you can't. God gives us grace to keep on ticking amid all the lickings we get. Don't fret, it will be alright in heaven and all of us will arrive their on time!

Here's a good life's motto: "When in a fix remember Phil 4:6." I got this over forty years ago from a dear Australian brother named Kevin Deuter.

It is untrue that God always gives what we ask. Verses in the Bible that seems to state this (for example Matt. 21:22) are under the Divine decision of [1 John 5:14](#); it reads, *"... if we ask anything according to his will, he heareth us."* That's how God answers. Paul's prayer to remove the thorn from his body was not God's will. It was through his suffering that the power of Christ was upon his life (verse 9).

This unanswered prayer was actually answered prayer! Could affliction, pain, and trouble be a blessing? My brother fell ill with brain cancer. Because of this, I won him to Christ before he died.

Some of you would be better off with pain, loss, and unmitigated sorrow tearing into your life, if it saved you from hell.

As an 18-year-old boy, I was knocked cold in a high school football game and paralyzed in both legs from the hips down. Thousands of prayers went up from family, churches, and friends asking God to restore my legs. I spent the next 60 years walking on braces and crutches. Now, nearly 82 years old, bent over in a wheel chair, and bed ridden, their prayers were never answered! Looking back, had God not taken away the function of my legs I would never have given my life as a missionary in His

service. *Psalm 119:67, "Before I was afflicted I went astray: but now have I kept thy word."* Spiritually minded believers see through the big talk about jackpot prayers. This satanic lie has deceived millions. None of us knows what waits down the road. Some will face cancer, heart attack, Alzheimers, dementia, family separations, deadly car wrecks, and loss of job, financial ruin, strokes, or dissertation by a mate or child and so on.

The preaching that prayer will save us from the natural ills of this life is nonsense. Our Savior as a human struggled with the thought of His fellowship with the Father being broken while he became sin on the cross (2 Cor. 5:21). He prayed that it would not happen (Matt. 26:39) but it did.

If God never answers another prayer for me, when I look at the cross, and what Christ did there, I bow in thankful shame. Yes, unanswered prayer can sometimes be answered prayer after all. Got any in your life?



"FOR WITHOUT ME YE CAN DO NOTHING" (JOHN 15:5).

These words spoken by Jesus Christ are like dynamite. Any person in history who makes such an all-embracing claim would be put down as a phony, fool, or lunatic. Even the majority of Congressmen and the President of the United States have not gone this far in lying to, and deceiving the people of America. It is because of such statements as this that Christ is fiercely hated, maligned, slandered, and ridiculed by society at large, most systems of education, social, political, and cultural bodies alike.

If the Son of God had said, "I am on the equal with Mohammed, the Pope, Charles Taz Russell, Ellen G. White, Joseph Smith, Brigham Young, Buddha, and all world religious figureheads, the godless would give him a standing ovation.

Like a steel wall, this claim of Jesus stands to save or damn. Lost humanity is blind to the truth that if they give the Devil a ride, he will soon be driving.

Christ rejecters and God haters often accomplish good things through social action, reforms, revolutions, and wars. However, their great humane feats will end at death. Here, we turn all things loose, and step from this world into another that is eternal in either heaven or hell! Imagine, telling God you discovered a medicine that has helped millions, therefore, you deserve heaven! *It will take more than that to escape everlasting damnation.*

All men and women struggle with life. Young and old alike feel the pounding of sin, the haunting of memory, the pressure of work, and a thousand other torments. As

tough as things seem, we must remember that the squeaky wagon wheel gets the grease!

Jesus is our Lord and Savior. We are his by purchase price of his precious blood; sealed by the Holy Spirit, hid with him in God, and clothed with the very righteousness of God that Christ imparted to us at the moment of the new birth. We discover that the years teach us much that our days did not know. Time passes, but memory remains. It recalls that we have him, and he has us.

Building a perfectly just social state with unsaved men in charge is impossible. Utopia will only be realized when Jesus rules as King of kings and Lord of lords. The United Nations is a blasphemous crowd of pagans, demon possessed politicians, wicked dignitaries, who steer society into eternal darkness.

Now, sin has become "culture," while "human rights" strangle the process of justice and punishment for America's heinous crimes. And why is this so? Because, "Without Christ we can do nothing."



GOD'S SURE MERCIES ARE OFTEN DISGUISED:

My wife was in a wreck and totaled our car. She was uninjured even with the air bag coming out! With me now wheelchair-bedridden, she amazingly continues to keep things going with the help of our daughter, Rosemary.

Our son, David, had a mild stroke in his left side. He is under intense therapy trying to get back to some form of normality.

Our youngest son, Phillip still suffers with his eyes. Even though the retina has reattached in the right eye, ugly problems loom over him according to the last diagnosis.

In these things, God wants us to lovingly trust him, regardless (Heb. 11:6). This we try to do. Paul told Timothy to "*endure hardness*" (2 Tim. 2:3) and not just say a little prayer, and it would go away. In the Christian life, some things must be endured away and not prayed away. Someday, when life is over, we will kiss the hand that has wounded us (Prov. 27:6a).

However dark your lot seems, there is enough light on the other side of the cloud, in that pure city where God lives to eradicate all shadows, resolve all questions, and charm the heart of redeemed men forever. Won't it be wonderful when "we shall be like him and see him as he is" (1 John 3:2). Yes, heaven's sure mercies are often disguised but soon the disguise will be lifted!



"The prayers of David the son of Jesse are ended."
(Psalm 72:20)

For years, the above verse has spoken to my heart. It warns of a time coming for all true Christians. What could be more horrible than not talking to God in holy prayer? Sharing with Him everything in life is one of the greatest solaces we know. Not being able to do so would be a living hell-on-earth. I had rather die than to be cut off from the Lord, unable to speak to Him, as I live out my life. Prayer is the breath and heartbeat of the saved soul. Old age is a gradual surrender. Slowly, we discover this, that, or the other, must be turned loose; no longer is it useable. Things that were needed to help us along the way, are laid aside.

I do not know what David's last prayer was. However, I have thought much about mine! Reader and listener, what will be your final words? Will they be complaints, gossip, doubt, regret, or what?

I read years ago the final words of Britain's great leader during World War II, Winston Churchill. He mumbled, "What a fool I've been!"

- An old friend of ours, May Browning, lay dying at the age of 100. She called to her children, "Look at the beautiful angels; they've come to take me home!"
- Sir Newport a famed atheist screamed, "Help! My feet are in the fires!"
- Moody, whispered, "Ah! This is my coronation day!" What will be your final prayer and words? I want to die praying!!!!

His happy slaves,

Missionaries Randy and Addien Pike,

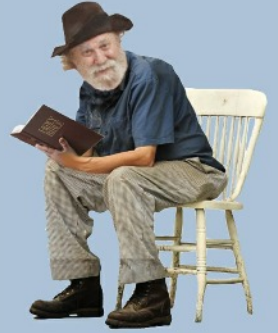
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DEACON TRUE SEZ -

The preacher set me to thinkin' last Sunday when he preached on "The Church With The Wrong Name." He's preachin' through the seven churches of Asia in Revelation, and came to the first one in chapter 3, the church at Sardis. He told us that they weren't livin' up to their reputation. They had a name that they were alive, but they were dead. Well, that really made me think so I asked Ma to help me remember some of the churches we've seen up close and personal and what we used to call 'em.



There was that church Bro. Oxford pointed out to us in Oklahoma once. The folks there got the idear there might be oil under the church property so they drilled and got a gusher, and then closed the membership so nobody else could join. We reckon they shoulda changed the name after that to Royalties Baptist Church. And there was that one we dropped into on a trip back from Grandma's house, and they were so puffed up over their flash new church building that nobody spoke to us at all before, durin', or after. We reckon they oughta change the name to Toadfish Baptist. We had a letter from a friend t'other day sayin' that ever'body was so laid back at their church that they're suggestin' to the preacher they change the name to Recliner Baptist.

One of the big knobs from Californy wuz the chief spruiker at the fellowship meetin' last year and now all the local preachers wanna rename their churches so they are called by his church's name. Maybe they could all just call them Copycat Baptist Church, Inc. Knew a preacher once in Missouri who wuz so narrer-minded he could see through a keyhole with both eyes at the same time. Never had nothin' to do with nobody. Me and Ma called his church One Lane Bridge Baptist, cuz there was no room for nobody goin' any other way but his way. There was a Tulip church one time out in Alpine and we reckoned it oughta be named "Me And My Wife, John And His Wife, Us Four And No More Baptist Church". (You gotta take a deep breath 'fore you tell anybody that one.) And there was one that had a preacher what went pentecostal so we named it Happy Clappy Baptist. We even heard of one that has an adulterer for their preacher and we reckon they oughta rename it Ratbag Baptist.

We seen 'em all in our time. There's some we called Avon Baptist, and some we called Anyway Baptist cuz that wuz all they could talk about when you went along. Met up with some sporty fellers a while back that I reckon went to Superbowl Baptist.

The latest name change we heared of is "iChurch" where nobody carries a Bible anymore. They all use their iPads, iPhones, and iPods. Before the old timers left the church they sent a petition to the deacon board suggestin' that, if the name was going to be changed to "iPhone, it oughta be spelled "I,Me, and My-Phone". Dunno what the outcome of that will be.

So I reckon, whether them trendy churches like the names we suggested or not, we're gonna see some big changes very shortly.

Makes me think, though, we DO need to live up to whatever name is on the sign. No good calling our church Faith Baptist Church, and being faithless, is there?

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Gold From Ophir

Sent Soldiers

By Jerry Wilhite



The chapters of 1 Chronicles 7 & 8 refer to soldiers in several verses. Note valiant men of might (7:2), bands of soldiers for war (7:4), valiant men of might (7:5), mighty men of valour (7:7,9,11; 8:40), fit to go out for war and battle (7:11), and choice and mighty men of valour...apt to the war and to battle (7:40) describe these warriors.

A soldier reminds us that there are enemies, battles, victories, and losses.

Several times the Apostle Paul reminded his readers that the Christian life, and especially that of a Christian leader, is filled with warfare and weapons.

- *Let us put on the armour of light* (Rom 13:12);
- *Who goeth a warfare any time at his own charges* (1Cor 9:7);
- *For if the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to battle?* (1Cor 14:8);
- *By the armour of righteousness on the right hand and on the left* (2Cor 6:7);
- *For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds* (2Cor 10:3,4);
- *But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation* (1Th 5:8);
- *This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before on thee, that thou by them mightest war a good warfare* (1Tim 1:18);
- *Fight the good fight of faith* (1Tim 6:12);
- *Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier* (2Tim 2:3,4);
- *I have fought a good fight* (2Tim 2:3,4).

Even the classic passage in Ephesians 6 listing the spiritual armour is memorized by many, known by more, and needed for all believers.

The writer of Hebrews sounds the same note. Consider Hebrews 4:12 where God's Word is likened to a soldier's sword, *For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword*. How about 10:32 which clearly notes the recipients' early Christian life of persecution, *But call to remembrance the former days, in which, after ye were illuminated, ye endured a great fight of afflictions*. Hebrews 11:34 reiterates this truth with the words, *Quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens*.

Obviously the writers of the Epistles echo the instruction of our Lord when He said, *I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves* (Mt 10:16; Lu 10:3). In other words, his sheep were going out into the midst of a hostile environment.

Be it Jesus' day, Paul's day, or our day there is a battle to face and fight.

It is no different for a foreign missionary. If a man thinks he will avoid a battle by moving to a foreign field, he has another "think" coming. Missionaries are often, it seems, soldiers on the front lines of battle. Continually they will face the enemies of the gospel head on, become weary in the battle, and experience both victories and defeats. They must know their weapons (Word of God and prayer) and be equipped with God-given armor. The mission field battle field is not a place for ill-equipped or ill-trained soldiers.

Sending missionaries out to fight the good fight of faith who have not been to "boot camp" is an unwise investment with time and treasure. Long days, unusual terrain, devilish strongholds and constant battles can weary any combatant.

Brethren, pray for your missionaries fervently and frequently!

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WOMEN OF THE ISLAMIC STATE

A MANIFESTO ON WOMEN BY THE AL-KHANSSAA BRIGADE

Jihad, the New Kind of Warfare

Before he moved to Medina, Mohammed had never used violence. Now that he had the means, he began to attack the Meccans, who had spurned his calls to Islam. On the face of it, this was just an attack by a tribal leader; (Mohammed) designed to steal goods from a group of his rivals. In fact this was the start of a war which Mohammed and his followers would wage against all of his enemies (the Kaffirs) forever.

As this war progressed, Mohammed would develop a strategy for an entirely new system of warfare, which Mohammed called Jihad. Westerners translate Jihad as "holy war" but it is in fact far more than this. Whilst Mohammed was a very capable Military tactician, Jihad barely concerns itself with military tactics. If it had done so, Jihad would have been rendered obsolete as soon as it encountered newer and more effective military technologies, such as crossbows or guns.

Warfare, like all types of violent coercion, has a psychological aspect to it, which is in many ways more important than the actual violence itself. Mohammed's genius was his understanding of this psychology, and in the way he incorporated it into the tactics of Jihad.

Because of this, Jihad is effective whether you are fighting with bows and arrows, or laser guided rockets. As the story unfolds, we will see how the strategy of Jihad was developed and applied. I will begin to list these as they appear:

Rules of Jihad:

1. Jihad is sanctioned by Allah. There is no higher authority; therefore it is always justified.
2. Never abide by any rules or limitations, the ends justify ANY means no matter how shocking. Jihad can be any action which advances Islam or weakens the Kaffirs, whether by a group or an individual. Even donating money to pay for someone else's Jihad is a type of Jihad itself.

3. ALWAYS play the victim. Mohammed twisted his situation around. Although he had attacked innocent people without provocation he blamed them because they had "stopped others from becoming Muslims" and had worshiped idols. The attack was their fault, and the Muslims were the victims, not the Kaffirs.
4. Keep repeating this over and over and people will eventually begin to believe it. If you can persuade the victim to accept the blame you have won, because retaliation requires a sense of injustice. If the victim accepts the blame they will turn their hatred towards themselves.



FULL-BRED AUSSIE WITH A LONGING FOR SHARIA LAW

(Sally Neighbour - THE AUSTRALIAN - Jan 21, 2011)



IBRAHIM Siddiq-Conlon has a message for Australians, whether they want to hear it or not.

"One day Australia will be ruled by sharia, no doubt," he declares. "That is why non-Muslims are worried, because they know one day they won't be able to drink their beer, they won't be able to eat their pork and they won't be able to do their homosexual acts, because one day they know they will be controlled."

Siddiq-Conlon sits on the steps of the NSW Parliament House, the location he has chosen to launch his rhetorical attack on democracy, which he describes as "an evil system of life".

"Right now in the Western world we're on the edge of a crisis, of extinction, because of democracy. OK, so don't

tell me democracy has the answers and is peaceful. Democracy is the reason for the world's problems."

Siddiq-Conlon is the face and voice of Sharia4Australia, a group formed in Sydney's southwest to agitate for Islamic law, starting with the introduction of sharia courts and ending, in his ideal world, with Islamic rule. While he claims to eschew violence, he unapologetically preaches hate. An online video posted by his group describes its members as "uncompromising [in] their disallegiance, disloyalty and hate for the disbelievers".

"I hate the parliament. I hate [democracy] with a pure hate," he says. Moreover, it is obligatory for all Muslims to reject democracy, because it is a challenge to God's law: "They must hate it, speak out against it, and if that doesn't work, take action against it."

Siddiq-Conlon formed Sharia4Australia last year, styling himself as the new champion for Islamic law in Australia.

An online video announcing its emergence stated: "For far too long now Aust has been ruled by a corrupt evil infedile [sic] group of people who are clear disbelievers in the sight of Allah. It is time for change. Time at least for the truth.

"Today Muslim youth and the oppressed and weak Muslims march forward with their flags behind brother Ibrahim Siddiq-Conlon. O Muslims stand tall, take the vow and pledge allegiance to none other than Allah and his Messenger and vowing allegiance with the Muslims while disloyalty to the disbelievers and their kufr [infidel] ways."

In person, Siddiq-Conlon initially seems harmless enough. He dresses in a white cotton tunic, trousers and sandals, with a neatly trimmed beard and a touch of black kohl eyeliner, in the style said to have been favored by the original companions of the Prophet Mohammed.

He is quietly spoken, polite and articulate; a master's graduate in architecture from the University of Technology, Sydney; Adelaide-born, and raised in a Godfearing "fundamentalist", he says, Christian family in rural NSW. He converted to Islam while a student, travelled to Indonesia, found a wife there, and returned to Australia with the full-blown zeal of so many converts. He formerly studied under the Ahlus Sunnah Wal Jama'ah Association, headed by Melbourne cleric Sheikh Mohammed Omran, but the association has recently moved to distance itself from his strident inflammatory message.

"I'm an Aussie, I'm a full-bred Aussie, you can't get more Aussie than me," he insists.

To read more, go to: <http://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/features/full-bred-aussie-with-a-longing-for-sharia-law/story-e6frg6z6-1225991941740>

THE ISLAMIC STATE IS INDEED ISLAMIC

(By Andrew Bolt Feb 18 2015: From Graeme Wood in [The Atlantic](#))

We are misled ... by a well-intentioned but dishonest campaign to deny the Islamic State's medieval religious nature... The reality is that the Islamic State is Islamic. Very Islamic....



Virtually every major decision and law promulgated by the Islamic State adheres to what it calls, in its press and pronouncements, and on its billboards, license plates, stationery, and coins, "the Prophetic methodology," which means following the prophecy and example of Muhammad, in punctilious detail. Muslims can reject the Islamic State; nearly all do.... But Muslims who call the Islamic State un-Islamic are typically, as the Princeton scholar Bernard Haykel, the leading expert on the group's theology, told me, "embarrassed and politically correct, with a cotton-candy view of their own religion" that neglects "what their religion has historically and legally required." Many denials of the Islamic State's religious nature, he said, are rooted in an "interfaith-Christian-nonsense tradition."...

According to Haykel, the ranks of the Islamic State are deeply infused with religious vigor. Koranic quotations are ubiquitous. "Even the foot soldiers spout this stuff constantly," Haykel said... He regards the claim that the Islamic State has distorted the texts of Islam as preposterous, sustainable only through willful ignorance. "People want to absolve Islam," he said. "It's this 'Islam is a religion of peace' mantra. As if there is such a thing as 'Islam'! It's what Muslims do, and how they interpret their texts." Those texts are shared by all Sunni Muslims, not just the Islamic State. "And

these guys have just as much legitimacy as anyone else."

All Muslims acknowledge that Muhammad's earliest conquests were not tidy affairs, and that the laws of war passed down in the Koran and in the narrations of the Prophet's rule were calibrated to fit a turbulent and violent time. In Haykel's estimation, the fighters of the Islamic State are authentic throwbacks to early Islam and are faithfully reproducing its norms of war. This behavior includes a number of practices that modern Muslims tend to prefer not to acknowledge as integral to their sacred texts. "Slavery, crucifixion, and beheadings are not something that freakish [jihadists] are cherry-picking from the medieval tradition," Haykel said. Islamic State fighters "are smack in the middle of the medieval tradition and are bringing it wholesale into the present day."...

The Koran specifies crucifixion as one of the only punishments permitted for enemies of Islam. The tax on Christians finds clear endorsement in the Surah Al-Tawba, the Koran's ninth chapter, which instructs Muslims to fight Christians and Jews "until they pay the jizya with willing submission, and feel themselves subdued." The Prophet, whom all Muslims consider exemplary, imposed these rules and owned slaves.

Leaders of the Islamic State have taken emulation of Muhammad as strict duty, and have revived traditions that have been dormant for hundreds of years. "What's striking about them is not just the literalism, but also the seriousness with which they read these texts," Haykel said. "There is an assiduous, obsessive seriousness that Muslims don't normally have."

... when the Islamic State began enslaving people, even some of its supporters balked. Nonetheless, the caliphate has continued to embrace slavery and crucifixion without apology. "We will conquer your Rome, break your crosses, and enslave your women," Adnani, the spokesman, promised in one of his periodic valentines to the West. "If we do not reach that time, then our children and grandchildren will reach it, and they will sell your sons as slaves at the slave market." ...

Muslims can say that slavery is not legitimate now, and that crucifixion is wrong at this historical juncture. Many say precisely this. But they cannot condemn slavery or crucifixion outright without contradicting the Koran and the example of the Prophet. "The only principled ground that the Islamic State's opponents could take is to say that certain core texts and traditional teachings of Islam are no longer valid," Bernard Haykel says. That really would be an act of apostasy.

Wood meets an Australian jihadist in Melbourne:

In November, I traveled to Australia to meet Musa Cerantonio, a 30-year-old man whom Neumann and other researchers had identified as one of the two most important "new spiritual authorities" guiding foreigners to join the Islamic State....

Cerantonio—a big, friendly man with a bookish demeanor—told me he blanches at beheading videos. He hates seeing the violence, even though supporters of the Islamic State are required to endorse it. (He speaks out, controversially among jihadists, against suicide bombing, on the grounds that God forbids suicide; he differs from the Islamic State on a few other points as well.)...

Cerantonio explained the joy he felt when [Islamic State leader] Baghdadi was declared the caliph on June 29... "I was in a hotel [in the Philippines], and I saw the declaration on television," he told me. "And I was just amazed, and I'm like, Why am I stuck here in this bloody room?"...

The caliphate, Cerantonio told me, is not just a political entity but also a vehicle for salvation.... Cerantonio nodded gravely. "I would go so far as to say that Islam has been reestablished" by the caliphate.

And Wood offers some small hope:

Properly contained, the Islamic State is likely to be its own undoing. No country is its ally, and its ideology ensures that this will remain the case. The land it controls, while expansive, is mostly uninhabited and poor. As it stagnates or slowly shrinks, its claim that it is the engine of God's will and the agent of apocalypse will weaken, and fewer believers will arrive. And as more reports of misery within it leak out, radical Islamist movements elsewhere will be discredited: No one has tried harder to implement strict Sharia by violence. This is what it looks like.

Even so, the death of the Islamic State is unlikely to be quick, and things could still go badly wrong: if the Islamic State obtained the allegiance of Al Qaeda—increasing, in one swoop, the unity of its base—it could wax into a worse foe than we've yet seen.

(Thanks to reader Jason and many others.)

from Andrew Bolt's blog - Feb. 18, 2015

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COALS OF FIRE FROM THE FROZEN NORTH

By Eric Chapman, missionary to Lithuania

Why Should We Want to Know What We're Doing Wrong?

There is a pervasive perverseness in our hearts. Sometimes we don't want to know what we're doing wrong since we know that then we'll have to change. We think if we're ignorant that we're better off. Another subtle lie from the father of lies, the devil! We aren't thinking of the ramifications of sin – any sin. Fact is that even if we don't know what sins we're committing, all of them without exception will cause bad consequences.

My flesh hates reproof! Does yours, too?

I find it very hard to humble myself and honestly listen to reproof to find out what I'm doing wrong (it may or may not be what I'm being reproofed for.) Nonetheless, I resist.

Bad news!

That's a temptation of the devil so that I and others can experience more bad results from sin.

When I fully want God's will, not my own, I want to avoid all sin, not just the public or culturally unacceptable ones.

The wages of sin is death. The wages of any sin is death. The wages of all sins is death. And all sins have bad consequences in this life.

When David wrote the following passage he wasn't asking God to exert effort and discover for himself something previously unknown to Him. No! David was asking God to reveal it to him so He could stop it and do right.

That's a man after God's heart.

Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if *there be any* wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting. (Ps 139:23-24)

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NOTABLE QUOTES AND QUOTABLE NOTES

- Spoken of a modernist preacher - "You take a few pretty stories. You mix them well with some moral platitudes. You put in a dash of good will and 'loving one's neighbour.' You sprinkle it with church and kingdom. You stir it up well with the United Nations. You add salvation to taste. Then you put it on ice and serve it cold." ~ quoted by *Ian Paisley* from an unnamed author
- "I am not bound to win, but I am bound to be true. I am not bound to succeed, but I am bound to live by the light that I have. I must stand with anybody that stands right, and stand with him while he is right, and part with him when he goes wrong." ~ *Abraham Lincoln*
- **Situation Wanted:**
Will keep your children occupied for you. I guarantee they will learn what I can teach them. I will teach them how to drink alcohol, smoke pot, shoot up drugs, dance, murder, rob and commit adultery. I will even keep them up late on Saturday nights so they won't feel like going to Sunday School or church on Sunday mornings. And at no extra cost I will offer them exciting things to entertain them on Sunday night to keep them home. Yes, I desire to babysit your child...you don't know me...but I already live with you... ~ *Mr. TV*



- "Angels—like all other intelligent creatures---were designed to render worship to God, not to receive worship themselves... ~ *John M.*
- "There are 256 names given in the Bible for the Lord Jesus Christ, and I suppose this was because He was infinitely beyond all that any one name could express." ~ *Billy Sunday*
- "God's ways are behind the scenes, but He moves all the scenes which He is behind." ~ *John Darby*
- "If Jesus Christ be God and died for me, then no sacrifice can be too great for me to make for Him." ~ *C.T. Studd*
- The swords are drawn all the way to Heaven ~ *Amy Carmichael*

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(Elizabeth Lane's books, **My Uncle Charlie** and **Mad As Rabbits**, have many delightful descriptions of life in rural Victoria when she was a child. Reading them recently reminded me of so many memories of my own childhood and the myriad delights of growing up without so many gadgets. I wonder if readers of Heads Up would care to submit for publication their own memories? Here are a few of Elizabeth Lane's childhood delights. - Ed)

"We were a happy mob, delightfully happy, in a contented, grateful kind of way. As for me, I sometimes loved being alone, and spent hours wandering around the farm just marvelling at things: how a calf sometimes came to be born with the same markings as its mother; why certain clouds predicted winds, others rain, and others fine weather; how a ewe always knew her own lamb in the midst of dozens of others just by smelling it. Things like that fascinated me.

There was so much for me to think about, and so many things that filled me with a delight so intense that it amounted to almost emotional rapture, (like) rubbing my cheek against the smooth leather of a well-worn saddle; lying on my back, one eye closed, looking at a tiny circle of sky through a straw; pressing my ear as close as possible to the earth to hear sounds that didn't make a noise; and at dusk, after the men had been shearing, wandering through the shed where they had been

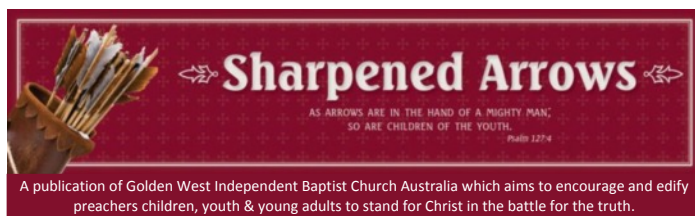
working, breathing the warm, heavy smell of wool intermingled with the clean, fresh tang of tar."

"We (my sister Ann and I) loved lying there in the dark listening to the plopping and splashing of the big fat raindrops finding their way into the various basins and dishes placed around our rooms. Each basin and each dish gave off a different plink or plash, and we thrilled to the sound of drops that plopped on the waterproof coats spread over our beds with a dull thud before dissolving into little rivers, the course of which we could control, just by moving our feet or knees this way or that. We had to be careful not to step in the many dishes and basins spread all through the house to catch the drops as they came splashing through the roof.

For us, those nights were full of unusual sounds and music. The steady trickling or sudden gushing of water in our one big galvanized tank, the easing and groaning of our old house settling under its burden of rain, and the kitchen floorboards talking to themselves in the dark made our bed seem ever so comfortable, ever so cozy.

Summer nights, too, had their pleasures. Then Ann and I loved to wiggle ourselves into a position where we could each see, through a hole in the roof, a star twinkling at us from the velvety sky overhead. It wouldn't matter how mad we were with our teacher, our brothers and sisters, or our schoolmates, a few minutes of star-gazing and wondering about the magnitude of things beyond our understanding would quickly dispel any crankiness we may have been hugging to our hurt little singlets for hours past."

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**I WONDER WHY? - HARDLY ANYONE
KNOWS WHO THE BEATLES' GEORGE
HARRISON WAS REFERRING TO IN HIS 1970
SONG, MY SWEET LORD?**

What the song is all about –

"Everybody is looking for KRISHNA.
Some don't realize that they are, but they
are.

KRISHNA is GOD, the Source of all that
exists, the Cause of all that is, was, or
ever will be.

As GOD is unlimited HE has many Names.

Allah-Buddha-Jehova-Rama: All are KRISHNA, all are ONE.

God is not abstract; He has both the impersonal and the
personal aspects to His personality which is SUPREME,
ETERNAL, BLISSFUL, and full of KNOWLEDGE.

As a single drop of water has the same qualities as an
ocean of water, so has our consciousness the qualities of
GOD'S consciousness... but through our identification and
attachment with material energy (physical body, sense
pleasures, material possessions, ego, etc.) our true
TRANSCENDENTAL CONSCIOUSNESS has been polluted,
and like a dirty mirror it is unable to reflect a pure image.

With many lives our association with the TEMPORARY has
grown. This impermanent body, a bag of bones and flesh,
is mistaken for our true self, and we have accepted this
temporary condition to be final.

Through all ages, great SAINTS have remained as living
proof that this non-temporary, permanent state of GOD
CONSCIOUSNESS can be revived in all living Souls. Each
soul is potentially divine. Krsna says in Bhagavad Gita:
"Steady in the Self, being freed from all material
contamination, the yogi achieves the highest perfectional
stage of happiness in touch with the Supreme
Consciousness." (VI,28)

YOGA (a scientific method for GOD (SELF) realization) is
the process by which we purify our consciousness, stop
further pollution, and arrive at the state of Perfection, full
KNOWLEDGE, full BLISS.



If there's a God, I want to see Him. It's pointless to believe
in something without proof, and Krishna Consciousness
and meditation are methods where you can actually
obtain GOD preception.

You can actually see God, and Hear Him, play with Him. It
might sound crazy, but He is actually there, actually with
you.

There are many yogic Paths--Raja, Jnana, Hatha, Kriya,
Karma, Bhakti--which are all acclaimed by the MASTERS of
each method.

SWAMI BHAKTIVEDANTA is as his title says, a BHAKTI Yogi
following the path of DEVOTION. By serving GOD through
each thought, word, and DEED, and by chanting HIS Holy
Names, the devotee quickly develops God-consciousness.
By chanting

**Hare Krishna, Hare Krishna
Krishna Krishna, Hare Hare
Hare Rama, Hare Rama**

I request that you take advantage of this book KRSNA,
and enter into its understanding.

I also request that you make an appointment to meet
your God now, through the self liberating process of
YOGA (UNION) and GIVE PEACE A CHANCE. ~ *George
Harrison*

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**"Know therefore this day, and consider it in thine heart, that the LORD he is God in
heaven above, and upon the earth beneath: there is none else" (Deuteronomy 4:39).**

THERAPY FOR THE FUNNY BONE -

- I just read that the reason they did not arrest any LOOTERS in Ferguson, Missouri is because the Justice Department reclassified them. They are not LOOTERS anymore They are now 'UNDOCUMENTED SHOPPERS.' By the way, the following items were **NOT** stolen by the undocumented shoppers in Ferguson: pens, pencils, resume' kits, work boots, work gloves, work coveralls, Father's day cards.
- Be careful about reading health books. You may die of a misprint. - Mark Twain
- For Sale - When we decided to sell our house, we nailed "FOR SALE BY OWNER" signs on trees in our front yard. A day or two later the doorbell rang. A young man in a greenies' T-shirt pointed to the signs and asked, "How much you asking for the trees?"
- The FBI has just released its new facial recognition software to its agents. It will archive the faces of millions of Americans every day. This groundbreaking, amazing new software is called Facebook.
- Seven wheelchair athletes have been banned from the Paralympics. They tested positive for WD40 and RP7 both.
- A Post Office employee whose job was to process all the mail that had illegible addresses had a letter come across his desk addressed in a shaky handwriting to God and with no actual address. He finally decided he should open it to see what it was about.

The letter read

"Dear God,

I am an 83 year old widow, living on a very small pension. Yesterday someone stole my purse. It had \$100 in it, which was all the money I had until my next pension payment. Next Sunday is Christmas, and I have invited two of my friends over for dinner. Without that money, I have nothing to buy food with, have no family to turn to, you are my only hope... Can you please help me?

Sincerely, Edna"

The postal worker was touched. He showed the letter to all the other workers. Each one dug in his wallet and came up with a few dollars. By the time he made

the rounds, he had collected \$96, which they put into an envelope and sent to the woman.

The rest of the day, all the workers felt a warm glow thinking of Edna and the dinner she would be able to share with her friends.

Christmas came and went.

A few days later, another letter came from the same old lady. All the workers gathered around while the letter was opened.

It read:

*"Dear God,
How can I ever thank you enough for what you did for me? Because of your gift, I was able to fix a glorious dinner for my friends. We had a very nice day and I told my friends of your wonderful gift. By the way, there was \$4 missing.*

I think it might have been those thieving rascals at the post office.

Sincerely, Edna"

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HEY! LOOK UP FROM YOUR SCREEN!



The failure to notice something extraordinary right in front of us while we are distracted is known in the psychological world as selective attention, and in a sense can be credited to our ability to focus. The problem comes when we fail to notice huge chunks of our day because we were playing Candy Crush. This could have been any one of us. For all you know, you probably missed something really exciting while you were reading this article. Source: [ABC ~ Eric Smith](#)

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THE AFFORDABLE PLUMBING ACT -

Only weeks after leaving office on January 20, 2017, former president Obama discovers a leak under his sink, so he calls Joe the Plumber to come out and fix it. Joe drives to Obama's new house, located in a very exclusive, gated community near Chicago where all the residents have a net income of more than \$250,000 per year.

Joe arrives and takes his tools into the house. Joe is led to the guest bathroom that contains the leaky pipe under the sink. Joe assesses the problem and tells Obama that it's an easy repair that will take less than 10 minutes. Obama asks Joe how much it will cost. Joe checks his rate chart and says, "\$9,500."

"What?! \$9,500?" Obama asks, stunned, But you said it's an easy repair Michelle will whip me if I pay a plumber that much!"

Joe says, "Yes, but what I do is charge those who make \$250,000 per year a much higher amount so I can fix the plumbing of poorer people for free," explains Joe. "This has always been my philosophy. As a matter of fact, I lobbied the Democrat Congress, who passed this philosophy into law. Now all plumbers must do business this way. It's known as 'Affordable Plumbing Act of 2014'. I'm surprised you haven't heard of it."

In spite of that, Obama tells Joe there's no way he's paying that much for a small plumbing repair, so Joe leaves. Obama spends the next hour flipping through the phone book calling for another plumber, but he finds that all other plumbing businesses in the area have gone out of business. Not wanting to pay Joe's price, Obama does nothing and the leak goes unrepaired for several more days. A week later the leak is so bad that Obama has had to put a bucket under the sink. Michelle is not happy as she has Oprah and guests arriving the next morning. The bucket fills up quickly and has to be emptied every hour and there's a risk that the room will flood, so Obama calls Joe and pleads with him to return.



Joe goes back to Obama's house, looks at the leaky pipe, checks his new rate chart and says, "Let's see, this will now cost you \$21,000."

Obama quickly fires back, "What! A few days ago you told me it would cost \$9,500!"

Joe explains, "Well, because of the 'Affordable Plumbing Act', a lot of wealthier people are learning how to maintain their own plumbing, so there are fewer payers into the plumbing exchanges. As a result, the price I have to charge wealthy people like you keeps rising. Not only that, but for some reason the demand for plumbing work by those who get it for free has skyrocketed! There's a long waiting list of those who need repairs but the amount we get doesn't cover our costs. This unfortunately has put a lot of my fellow plumbers out of business, they're not being replaced, and nobody is going into the plumbing business because they know they can't make any money at it. I'm hurting, too, all thanks to greedy rich people like you who won't 'pay their fair share'."

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Lifting Up The STANDARD

"WHEN THE ENEMY SHALL COME IN LIKE A FLOOD, THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD SHALL LIFT UP A STANDARD AGAINST HIM" (ISAIAH 59:19).

An Outreach Ministry of FairHavens Baptist Church
www.fairhavensbaptist.net

CHALLENGING AND ENCOURAGING GOD'S REMNANT TO REMAIN FAITHFUL

An illustration of a church building with a steeple on the right. To the left of the church, a group of silhouetted figures are gathered, with one person standing on a pile of stones or rubble, holding a flag high in the air. The background is a light yellow color.

(David Cloud, Fundamental Baptist Information Service, P.O. Box 610368, Port Huron, MI 48061, 866-295-4143, fbns@wayoflife.org)

ROBERT G. LETOURNEAU (1888-1969) was business magnate and philanthropist and an inventor who held nearly 300 patents.

Known as "the Dean of earthmoving," LeTourneau is considered "to have been the world's greatest inventor of earthmoving and materials handling equipment." LeTourneau had a natural genius for engineering. Machines designed and built by LeTourneau represented nearly 70% of the earthmoving equipment and engineering vehicles used by the Allied forces during World War II.

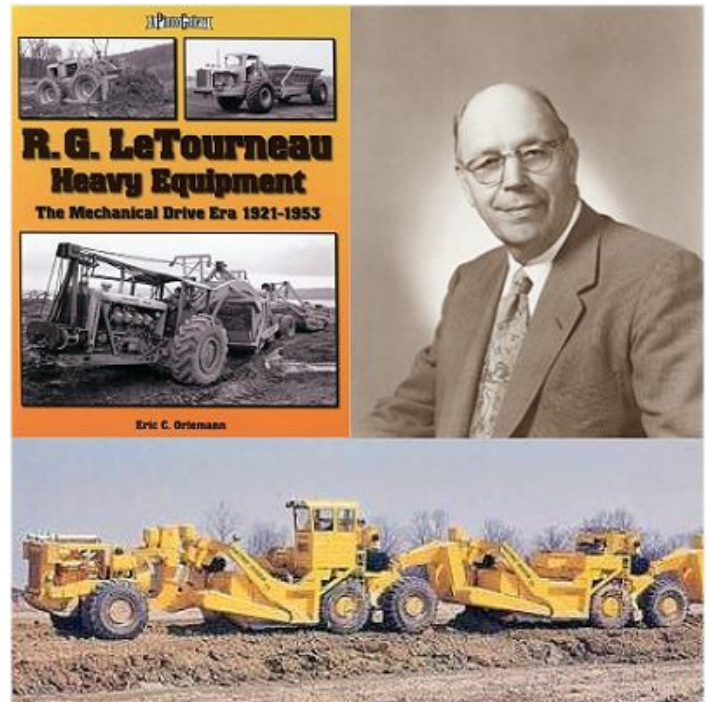
He invented the earth mover, electric wheel, tree crusher, log picker, bulldozer, airplane tow, the air crane, the two-wheeled tractor called "Tournapull," and the first mobile offshore oil platform. He developed low-pressure, heavy-duty rubber tires for heavy equipment.

In 1953, LeTourneau sold his entire earthmoving equipment line to the Westinghouse Air Brake Company. Five years later, he developed new equipment based of his electric wheel drive invention called the "wheel hub motor."

LeTourneau was a dedicated Christian and a Bible believer. When he incurred a large debt during the Great Depression, he remained true to his Christian principles.

"The surety company that had backed RG LeTourneau on the construction job that posted the \$100,000 loss was going to see to it that RG paid them back every penny owed. So on LeTourneau's next job, the surety company demanded RG work on Sundays or else they would foreclose on his business, his house, everything. Since RG's business partner was God, he gave the problem to God to solve. The owner of the surety company, Mr. Hall, boarded a train to officially shut LeTourneau down, but upon arrival to the job site the next day, something miraculous occurred. The surety man had a change of heart and allowed RG to continue.

"Although the job was completed without working on Sundays, RG was still deep in debt. He was able to buy some time with his creditors by committing to improve his financial reporting. The surety company installed an accountant named Mr. Frost to reign in the books. What Mr. Frost found was worse than he had originally expected.



"Meanwhile, RG had skipped his yearly missions pledge the year before so he was committed to making good with the Lord. He told Mr. Frost that he had pledged \$5,000 to his church for missions. Mr. Frost couldn't believe it. RG was so far behind, even thinking of donating to the Lord was out of the question. Mr. Frost didn't realize who RG was partners in business with. Unbelievably, the business managed to stay afloat and the missions commitment was paid in full that year. Then, his business hit a breakthrough" ("RG LeTourneau: Earthmoving Innovator," GiantsforGod.com).

After LeTourneau turned his attention to manufacturing earthmoving equipment and was becoming financially successful, he and his wife Evelyn determined to give 90% of their income to the Lord. LeTourneau was fond of remarking, "It's not how much of my money I give to God, but how much of God's money I keep for myself."

The LeTourneaus had a heart to reach the world with the gospel of Jesus Christ, and they had a special interest in youth people. Evelyn started Sunday Schools and youth camps.

Overcoming his fear of public speaking, LeTourneau traveled widely giving his testimony and challenging his fellow Christians to do more for the Lord.

He founded LeTourneau University, a private Christian institution in Texas, which offers degrees in engineering, aeronautical sciences, and liberal arts.

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CCM ARTIST TALKS ABOUT THE ECUMENICAL POWER OF CONTEMPORARY PRAISE MUSIC

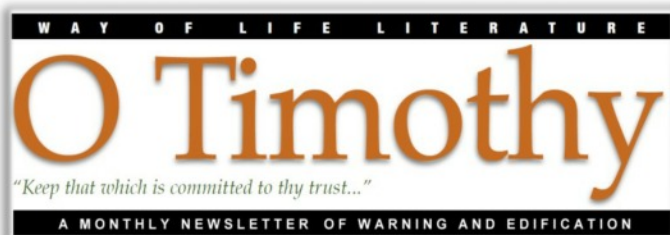
By David Cloud

(Friday Church News Notes, February 13, 2015,
www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org)

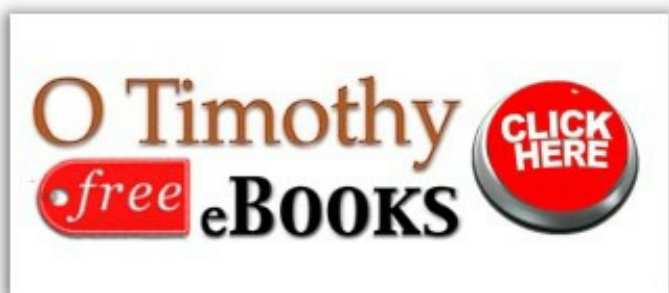
CCM artist Kari Jobe understands the ecumenical power of contemporary praise music. In an interview last year, she said: "I think that we're just in a really exciting season of seeing some denominational barriers come down. I COULD LITERALLY WALK INTO A CHURCH AND LEAD WORSHIP AND NOT KNOW WHAT DENOMINATION I WAS IN THAT NIGHT. We're doing a lot of different churches FROM ASSEMBLY OF GOD TO METHODIST TO BAPTIST" (Kari Jobe: Pioneering New Roads in Worship," FamilyChristian.com, March 20, 2014).

Contemporary musicians glory in the ecumenical power of contemporary music, whereas the Bible-believer understands that ecumenism is a loud warning sign. True Christian unity according to Scripture is unity in one mind, unity in sound doctrine, unity in truth, not a "unity in diversity." Unity in one mind is godly; unity in diversity is a devilish deception. "That ye may with ONE MIND and one mouth glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ" (Ro 15:6). "Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and *that* there be no divisions among you; but *that* ye be perfectly joined together in THE SAME MIND and in the same judgment" (1 Cor. 1:10). In *Independent Baptist Music Wars* we document the ecumenical power of CCM. This book is available in print or as a free eBook from www.wayoflife.org.

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"HOMES & CHURCHES
 that do not give clear and persistent
 warnings about rock music
IN ALL OF ITS FORMS
 should not be surprised if their
 young people are worldly
 and tend toward New Evangelical &
 emerging church thinking"



Forty years ago, we published *Mom and Dad Sleep While the Children Rock in Satan's Cradle* to exhort parents and pastors to educate and protect their young people from the great spiritual enemy of rock & roll. Since then, churches have grown strangely quiet about this danger. It must be the "frog in the pot" phenomenon.

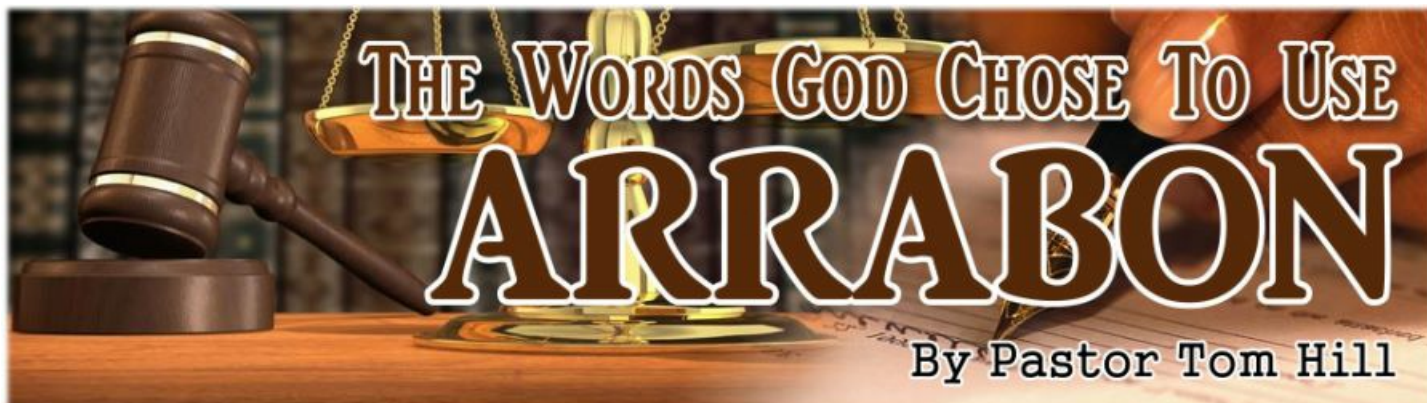
Rock permeates society, and we have grown accustomed to it, even though the music and the culture it has helped create have grown ever more wicked. Today our warning about rock is just as fervent as it was 40 years ago, though the content is updated for a new generation.

The power of rock to produce rebels and to build the one-world church has not lessened. Homes and churches that don't give clear and persistent warnings about rock music in all of its forms should not be surprised if their young people are worldly and tend toward New Evangelical and emerging church thinking.

This book lays out nine things that every Christian should know about rock music.

1. It represents a moral revolution.
2. It preaches a philosophy of narcissism and licentiousness.
3. It is permeated with blasphemy.
4. It is the music of false christs.
5. It is condemned by the Bible.
6. It is a fulfillment of Bible prophecy.
7. It is at the heart of the one-world church.
8. It is addictive.
9. The only sure protection is to avoid it.

What Christians Should Know About Rock Music



I must admit that I am a bit of a Geek. I love to tinker with computers. I had the occasion of two drives breaking down at almost the same time a few years ago on a machine I had built. I found some of the paperwork that had the guarantee written. It said that the drives were guaranteed for five years. Great. But to be able to get them repaired or replaced, I needed to find the receipt, a registration card, and the original packing. I had actually saved the original packing, but the rest of the required items were long gone. So much for that guarantee.

But there is a word that is used in the New Testament that speaks of a guarantee that is far beyond anything that a man could ever give.

This word is one of the more interesting words of the New Testament and is found only three times in the Bible. It was used only by the Apostle Paul. It is found in the following verses:

2 Corinthians 1:22 Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts.

2 Corinthians 5:5 Now He that hath wrought us for the selfsame thing is God, Who also hath given unto us the earnest of the Spirit.

Ephesians 1:14 Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of His glory.

All three times the word is translated as EARNEST. The Greek word is the word ARRABON. Thayer's defines ARRABON as "an earnest; money which in purchases is given as a pledge or down payment that the full amount will subsequently be paid." Each time ARRABON is used, it is used in the same context concerning the Holy Spirit of God.

Most are familiar with the meaning of that word in light of what is termed "earnest money" today. It was used in the secular world of Rome in the same manner. The purchaser would deposit and make a down payment

when a bargain was struck over an item or service he wanted to purchase.

It was considered to be the first installment of payment. It was the pledge. It was the guarantee that the rest of the money would follow soon. Sometimes it was called the "caution money." If the purchase was not carried out, the earnest money was forfeited.

The word was used very commonly in the secular world concerning business documents and agreements. For instance, there is an account in the papyri of a woman that was selling a cow who received an earnest of one thousand drachmae. Another instance was of an earnest that was paid to a troop of dancing girls that were hired to dance at a festival, and the rest was to be paid after their performance. There is even an instance of a man who was known as the "mouse catcher" who was given earnest money to catch mice that were pregnant. The document said that "he was to get on with the job of catching the mice while the going was good."

When the word came into use in the New Testament by Paul, Paul always uses it in conjunction with the Holy Spirit. God's gift of the Holy Spirit to us is the guarantee, the pledge, He is the advance preview of the life which we will live one day when we come into presence of God.

Think about what we have been promised. The Holy Spirit is the guarantee of the new body, and everything about our glorification in the future. We do not have to find paperwork, receipts, or documents signed and written by men to have that guarantee realized like we would for something we might buy today and it breaks tomorrow. It is all in the hands of the One to Whom we have given our very spirits.

Understand that Paul was speaking out of a Jewish background. To the Jew, the Holy Spirit was thought about in two ways in the life of a believer. First of all, it was through the Holy Spirit that God spoke to men. Often we read that about the prophets speaking because the Spirit of the Lord was upon them. Then secondly, the Holy

Spirit, dwelling in a man's heart, enabled a man to recognize God's truth when he heard it.

God's Spirit worked from the outside to bring a person to the truth. Then He would work from the inside so as to empower them to recognize truth. Thus, the Spirit revealed truth and was the standard of truth.

With that in mind, the giving to us of the earnest of the Spirit always spoke of that which would be greater than we in our mortal bodies and minds can imagine. For now, our knowledge is imperfect. Yes, we have the perfectly completed Scriptures, and the Spirit of God reveals to us that truth. But there are still things that God has not revealed to us in this finite body. One day we will no longer have imperfect knowledge.

It will be made full. Consider our joy. For now, it is essentially imperfect. But the earnest of the Spirit of God

is the pledge that we will have the perfect joy of heaven. No more will there be tears of sorrow, but the complete joy of eternity. One day we will possess the full future possession of our salvation. We have the earnest now of it.

But we do not have bodies like unto Christ's body. One day, because of the earnest, the guarantee of the Holy Spirit now, there is so much more to come. The guarantee is by God Himself.

Unlike a human earnest, there is no way that guarantee can be voided, nor can it be nullified because of time, or loss of any of the original paperwork. There are also no forfeitures of anything, meaning that once we have the earnest of the Holy Spirit, it is set forever.

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THERE AREN'T MANY LEFT, FUNDAMENTALISTS, THAT IS.
Most of them now call themselves "conservative evangelicals".

"Fundamentalism" has become almost a swear word. That's strange, isn't it, because there's nothing we like better than a doctor who knows the fundamentals of anatomy, physiology, and medicine or an accountant who knows the fundamentals of finance and investments?

I am partial to mechanics who know the fundamentals of engineering, metallurgy, heat exchange, and lubrication. I prefer pharmacists who know the fundamentals of chemistry to alchemists who mix toe of frog with eye of newt, don't you?

Just so, when I sit and listen to a Christian preacher, I want to know that he has the fundamentals of the Christian faith down pat. If he is unsure about even one foundational truth I am prone to go shopping for

someone who knows his Bible inside out and knows what he is talking about.

Fundamental Baptists are getting pretty thin on the ground. Be that as it may, there is an even greater wonder in the land.

SELECTIVE FUNDAMENTALISM IS NOW THE NORM AMONG THOSE WHO STILL CALL THEMSELVES "FUNDAMENTALISTS" -

If it were possible to gather all the Independent Baptist preachers that ever lived into one place (and keep them from fighting) long enough for them to write down their definitions of "fundamentalism", there would be at least fifty times as many definitions as there were preachers.

I like many of the older definitions of fundamentalism that I read. Good, godly men wrote them and preached them and did their best to live them.

But those days are past. We are living in a new generation, the age of the selective fundamentalist.

You won't talk long with most IB preachers these days before you perceive an eclectic spirit. (Whoa, Nelly! Run that one by us again.) The word "eclectic" was first used in the 1680s, and means, "not confined to or following any one model or system," originally in reference to ancient philosophers who selected doctrines from every system; from French *eclectique* (1650s), from Greek *eklektikos* "selective," literally "picking out," from *eklektos* "selected," from *eklegein* "pick out, select," from *ek* "out" (see *ex-*) + *legein* "gather, choose")

It means they have been picking and choosing which fundamentals are their favourites. Instead of diligently contending for "*the faith which was once delivered to the saints*" (Jude 3) the preferred option appears to be picking and choosing "what pleases me best."

One of our friends in South Texas used to take his pastor out to eat quite often. They always had to go to Luby's cafeteria where you could pick and choose from a limited menu. We've all been there, and enjoy the available options. But when I was a child, my mother didn't leave it to me to choose what I wanted to eat. If she had I would doubtless have eaten all the desert myself and left the beans and greens untouched. She chose for me, knowing what I needed and then made sure I ate the lot. I am glad she did.

So it MUST be for God's preachers. We are not to serve up for our congregations lollies and ice cream and cake. We are to "*teach them all things whatsoever the Lord has commanded us*" (Matt, 28:20). We are to "*declare unto them all the counsel of God.*"

Say, have you noticed how the word "all" has shrunk over the past decade or two. It is not only the Calvinists who preach that "all" means "some". Fundamentalists also, of every spot and stripe, now pick and choose what they think their congregations should hear.

Whatever happened to the old Ironsides that fired volley after volley from the pulpit on every text and topic?

I remember hearing preachers boldly proclaiming Bible truths that put the fear of God in our hearts and left us cowering at the altar for fear He would strike us dead that minute. Those old preachers left us with the impression that if we didn't want that kind of preaching we could go elsewhere. Soft soap and cotton candy were not marketed from those pulpits. The balm of Gilead was available, but only after a good dose of fire and brimstone!!!

Correct me if I am wrong, but for some years I have gotten the impression that many pastors preach "ear tickler" sermons. They preach what they like to hear and what their people will enjoy hearing, not what the Lord commands them to preach.

Many great theological themes, much sound doctrine goes begging and is NEVER touched because "it might offend" or drive away an unsaved visitor. Sermons on Hell, the Great White Throne, the Lake of Fire, Holiness, Abstinence from all alcoholic beverages, and a hundred more are seldom heard from our pulpits.

"Twelve Steps to Lukewarmness" and "Flirting With Wolves" would be real crowd-pleasers so that's what we hear at Lukewarm Baptist Church.

EXAMPLES OF SELECTIVE FUNDAMENTALISTS -

Have a look around and you'll discover the eclectic preachers most places:

- There's Bro. _____, who is a true fundamentalist when it comes to Creation, but very neo, almost modernist, when it comes to the Rapture.
- There's Dr. _____, who is ever so fundamental on the Great Commission, but Emergent when it comes to music.
- There's Rev. _____, who is as fundamental as you can get on evangelism, but as ecumenical as the Pope when it comes to preaching II Cor. 6:14 - 7:1.
- Then there is Pastor _____, who is as winsome as Barnabas himself, but avoids the doctrine of Eternal Punishment for sin.
- And of course, there is the Editor of the _____ paper, who is ever so sound on New Testament church planting, but a total sceptic when it comes to repentance.
- And don't neglect sister _____ who can discern error at 1000 yards, but shakes her head at the verses on loving her enemies.
- The list would be incomplete with mentioning Dr. _____ who wrote a scholarly book on Inspiration, but daily burns incense at the Westcott/Hort altar, and laughs out loud at the doctrine of Preservation.

HOW DO PASTORS LEARN TO BE SELECTIVE FUNDAMENTALISTS? -

Pastors learn eclecticism the same way Solomon did. He was a fundamentalist when it came to his Davidic lineage, rock-solid when it came to prayer, straight as a gun barrel when it came to worship, and the building of the temple, perfectly orthodox in his grasp of the love of God, and solid gold on the sovereignty of God, but he had his weak spots, bulls-eyes of vulnerability for the Devil to shoot at.

He loved and married many wives who knew not the Lord.

Nehemiah 13:26 *"Did not Solomon king of Israel sin by these things? yet among many nations was there no king like him, who was beloved of his God, and God made him king over all Israel: nevertheless even him did outlandish women cause to sin."*

I wondered for years why he would directly disobey God's word on the subject.

Deuteronomy 17:17 *"Neither shall he multiply wives to himself, that his heart turn not away: neither shall he greatly multiply to himself silver and gold."*

Deuteronomy 7:3-4 *"Neither shalt thou make marriages with them; thy daughter thou shalt not give unto his son, nor his daughter shalt thou take unto thy son. For they will turn away thy son from following me, that they may serve other gods: so will the anger of the LORD be kindled against you, and destroy thee suddenly."*

I wondered until I read **2 Chronicles 8:11**

"And Solomon brought up the daughter of Pharaoh out of the city of David unto the house that he had built for her: for he said, My wife shall not dwell in the house of David king of Israel, because the places are holy, whereunto the ark of the LORD hath come."

Then I saw that Solomon leaned unto his own understanding and rationalised that it would be permissible in this one area to be a selective fundamentalist, "My house must be holy, but for political advantage, the women I choose to marry can be pagans. I will, therefore, be a real fundamentalist when it comes to my house being set apart for God, but a selective fundamentalist when it comes to the command of God not to marry outside the faith."

And we all know what Solomon's selective fundamentalism did to him, to his family and to his nation.

WHAT ARE THE RESULTS OF SELECTIVE FUNDAMENTALISM? -

We are presently observing an awful reaping of seed sown in years gone by. In my childhood I observed IB pastors sowing weed seeds by practicing the ethics of a godless world. One pastor used church funds to buy for his family an appliance he wanted and was asked to leave the church. He moved across town and started another church, and for years concealed the fact that he owned it as a business until the tax department caught up with him.

In my teens I watched pastors happily "stealing sheep" from other pastors and cheating to win in baseball games against their own teens. In my twenties I met pastors that I later discovered to be living in adultery. (Do you see the trend here?) I saw political skullduggery in high places.

If it were not for the harmful effects (on the author) I believe that I could write a book titled *The Villains of Church History*, and populate the text with Baptists alone.

Selective fundamentalism has carried its passengers from indifferent ethics to sleazy morals to man pleasing preaching to anaemic theology to weak-kneed worship, and finally, to teetering on the brink of Emergent methodology (I would have said Emergent theology, but I'm not so sure the emergents have one.) Bro. David Cloud says he thinks most IB churches will be emergent in 10 years' time. I disagree. He is too optimistic. It will be five years for most pastors.

Selective Fundamentalism has become the default mindset for IB pastors, at least for most of us.

IS THERE A REMEDY FOR SELECTIVE FUNDAMENTALISM?

The remedy for IB eclecticism is biblicism. Biblicism is the simple commitment to all that God has revealed in His Word. I was taught in college that that is what fundamentalism is, but after half a century in Christ, I perceive that fundamentalism, as a movement and a mindset, was never totally committed to Scripture. From the first, it encompassed men of such varied beliefs that, if they would work together to fight modernism, they must adopt the approach called *Unum Necessarium*, "In Essentials Unity, In Non-essentials, Liberty, In all Things Love."

The quote is often ascribed to Zinzendorf and the Moravians, but it actually originated with Marco Antonio de Dominis (1560-1624) (and was first spoken) in 1617. He was Catholic bishop in Italy, until he sided with the Archbishop of Venice in a fight against the pope and was forced to flee for his life to England.

(For some really interesting reading on this, go to <https://theflamingheretic.wordpress.com/2011/03/25/in-essentials-unity/>)

It is doubtful if any of the early fundamentalists would have admitted to believing in *Unum Necessarium*, but nevertheless, they practiced it in their deliberations as to what was fundamental and what was not. Pedobaptists, Calvinists, Armenians, chiliasts and non-chiliasts combined with a dozen shades of discordant beliefs and joined hands in the belief that an artificial unity was better than none.

I always wonder what would have happened if a little red haired, freckle faced chap had stood up and shouted, "Men, we must be biblicists! We must preach the whole counsel of God without fear or favour!!! If any man among us is not already doing that, if any man is not hewing to the line, then he is tying one hand behind his

back, and will prove to be less than useless in the battle against modernism!!!"

A WORD OF WARNING!

When any man determines to be a simple biblicist he discovers 1) That strict denominationalists will immediately cry out for his dismissal. 2) That many whom he thought to be his closest friends will drift away to be seen no more. 3) That biblicism is not a Movement, but is the individual man's walk with God. 4) And last, he will find that there are more biblicists than he ever suspected.

Oh, one more thing. There is amazing liberty in being a biblicist!

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A fortnightly publication produced by Pastor Buddy Smith, [Grace Baptist Church](#), Malanda, QLD., 4885. Australia.

To be included to receive copies, please contact us by one of the following methods:

Post: P.O. Box 684, Malanda, Qld., 4885

Phone: 07 4096 6657

Email: smiletex@bigpond.net.au

Website: www.gracebaptistmalanda.net.au

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