



August 12, 2016

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"But the path of the just is as the shining light,
that shineth more and more unto the perfect day."

Proverbs 4:18

Heads Up!

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(The decline and fall of every religious system involves the collapse of its morality. The boundary between good and evil, once so clearly drawn, becomes blurred and indistinct.

Every time Israel forsook the law of God, their morals and values changed.
"The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play." Exodus 32:6.

Apostate Balaam sent Moabitish women with the whoredoms of their fertility cult into the tents of Israel, and drew them away from the God of their fathers.

Just so, today we see the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life invited into "evangelical churches" (if we dare call them such). Thousands of "worshippers" are entranced by sensual performances as Israel was by the prophets of Baal on Mt. Carmel.

As an "old school" pastor, I see the collapse of the morality of the churches and weep. It is no longer a secret that pastors now lead their flocks to surf the waves of pop-culture. Since the world is increasingly immoral, it has become "cool", "trendy", and "culturally relevant" for churches like Lighthouse Baptist Church in Rockhampton to use Monsters, Inc. for Sunday School lessons. Pastor

Robert Bakss's book *Worship Wars* promotes worldly music, using Star Wars movies' terminology and graphics.

Since when has Hollywood provided the values and morals for gospel preaching churches? The core values of Sci-fi films have always been high tech, rebellion, evolution, and the occult. So, how long will it be before "The Force be with you!" becomes the benediction in churches that embrace Star Wars' values?

For that matter, has anyone ever read God's description of the anti-Christ in [Daniel 11:36-38](#).

"And the king shall do according to his will; and he shall exalt himself, and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak marvellous things against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the indignation be accomplished: for that that is determined shall be done. Neither shall he regard the God of his fathers, nor the desire of women, nor regard any god: for he shall magnify himself above all. But in his estate shall he honour the God of forces: and a god whom his fathers knew not shall he honour with gold, and silver, and with precious stones, and pleasant things."

Another example is Good Shepherd Baptist Church in Brisbane. Pastor Nathan Lloyd's recent posting of a fantasy/role play video clip, casting himself as James Bond and his staff members as heroes/anti-heroes <https://vimeo.com/148054833> in a new Bond movie.

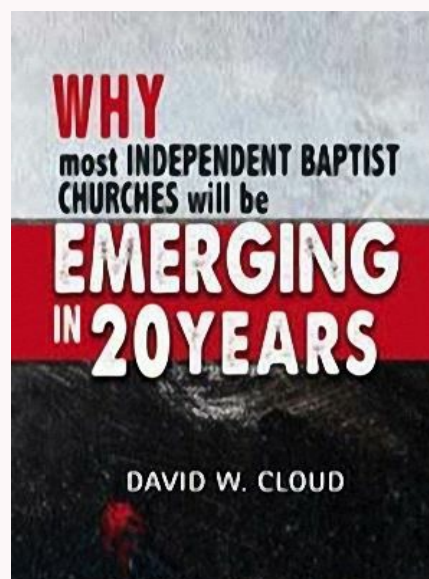
God commands us to forsake all that James Bond stands for – nudity, fornication and adultery, drunkenness, gambling, riotous living, murder, etc. Why would a pastor endorse these things by admiringly aping James Bond and casting himself in that role? Some pastors are reputed to own every Bond movie ever made.

The questions need to be asked, "Is there not a moral agenda in the making of such a video? Why does a church post a clip like this on the web? Has the pastor considered that the video is an advertisement of his church's morality? Will there be a sequel, and if there is will he add a Bond girl, and if so, which church member will she be?"

Bond movies are so much more than entertainment. So are the Star Wars movies. They are overpowering visualized sermons from an ungodly culture, a culture that is at war against our dear Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Perilous times are indeed upon the church when popular church leaders welcome the world's morality. If James Bond is not one of the "things that are in the world" then nothing else is. What more should we expect than what we now behold? I predict that we will soon read of pastors with AIDS.

Why Most Independent Baptist Churches Will Be Emerging



This book documents the collapse of separatism among fundamental Baptists and the reasons why: the maligning of warning and reproof, unquestioning loyalty to man, following the crowd, ignorance about important issues, soft separatism, lack of serious discipleship, carelessness about music, and Quick Prayerism.

Free from: [Way of Life Bookstore](#)

If we wonder how this flood tide of carnality has flooded the churches, we need only consider so many pastors' love affair with Hillsong. It began with a craving for the Multitudes like Hillsong has. Becoming enamoured of the Multitudes led them to embrace their Methods. And from there it was not far to their Music and Message and Morality. When pastors become comfortable with Hillsong's morality (and James Bond's and Star Wars' values and morals) it is never long until judgment comes from God.

Pastor, take heed when the morality of your church goes into decline! - Ed.)

HERE ARE EXAMPLES YOU MAY NOT BE AWARE OF:

Hillsong's "Sleazy Silent Night !

The following video is wrong on so many levels.

<http://www.piratechristian.com/museum-of-idolatry/2015/12/hillsongs-sleazy-silent-night>



HILLSONG WOMEN'S CONFERENCE FEATURES A NAKED COWBOY

<http://www.piratechristian.com/museum-of-idolatry/2016/5/the-naked-cowboy-appears-at-hillsong-womens-conference>

(Friday Church News Notes, June 3, 2016, www.wayoflife.org. fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) –

The following is excerpted from "Hillsong NYC," NowTheEndBegins.com, May 25, 2016:

"Hillsong United has been on a roll lately, and all of it bad. For quite a few years now, we have been reporting classic Hillsong events to you like the gay worship leader, the ultra sleazy 'Silent Night' mockery, complete with Roaring Twenties flappers in a nightclub setting, and the image of Baphomet laced into their women's conference marketing. Now they have kicked things up to a whole new 'low-vel.' In a world saturated with sex and sexual images, the Church is supposed to be the place where that is not allowed to enter. Not at Hillsong. Take a look at the following smartphone video of the closing night of the first-ever Hillsong Women's Conference in NYC. It's quite the eye-opener. ... Now where do you see Jesus in any of this slop? Answer, you don't. Look at the stage, and what do you see? A naked cowboy, scantily-dressed 'cheerleaders,' an Elvis impersonator, a bearded male Statue of Liberty, various humans wearing furry animal costumes, and for good measure they get everyone all jacked up waving the American flag and shouting 'USA! USA! USA!' ... Hillsong United and their various tentacles have made a mockery of Christianity and the Bible with worldly 'shows' like these. They should be ashamed of themselves, but sadly, they are quite proud of what they have accomplished. ... This is what passes for 'church' in our Laodicean end times 'christian' gatherings. It looks more like John Bunyan's word picture of the godless 'Vanity Fair' so well illustrated in his classic The Pilgrim's Progress."

(Some very interesting comments appeared in print following the above event - Ed.)

BRIAN HOUSTON RESPONDS TO CRITICISM OVER HILLSONG YOUTH PASTOR DRESSING AS 'NAKED COWBOY' AT NYC CHURCH EVENT 06 JUNE 2016

Hillsong Senior Pastor Brian C. Houston had responded to reports that his megachurch's youth pastor went on stage dressed up as the "Naked Cowboy" [See *Apostasy Alert* 02 June 2016] during last month's "Colour Conference" in New York City.

He wasn't naked but still it "won't happen again," he said.

"Bobbie - my wife - who was convener of the conference was clearly unaware that this was going to happen and was taken back by it," Houston wrote on his blog Friday, referring to the conference held May 6 and 7, where a Hillsong youth pastor imitated Times Square's street performer "Naked Cowboy," or Robert John Burck, who wears only cowboy boots, a hat and briefs, with a guitar placed strategically to give the illusion of nudity.

The Naked Cowboy's spokesperson Todd Rubenstein, also issued a statement, saying, "I represent Naked Cowboy and own Naked cowboy Enterprises, LLC. I am the sole administrator of the Naked Cowboy® registered trademarks. I am the only person who can provide license of use of anything associated with Naked Cowboy and Hillsong has never requested any right to use our registered trademarks or Naked Cowboy's likeness. Mr. Burck is an Ordained Minister & would NEVER attend church in the house of the Lord in his Trade Dress and is EXTREMELY offended by this activity due to his deep Christian beliefs and respect for the process of gathering in the name of Jesus Christ and in the presence of God to worship and praise the Holy Father. "

[And yet Mr. Burck has photographs of himself up on the net for all to see...he is naked and in a state of arousal he has "deep Christian beliefs"??]

"She (Bobbie) was at the dress rehearsal and there was no sign of a cowboy there," Houston wrote. "Carl and Laura Lentz (lead pastors at Hillsong NYC) were also not part of the decision. I can only guess at this point, that someone thought it would be funny and sent him out there without thinking about the ramifications."

This is pure obfuscation - no one on stage including Bobbie and the Lentz's look "taken aback" by the activities going on around them? [see article and video below].

Michael Brown, the host of daily talk radio show "The Line of Fire," criticized the *Naked Cowboy* and also said it was not proper for Hillsong to allow their youth pastor to come on stage imitating him. "A deeply devoted gospel minister would not want to show up in a church service in

his underwear any more than he would want to perform on a street corner in his underwear," Brown wrote in an op-ed in *The Christian Post*.

But the youth pastor was "wearing proper shorts, not underwear, and he had a flag draped over him - bare-chested and perhaps inappropriate, certainly unexpected and unauthorised; but not naked," Houston wrote, adding, "Some well-meaning person [?] just made a silly decision. It won't happen again."

Hughie Seaborn, a former Pentecostal who lives in Cairns, Australia, and who has followed the antics of Hillsong for decades, made the following observation upon hearing Brian Houston's claims:

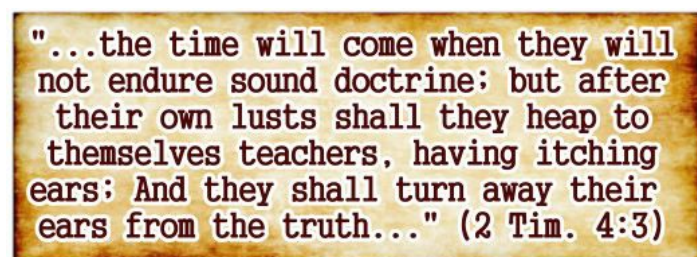
In the same way he lied about any knowledge of his father, Frank's, paedophilia, Brian is lying again. This time about Hillsong New York's leadership, including his wife Bobbie, having any knowledge of a naked cowboy appearing at the Women's Conference.

The video clip below clearly shows that the Naked Cowboy was choreographed into the performance. None of the other participants in the debacle was shocked to see a naked cowboy coming onto the stage. He didn't have to shove anybody out of their place and steal their position. The Hillsong leadership are all complicit in this diabolical event, including his kids, and his wife Bobbie, who you might remember produced a series of sexually explicit "teaching" tapes back in 2001 entitled "Kingdom Women Love Sex," which were available from Koorong "christian" Bookshop for \$21.95?

Watching this short video clip tells us a lot about the downward progression of Christendom, not just in America, but in the world, when you see a couple of thousand professing Christian women all screaming and acting like lunatics – even before any naked cowboy appears.

They all bring a reproach upon the name and the testimony of the true church.

https://videos.files.wordpress.com/yxTn6QXK/colour-conference-nyc-wave_dvd.mp4



BRIAN HOUSTON SPEAKS OUT ON DEALING WITH HILLSONG'S NASTY SECRET

February 11, 2016 Debbie Schippnews.com.au

HILLSONG Church founder and leader Brian Houston has relived the day he discovered Hillsong's nasty secret — that his father was a paedophile — and has again defended his decision not to tell police about it.

<http://www.news.com.au/entertainment/tv/brian-houston-speaks-out-on-dealing-with-hillsongs-nasty-secret/news-story/bb55a4cb18302fff871f52f1b92cba55>



NORTH POINT CHURCH/ ANDY STANLEY USES "I LOVE THE WAY YOU TURN ME ON" AS A WORSHIP HYMN

<http://www.piratechristian.com/museum-of-idolatry/2016/7/love-the-way-you-turn-me-on-north-point-community-church>



JAMES DOBSON SAYS PAULA WHITE LED DONALD TRUMP TO CHRIST (?) ~ By Samuel Smith , CP Reporter

<http://www.christianpost.com/news/james-dobson-says-paula-white-led-donald-trump-to-jesus-christ-165844/>

After making headlines last week for saying Donald Trump is a "baby Christian" who has accepted a relationship with Jesus, evangelical leader James Dobson has emphasized that even though the Republican nominee is still maturing

in his Christian walk, that is no reason to not vote for him and give Hillary Clinton the power to "run the world."

After the presumptive Republican presidential nominee met with over 900 evangelical leaders in New York City last Tuesday, Dobson, the founder of Focus on the Family and Family Talk radio, said during an interview with Pastor Michael Anthony of GodFactor.com that Trump "did accept a relationship with Christ."

The 80-year-old [Dobson](#) said during the interview that he knows the person "who led him to Christ" and he believes that Trump "really made a commitment."

After Dobson's comments were published by numerous news organizations, he released a statement on his website, [Dr. James Dobson's Family Talk](#) on Monday, in which he said he heard that televangelist Paula White had led Trump to Christ, but "Only the Lord knows the condition of a person's heart."

You Mean the Paula White Who Had That Interlude With Benny Hinn?

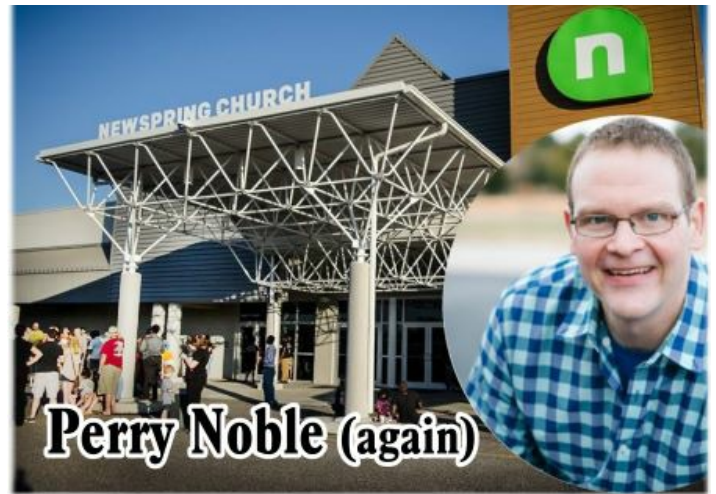
<http://www.christianpost.com/news/paula-white-breaks-silence-on-probes-divorce-benny-hinn-49671/>



PERRY NOBLE NO REGRET OVER PLAYING AC/DC 'HIGHWAY TO HELL' FOR EASTER SERVICE: "I'D DO IT AGAIN." ~ By Katherine Weber, CP Reporter

<http://www.christianpost.com/news/perry-noble-megachurch-ac-dc-highway-to-hell-easter-160107/>

Pastor Perry Noble of NewSpring Church in South Carolina says he would choose to play AC/DC's "Highway to Hell" before his Easter service again, like he did in 2009 in a controversial move, except this time he would make it better.



PERRY NOBLE FIRED FOR ALCOHOLISM, STRAINED MARRIAGE; IS UNDER PSYCHIATRIC CARE, NEWSRING CHURCH CONFIRMS ~

By Leonardo Blair , Christian Post Reporter

<http://www.christianpost.com/news/perry-noble-fired-for-alcohol-abuse-strained-marriage-is-under-psychiatric-care-newspring-church-confirms-166260/>

After a week of whispers that he had been fired, NewSpring Church, a popular megachurch in South Carolina with a weekly attendance of 30,000, confirmed Sunday that Perry Noble, the church's founding and senior pastor, has been fired for alcohol abuse and other "unfortunate choices and decisions" and is currently under psychiatric care.

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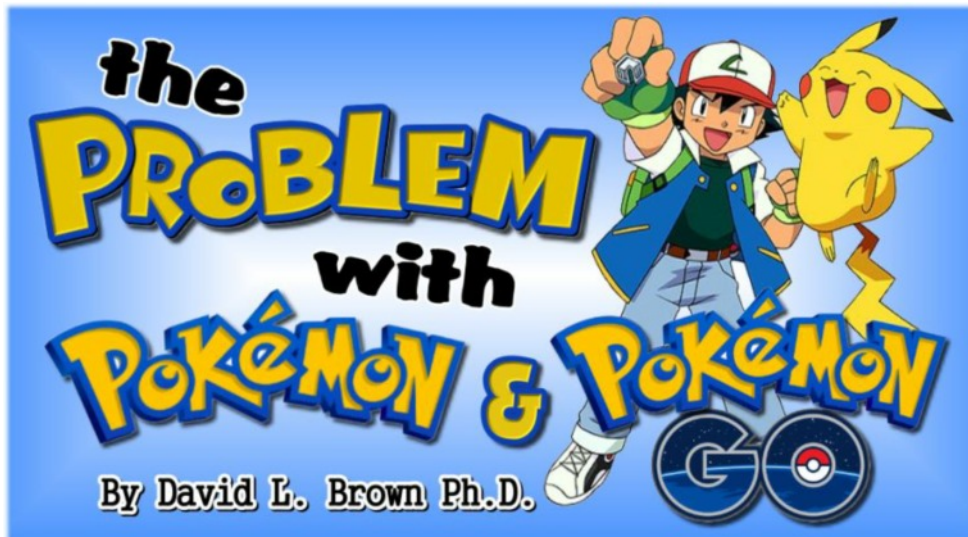
Lifting Up The STANDARD

"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 several soldiers in silhouette, lifting a flag on a pole. To the right of the soldiers is a small church building with a steeple. The entire graphic is set against a light yellow background with a black border.



When you sift it all down there are basically two world views; **A Biblical or Christian World View** and **A Satanic World View**.

What is a Biblical World View? A biblical worldview is based on the infallible Word of God. When you believe the Bible is true, then you allow it to be the foundation of everything you say and do. You seek to pattern your character after biblical character traits. A person who has a biblical world view follows the 3 biblically approved ways to seek wisdom and power. **1) Prayer -**

James 1:5 2) The Bible - 2 Tim. 3:16-17 3) Wise counsel from godly people - **Prov. 15:22; Psalms 1:1.**

HERE WE GO AGAIN WITH *POKÉMON GO*

In early July, 2016, *Pokémon GO* exploded onto the USA market! I left the church at 9:45 p.m. Saturday evening, after studying for my Sunday morning sermon. As I rode out on my Goldwing, I encounter at least 20 mostly teens, but a few adults crawling in our bushes, wandering over the grass and walking in our flower beds. I stopped the kids and said, "Hi. What in the world are you doing?" Their response was "this is a *PokeStop* and we are looking for *Pokémon*...and they are all over here".

This was my introduction to the *Augmented Reality* game, *Pokémon GO*. I had written about *Pokémon* card games, cartoons and video games way back in 1999. I had thought they had faded into obscurity. However, new life has been breathed into the old game; it has smashed all the records, surpassing Candy Crush to become the biggest US mobile game of all time.

It is all good right? NO!!! There are DANGERS with *Pokémon* and *Pokémon GO* you should know about...

- **First**, there are **PHYSICAL DANGERS**.
- **Second**, there are **LEGAL DANGERS**.
- **Third**, there are **PSYCHOLOGICAL DANGERS**.
- **Fourth**, there are **SPIRITUAL DANGERS**.

We will examine these and other things in this booklet.

HOW DO YOU DETERMINE WHAT IS RIGHT & WHAT IS NOT RIGHT?

What is your worldview? A worldview is the framework of ideas and beliefs through which an individual or group views reality and interacts with the world around him. A personal worldview is a combination of all you believe to be true, and what you believe becomes the driving force behind every emotion, decision and action.

What is a Satanic World View? The Devil is called "the God of this world" in **2 Corinthians 4:4**. Those who have this world view do NOT seek wisdom from above. Their wisdom is a corrupt wisdom which is **earthly** (it leaves the God of the Bible out), **sensual** (appeals to our base, sinful desires) and **devilish** (demonic) **James 3:15**. In the *Pokémon* games, aspects of an occult belief system are present, biblical character traits are not evident, the philosophy that is promoted is contrary to the Bible and the power of the *Pokémon* is occult power.

Here is the problem. Most people who would say they have a Biblical/Christian Worldview do not even know what that involves. The Barna Research Group did a nationwide survey and determined that only 4% of Americans really has a "biblical" worldview. Barna said, "Although most people own a Bible and know some of its content, our research found that most Americans have little idea how to integrate core biblical principles to form a unified and meaningful response to the challenges and opportunities of life."

Here is a list of questions that will assist you in determining if what you want to do is compatible with a Biblical/Christian Worldview.

1. **What belief system or doctrine(s) are evident or being advocated?** Is it Christian belief system or is it contrary to the teachings of the Bible. If contrary to the Bible, it must be rejected. (**1 Tim 4:1**).
2. **What philosophies and values are evident or being advocated?** Humanism, hedonism, Evolution, etc. (**Col. 2:3**)
3. **What is the origin of the power that energizes?** Is it the triune God of the Bible or from another source? (**Psalm 62:11**)

4. Are there psychic, occult, satanic, New Age symbols incorporated? (Eph. 5:11)
5. Are your thoughts, imaginations steered in a wholesome or unwholesome direction? (Proverbs 6:18; 2 Cor. 10:5; Prov. 4:23)
6. Does it glorify violence or evil? (Psa. 11:5; Rom. 12:9)
7. Does it depict immorality and arouse lustful desires? (Psa. 101:3)
8. Does it draw you closer to God and build Godly Character? (Psa.1)

Allow me to sum it up with one short verse - 1

Corinthians 10:31 "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God."

My intention is to draw your attention to the biblical problems with the old game that has been given new life with the arrival of **Pokémon GO**.

Pokémon GO becomes global craze as game overtakes Twitter for US users! In fact, it is the BIGGEST mobile game in US History and it might come as a surprise to you that the main players are 25 to 34 year olds, though there are a multitude of young players as well. **Pokémon GO** moves into the age of **augmented reality** using an app on your smartphone.

What is **augmented reality**? It is a technology that superimposes a computer-generated image on a user's view of the real world, thus providing a composite view. In **Pokémon GO** it uses your smart phone camera to show you the real world and then superimposes a **Pokémon** character on the screen. Below is an example. You see Arlington Cemetery with **Bellsprout** superimposed. A sign, 20 feet away advises visitors that Arlington National Cemetery is "hallowed grounds" and "our nation's shrine" and as such, people are to conduct themselves with "dignity at all times."

They are having the same problem with **Pokémon** players at the Holocaust Memorial. In a statement, communications director for the Holocaust museum Andrew Hollinger said playing the game inside a memorial to victims of the Nazi regime was "extremely inappropriate".

A cemetery and a Holocaust Memorial are a place to show respect for the dead! It is NOT an appropriate place to run around laughing, running over graves hunting for **Pokémon** characters!

An article in the online edition of the July 12, 2016 **theguardian** fills us in on some of the details. **Pokémon GO** takes "gamers out of the living room and on to the streets as they compete to capture, train and battle



Pokémon characters using their mobile phones." The goal is the same as the card game and video game; players battle and capture the "**pocket monsters**" in a quest to become the greatest **Pokémon** trainers. However, unlike the earlier video and card games, "players move around the real world looking for **Pokémon** to capture."

Quoting the article again - "When the app is opened, it shows a map of the area around the player, with various points of interest marked – statues, clock towers and so on." Players must physically walk up to one of the points, referred to in the game as a **Pokéstop**, then tap an icon on screen and you are rewarded with items and experience points.

In addition, a **Pokémon** creature can appear anywhere at any time. If you have been led to a church, a creature may appear in clerical garb. If you are near a graveyard, a ghostly **Pokémon** may appear, etc. If you see the creature and tap on it, a mini game starts, and of course the goal is to catch the **Pokémon**.

The History of **Pokémon**

With the REVIVAL of this occult game, I want to share with you the original research I did when the game first hit the market.

The name **Pokémon** is derived from **pocket monster**. **Pokémon** has entertained Japanese youth since 1995. While it is rare for a Japanese cultural phenomena to be duplicated in the Western world, **Pokémon** has proved to be the exception. **Pokémon** has moved into the United States "BIG TIME" and captured the minds of elementary aged children all over this country. **Pokémon** is everywhere...Nintendo video games, cartoon shows on television, a movie, comic books, toys, clothing, VHS videos, DVD's, and the wildly popular collector card game.

The **Pokémon** "virus" has infected virtually every media outlet imaginable, and by plan, the "virus" has become an epidemic among elementary aged children causing them to crave and beg for more **Pokémon** paraphernalia.

Countless elementary aged children are obsessed with *Pokémon*.

Measuring *Pokémon* by the Bible

Without apology, I acknowledge that I am writing this pamphlet from a biblical perspective. And, I believe there is a battle going on for the minds of our children and grandchildren. In fact, Satan and his diabolical hordes want to corrupt the minds of children and adults as well!

One of the problems is that Satan is getting the upper hand because Christians are oblivious to the tactics the adversary is using to pollute the minds of men, women, boys and girls. While many Christian adults would catch blatant demonic doctrines, the truth is, Satan seldom mounts a direct assault. Rather, he, through his human helpers, uses subtle, clandestine and deceptive methods to advance his evil doctrines.

So, how can we detect these deceptive methods and evil doctrines? How can we protect our children and ourselves? The Bible says, "Prove all things; hold fast that which is good." **1 Thess. 5:21**. The Bible says, "Whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God" **1 Corinthians 10:31**. The Bible says, "...Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good." **Romans 12:9**.

Therefore, we must measure *Pokémon* paraphernalia by the principles of the Bible to determine if it is acceptable. I will set out the facts.

- **What values, beliefs, and philosophies does the game promote?**

From 1998 to 2003 *Wizards of the Coast* translated from Japanese and distributed *Pokémon* Trading Cards. Here is an exact quote right from the Web page of the producer - "The *Pokémon* Trading Card Game is a new collectable Card Game that is made and distributed by *Wizards of the Coast*. The same company that made the best-selling game ... Magic: The Gathering." *Magic: The Gathering* is a heavily occult laced trading card game very popular in the 1990's. I have a research report titled *Beware of Magic: The Gathering* that can be viewed on the Logos Web page at - <http://logosresourcepages.org/Occult/magic-g.htm>

Oh yes, I should mention that *Wizards of the Coast* also owns TSR, the producers of all the *Dungeons & Dragons* materials. When I discovered who owned the American *Pokémon* Trading Card Game rights, I knew the game was not just an innocent card game for elementary school children. However on October 1, 2003, *Wizards of the Coast's* license to translate and distribute *Pokémon* Trading Card Game was transferred to *The Pokémon Company International* by *Nintendo*.

The Origin of the *Pokémon* Characters

What is the origin of the *Pokémon* characters? The characters are based on Japanese occult mythological *Kami* characters. The creatures inhabit trees, rivers, and rocks, similar to the ancient Greeks, Norse or Celtic myths that described a world teeming with fairies and elves. Here is the technical definition of *Kami* -

Kami [ká⁺mì]) are the spirits or phenomena that are worshipped in the religion of Shinto. They are elements in nature, animals, creationary forces in the universe, as well as spirits of the revered deceased.

For more on Shintoism see - (www.gotquestions.org/Shintoism.html).

"When you take the ancient myths that gave us fantastic animals such as centaurs and unicorns and place them within the animistic worldview of Shintoism, you start to see why the Eastern world of *Pokémon* feels both strange and familiar." Clearly, *Pokémon* does NOT reflect a Biblical World View! It is rooted in the occult teaching of Shintoism.

(<https://blogs.thegospelcoalition.org/trevinwax/2016/07/13/pokemon-go-in-a-fractured-and-flattened-world>)

If that is not alarming enough for you, allow me to share with you the testimony of a missionary working in the Amazon region with the Yanomamö tribe. Bautista was an ex-witchdoctor. He accepted the gospel of Jesus Christ.

The missionary got a letter from one of his supporting churches saying that there was a discussion going on in church and the church was divided about *Pokémon*. A book was sent with all the *Pokémon* characters asking if the missionary would have Bautista look at it and see what he thought about the characters. One day Bautista came by the missionary's house. Here is the account in the missionary's own words...

Keila remembered the book and ran upstairs to get it. She handed the book to me. Opening the book at random, showing him a picture I asked. "What do you think of this?" He looked at it, and said, "Oh, I know this one." He suddenly had my attention!

He went on, "Oh, this is a nasty little demon. It is always underfoot, bites, scratches, screeches and what not." I looked at the page, and on the list of attributes, it said, "bites, scratches, screeches, claws..." and I forget what else, but it was as if Bautista was reading the page, and he does not read or speak one word of English. So he made a believer out of me. I figured that the first one could have been

just a lucky guess, so I flipped the page to another picture and asked him about that one, again, he told me exactly what its attributes were. He did that over and over. There were some he did not recognize, and he said. "There are so many demons, it is impossible for any one person to know them all."

You can read the entire article at: <http://amazonaswayamou.com/2011/09/spiritual-insight/>

If you had any doubt about which worldview **Pokémon** promotes, this should make up your mind for you.

Some of the Characters

Next, I looked into a few of characters in the **Pokémon** video games, comics, cartoons, movies, and now **Pokémon GO**. What kind of values do they have? **Ash Ketchum** (a boy) is one of the main characters. He is described as "an energetic and determined 10-year-old...a little too competitive." He is obsessed with catching all **Pokémon** and driven "to become the world's foremost **Pokémon** Master." Oh yes, you can be sure that the **Pokémon** Rap song and mantra will be included in the materials -

"I will travel across the land / Searching far and wide. / Each Pokmon to understand / The power that's inside. / Gotta catch them all!"

The last line of the **Pokémon** mantra, "Gotta catch them all!" is used over and over again in **Pokémon** paraphernalia because it fuels the craving for more cards, games, toys, gadgets, and comic books.

Look at another character, Ash's companion **Misty**. She is described as "headstrong and stubborn, constantly quibbling with Ash...and seems to harbor deeper feelings for Ash."

Then there is the third member of the trio **Brock** who is "by far the most hormonal. Brock's fascination with the opposite sex many times gets him or the group into trouble, although he's yet to have anything resembling a score."

Now take a look at **Pokémon** trainer **Gary**. He is "a real jerk...self-centered, vindictive and obnoxious. Then there are **Jessie & James**. Here is how they are described – "Prepare for trouble, make it double.... Jessie, James...are a mysterious and evil gang looking to steal rare **Pokémon**. Jessie and James are stuck up, fashion conscious, and prone to cross-dressing."

Headstrong, stubborn, quibbling, self-centered, vindictive, obnoxious, hormonal, sexually preoccupied, evil, thieving,

cross-dressing jerks are most definitely not biblical role models! These characters do not portray biblical values. **Pokémon** does not measure up!

- Are supernatural powers portrayed, and if so, what is the source or origin of those powers? Are occult, New Age characteristics or symbols included?

Pokémon has supernatural powers. There are **telekinetic** powers used by some of the characters. **Telekinesis** is the occult power to move objects at some distance by nonphysical, spiritual (occult) means. Further "Some **Pokémon** grow, or evolve." This is facilitated by the "Energy cards" that "make your **Pokémon** bigger and more powerful." And what is the source of this power? It is the pantheistic power of the occult, not the supernatural power of God. I have found two cards that make this very clear (there are likely more). They are **Abra** and **Kadabra**. Yes, these are their actual names. "Abrakadabra" (or abracadabra) has been a word long associated with occult magic.

Webster's dictionary defines it this way - 1) a word supposed to have magic powers and hence used in incantations, on amulets, etc. 2) a magic spell or formula. It is no accident that the two **Pokémon** called **Abra** and **Kadabra** are psychic cards with magical powers.

On the **Abra** card we read "Using its ability to read minds, it will identify impending danger and teleport to safety." Then there are the occult symbols on **Kadabra**. He has a pentagram on his forehead, SSS on his chest and he is giving the Satanic salute with his left hand. All of the above have strong occult significance. It is clear from the Bible (**Deuteronomy 18:10-12**) that we are neither to participate in nor associate with activities related to the occult.

Some of the readers will no doubt protest, "it's only a game!" To be sure it is a game, but a game that does not glorify God! When God says something is wrong, it is wrong regardless of what form it is in. Not only that, but many of the kids who play this game are seduced into believing the principles that the game subtly teaches. Here is but one example. In the booklet that comes with **Pokémon**, note what is stated – "Welcome to the world of **Pokémon**, a special place where people just like you train to become the number-one **Pokémon** Master in the World! But what is a **Pokémon**, you ask. **Pokémon** are incredible creatures that share the world with humans," says Professor Oak, the leading authority on these monsters. There are currently 150 documented species of **Pokémon** (this was in 1999). In 2016 there are 729.

You can see the list at – https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Pok%C3%A9mon.

Each **Pokémon** has its own special fighting abilities. . . . Some grow, or evolve, into even more powerful creatures.... *"Carry your **Pokémon** with you, and you're ready for anything! You've got the power in your hands, so use it!"*

Listen, kids are carrying around their **Pokémon** like a magic talisman. Author and researcher Berit Kjos tells of a mom who overheard two boys discussing their little pocket monsters. As the conversation developed one boy said, "I'll just use my psychic powers." It was clear that the so called fantasy world of **Pokémon** had already conditioned these boys' thinking to be receptive to a key occult doctrine - psychic powers!

Pokémon promotes occult values, not biblical values and therefore should be rejected!

- **Where are the player's thoughts and imagination being directed?**

I pointed out earlier that **Pokémon** originated in Japan. What I did not draw to your attention was that a **Pokémon** Master is a spin-off of a martial arts master in Japan. **Pokémon** Masters are the leaders of fighting schools or battling gangs that solve their problems by beating their opponents. And how do they do this? Their little booklet says, "Some attacks cause the Defending **Pokémon** to be Asleep, Confused, Paralyzed, or Poisoned."

The Bible warns us to be cautious about what we occupy our minds with (**Proverbs 4:23**). The games a child plays, the television programs he watches, and the things that he listens to have a powerful mind shaping influence over that child. Mental health professionals are finally coming to understand what the Bible has said all along – the things you let into your mind shape your thinking and your thinking directs your actions. This truth was acted out at the Columbine High School slaughter. The shooters had saturated their minds with violent video games, Gothic death music, and violent reading material. The result was on April 20, 1999, twelve students and one teacher were murdered.

Could **Pokémon** influence the children who play it? I pray that it does not happen, but I wonder how long it will be before a grade school child, tries to do what is written on the Weepingbell - Razor Leaf **Pokémon** card. It says, *"It spits out poison powder to immobilize the enemy, and then finishes the enemy with a spray of acid."* Does this line up with what the Bible has to say about how to handle our enemies in **Romans 12:14-22**? I think not! It is clear that **Pokémon** leads the player's imagination down the wrong path. The Bible says that we are to abhor that which is evil, and cleave to that which is good (**Romans**

12:9). Poisoning, paralyzing, etc. your enemies is clearly evil and no one should occupy their minds with such thoughts – game or no game. Our every thought is to be screened to be sure Christ approves of it (**2 Corinthians 10:4-5**). If it does not line up, it is to be rejected.

THE PROBLEM WITH **POKÉMON** & **POKÉMON GO**

- **First, there are PHYSICAL DANGERS.**

85% of the adults who play **Pokémon GO** play it while driving. Recently one man drove into the back of a Baltimore Police car while playing. Two men fell off a cliff in California while playing. A player was hit by a car in Bangor, Maine.

Players have been robbed at gunpoint. Child molesters are using the game to attract children they can molest. A teen was killed in an ambush as he hunted for the virtual characters. There are physical dangers when you play **Pokémon GO**.



- **Second, there are LEGAL DANGERS.**

This is an article titled '**Pokémon Go**' Prompts Numerous Warnings From Law Enforcement Agencies by Tracy Bloom and Christina Pascucci -

Activities related to "Pokemon Go" have prompted law enforcement agencies around the U.S. to issue a number of warnings about the increasingly popular smartphone game.

Some agencies have noted a rise in trespassing and other suspicious activities because of the augmented reality app, which has been downloaded on more than 1 million Apple and Android devices since its release Thursday, CNN reported.

The Goochland County Sheriff's Office in Virginia noted that deputies have located a number of people going to businesses, churches and government buildings when they are closed to look for Pokemon characters.

Those actions are considered trespassing, the department said, and potentially puts the individual at risk.

The Wyoming, Minnesota, Police Department issued a similar warning about trespassing on private property while playing the game.

"Please don't try it out at 1 AM and walk into someone's backyard to catch one. Please. Pretty please. #PokemonGo," the department tweeted.

- **Third, there are PSYCHOLOGICAL DANGERS.**

Dr. Manny Alvarez is chairman of the department of obstetrics/gynecology and reproductive science at Hackensack University Medical Center in New Jersey. He is concerned that spending so much time playing this and other video games alters children's behavior, disrupts their sleep patterns and contributes to a lack of social skills. He goes on to say this –

When I say that I am “afraid” of *Pokemon*, I am not referencing the little cartoon characters who blow fire and ice, **I am talking about the trend of creating artificial realities for people to live in.** We face many challenges in our current world with serious issues that won't be fixed unless we're a part of the solution. That being said, **we should not be “Poke-ing” around in a virtual world where we spend half of our days chasing shadows that are not actually there.**

- **Fourth, there are SPIRITUAL DANGERS.**

Clearly *Pokémon* & *Pokémon GO* DO NOT Promote A Biblical/Christian World View. I have documented its association with the occult.

Further, its subtle suggestions, images and values are manipulating the minds and feelings of the children who are into it. *Pokémon* conditions them to accept humanistic wisdom and occult spirituality.

Heavy involvement in *Pokémon* blurs the player's ability to distinguish between fantasy and reality and sears the conscience of the player as well, deadening his or her interest in biblical spirituality.

God wants his children to have a completely different focus. We are even told where our thoughts should be directed in **Philippians 4:8** *"Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things."*

God wants us to use our time wisely! Researchers tell us that *Pokémon GO* players spend from 2 to 5 hours a day playing the game.

Consider what **Ephesians 5:15-16** says, “See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, **16 Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.**”

***Pokémon* and *Pokémon GO* do not measure up! I suggest the best place for *Pokémon* paraphernalia is in the trash can and delete the app from your phone.**

Available from: Dr. David L Brown,
P.O. BOX 173,
Oak Creek, WI 53154 -
Email: PastorDavidLBrown@gmail.com

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Knowledge Shall Increase -

Self-Focusing Eyeglasses Are in Development in Israel

A new type of lens adjusts its prescription according to where the user looks

<http://www.scientificamerican.com/article/self-focusing-eyeglasses-are-in-development-in-israel/>



Tiny Hard Drive Uses Single Atoms to Store Data

By manipulating the interactions between individual atoms, scientists report they have created a device that can pack hundreds of times more information per square inch than the best currently available data-storage technologies.

<http://www.wsj.com/articles/tiny-hard-drive-uses-single-atoms-to-store-data-1468854001>

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DEACON TRUE SEZ -

Old Sam Wilkins and his wife Mabel used to be some of our most faithful church members, never missed a service. Me and Ma noticed about a year ago that they'd started laying out on Wednesday nights so I spoke to our preacher about it. He said he had been to see Sam to enquire after them. Sam told him it was just too far to drive that many times a week and gasoline had got too expensive for them to afford coming to church that often. He said they'd just pray at home.

It wasn't long before they started missing Sunday School, and then they disappeared from Sunday nights, and when we had our Revival Meetings they only came one night when the preacher had announced he would be preaching about the One World Kingdom of the Antichrist.

A while back they missed a whole month of church attendance. I rang Sam up to see if they were sick, and he said (sort of sheepishly) that they needed some "family time". I couldn't figure out what was hindering them coming when they had been so eager to join the church and were so active just a few years ago.

Well, we prayed about it, and the preacher prayed about it, and we went to visit them several times. The last time we were there I saw a book on the coffee table that worried me. It was one of those "how to get rich quick" books by a TV preacher.

I knew Sam and Mabel did their grocery shopping on a Thursday, so I started, sort of accidental-like, dropping in to the donut shop where Sam waited while Mabel took her time looking for "specials" in the grocery store, etc. He was glad to see me, and we shot the breeze for an hour most Thursdays. It took about a month, maybe six weeks before Sam laid it on me.

He said, "Deke, you're retired. How are you going for money?" "Not too bad, the Lord is keeping us fed," I said. "You didn't find the goose that laid the golden nest egg or somethin', did you?"

He took a sip of coffee, and then said, "How would you like to double your income?" I smelt a skunk, and figured I knew its name, so I raised my eyebrows and asked, "Is that what you did, for real?"

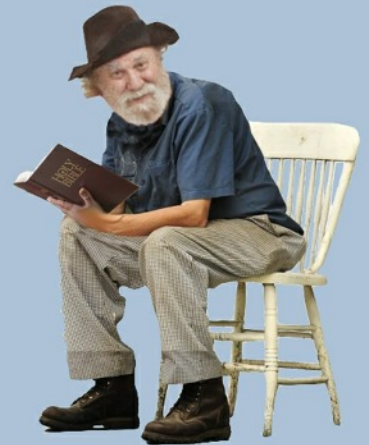
He nodded his head,
"We're working on it.
Nothing's come in yet,
but I reckon the check's
in the mail."

"That's interestin', if
you're doing it legal. Let
me know when your
ship comes in, and I'll
come down to help you
unload all that cargo, ha,
ha."

Well, that was all he said about it, but the next week he gave me a little leaflet telling how to "name it and claim it" so I'd be rich in no time. Sure enough, it was written by the same TV evangelist whose book I saw on Sam's coffee table. Our preacher warned us some time back about these shysters, Benny Hinn, Joyce Meyer, Rodney Howard Brown, John Avanzini, Creflo Dollar, Joel Osteen, and Brian Houston, and a whole prison full of crooks of the same stripe. Sam and Mabel must not have been there that Sunday.

I was drivin' home past the church and saw the preacher's car so I decided to tell him my concerns. He listened, and then said, "Pull up your chair close to the desk and have a look at this." He had his computer running to do some studying, and in a minute or two he'd pulled up a whole page of websites that belonged to the crook that wrote the book and the leaflet. Preacher Tom spent the next half hour showing me all the sales pitches this religious crook uses to fleece the Lord's sheep.

Brother Tom told me he'd seen the book, too, and was thinking that Sam had started following this crook on the internet, and that he is most likely watching his videos and buying his books. He reminded me that all of these TV/Internet preachers promise their followers the moon (plus 10%) if they will send a "seed faith" offering. We agreed that Sam probably got hooked about two years ago, and is hoping for a big windfall any day. We prayed for wisdom and I went home to talk to Ma about it and plan the attack on that crooked preacher.



The next week I told Sam I'd read the leaflet and wondered if his ship had come in yet. He shook his head and said, "No, Deke, it hasn't. It's been delayed, but I reckon it's due any day."

That was the story for a month or so, and then one day I asked him, "Sam, can I ask you a question? How much money did you send this guy?"

"Not much."

"How much is 'not much'? C'mon, Sam, tell me the truth. We're old friends, and what you tell me stays between us. How much did you give him?" Well, he told me, and I nearly fell off my chair. After a bit, I asked him, "How much did he tell you God would give you for that size donation?"

"A million and a half." Sam looked pretty sick, "We haven't received any extra money at all after sending him check after check. He's got all these testimonials on his website, from all these people, saying how they're so healthy and wealthy, and everything is going so well for them. And he wears a Rolex, drives a Rolls, and is buying a new jet, and how God has given them a resort on an island in the Caribbean to use for training folks for the ministry. He's even bought a skyscraper in LA for his new head office...."

"Sam, where do you think all the money comes from to buy all that stuff that's gonna burn someday?"

"From suckers like me, I guess."

"Look old buddy, I reckon we ought to check this dude out. Let's ring him up, and see if we can have a word with him. His number is on this leaflet."

So we did. Needless to say, he was unavailable, out on the road somewhere "preaching" (I reckon he was out on a fundraising trip).

I asked his secretary if I could speak to one of his associates about him going to see my cousin in the hospital, dying of cancer. They put me on hold and never came back. We finally hung up, and rang back to ask if they could send somebody to help our friend in prison. Same result. The third time I rang, they

recognized my voice and cut me off before I could say a word. Sam took the phone off me and rang them to offer to pay for the building of their new hospital in Bangladesh, but they saw the number and hung up on him.

He was pretty upset, until I asked him, "What do you reckon Bro. Tom would say if you asked him to go see Billy in hospital, or Richard in prison?"

"He'd go, no questions asked." He looked up at me and added, "And he wouldn't charge me a cent, would he?"

"Sam, this situation makes me think about a man who ate at a flash restaurant but then tried to walk out the door without paying. The manager stopped him and told him he'd have to pay. He objected and said the meals were too expensive. Oh, he liked the food in the fancy restaurant, but he liked the prices better in the little cafe across the street. That's like people who get fed spiritual beefsteak, good solid Bible doctrine week by week in a local church. They do have some respect for the pastor because he is faithful to the Bible, and when they have a need they ask him to visit their sick family members, and they want him to do their weddings and preach their funerals, but then they give their loyalty and offerings and time to some internet preacher they never even met. Somehow that doesn't add up, anymore than eating at the five star restaurant and paying at Barney's Cafe."

I told him, "Where we're fed is where we should stay, and pray and pay."

Sam stood up, shook my hand, looked me in the eye, and said, "We're coming back. I'm finished with internet preachers that care nothing at all for the folks they rob. Thanks, Deke, for being a true friend and brother."

He was true to his word. They were back in church last Sunday big as life, and happy as a dog with three tails.

Sure was nice to sit by Sam again, and get fed milk, meat, and bread, a real feast from God's Word. Can't beat simple Bible preachin'.

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There is a frightful lack of biblical knowledge among members of the average Independent Baptist church, in my experience. Many pastors have admitted to me that the majority of their people are not serious Bible students.

It is impossible to understand the Bible properly and grow in understanding of it effectively without training in such things as principles of interpretation, Bible history and geography, Bible culture, and theology or Bible doctrine, yet most members of Independent Baptist churches are grossly lacking in such things.

Most are like a church member I talked with recently who told me that his Bible reading is "hit and miss" and that he had no Bible dictionary, concordance, or commentary, had never learned to use such tools, and knew little to nothing about the principles of Bible interpretation.

It is typical for church members not even to look at their Bibles during the preaching. Few come to the services to obtain serious Bible education and to capture practical truth they can use in their lives and ministries.

In many Independent Baptist churches, people can attend faithfully for years without learning the Bible well. The Sunday School lessons and preaching are biblically shallow, and the people are not taught to study the Bible for themselves.

Visiting speakers tell great motivational stories but the biblical content of the preaching is weak, typically.

People don't grow strong in God's Word under such a ministry. The Bible is to be preached with reproof and exhortation, but also "with doctrine" (2 Timothy 4:2).

No wonder so many churches change direction so easily when the pastor changes. They aren't properly grounded in Scripture. They are dependent on a man rather than the Spirit of God and the Word of God. They are man-centered rather than Christ-centered.

And the problem begins with the pastors.

In the Pastoral Epistles, we see that every preacher is to be a serious Bible student. Paul taught Timothy to be nourished up in good doctrine (1 Tim. 4:6), to give attendance to reading and to doctrine (1 Tim. 4:13), to take heed unto doctrine (1 Tim. 4:16). He taught Timothy that it is the elder who labors in the word and doctrine who is worthy of double honor (1 Tim. 5:17). Too many pastors want the double honor of this verse without paying the price of laboring in the Word of God.

Paul reminded Timothy that he had been educated among many witnesses and exhorted him to pass this same biblical education along to others (2 Tim. 2:2). He exhorted him to study to show himself approved unto God, rightly dividing the word of truth (2 Timothy 2:15). He taught him to be "apt to teach," which requires much learning (2 Tim. 2:24). He taught him that the Scripture is for doctrine (2 Tim. 3:16). He taught him to preach God's Word with doctrine (2 Tim. 4:2).

Paul showed Timothy the example of having a passion for study in prison even when he was old and knew that he would soon face martyrdom (2 Tim. 4:13)!

Paul taught Timothy that the qualified pastor is a man who has "been taught" so well that he is capable of protecting the congregation from whatever error the devil throws at it (Titus 1:9-16). This requires a lot of teaching and a lot of study.

Christ instructed us not only to preach the gospel to every creature, but also to disciple the converts so thoroughly that we teach them to observe all things whatsoever He has taught us (Mat. 28:19-20). See also Acts 20:27, where Paul taught the whole counsel of God.

That refers to the complete canon of Scripture. That is a lot of Bible education. It requires the teaching of history and geography and prophecy and a thousand other things.

But I have found that the most difficult place to sell serious Bible study books and associated materials is at the average Independent Baptist preachers' meeting.

A pastor friend who has been in the ministry for many decades wrote the following to me in 2014:

"I asked a missionary what books he had read lately that were a blessing, and he replied that all he reads is a magazine on running. I fear that Independent Baptists may be the illiterati of the 20th and 21st centuries. And the present addiction to iPhones and social media only makes it worse. One missionary, who worked with Hyles years ago at Hyles Anderson, led a Bible college in Australia for some years until the pastor's son did a Schaap on some kids there and the wheels fell off. He sent out their college prospectus one year hoping to get some of our kids into the college, and I wrote him back and asked him why there was not a course on theology. I later found out that Hyles never allowed theology to be taught because he thought it would turn them into Calvinists. Some years ago I started asking preachers questions when we sat around talking or when we drove down the road. Questions on what doctrine was especially precious to them at that moment, or what book of the Bible they love the most this week, or what good book they are reading, or which one has helped them grow the most, or what authors are the most challenging to them spiritually, or what they think about this or that verse (and I pick the hardest ones to ask about). If they are driving, I take my Bible and read to them some passage I am meditating on and ask them to explain them to me. Most of them are out of their depth within ten seconds. Some stare at me with open mouth and shake their head. One told me recently that I think too much. (Think too much? You've got to be kidding! Nobody thinks about the Bible too much!)

The Presbyterian pastors I know are the most adept at discussing solid Bible doctrine. Most of the Independent Baptist pastors have never read anything

deeper than John Rice or Curtis Hutson. We had a missionary here this weekend who tells great stories, but doesn't know ANY solid Bible doctrine."

This preacher said further:

"There is abysmal ignorance concerning the doctrine of Christ, concerning the doctrines of justification, sanctification, and glorification. One of our major problems is that expository preaching is not politically correct in fundamental churches. For a pastor to preach through a book of the Bible is a rare thing. Most of the men I know don't do that because it doesn't draw big crowds and they like fireworks in the pulpit or fairy tales."

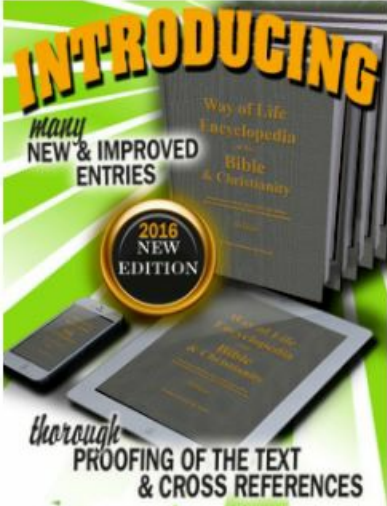
Another man commented:

"I agree about the importance of the study of Bible prophecy. Unfortunately, fundamental Baptist preachers seem very reluctant to delve into prophecy. I think it might be because most preachers have not studied much beyond the first three chapters of Revelation. I don't think I have ever heard a really solid message from an IFB preacher from the mountain of OT prophecies with momentous future fulfillment. They don't seem to know what they are missing."

A large percentage of the Independent Baptist preaching I have personally heard over the past 43 years has been motivational pabulum (baby food) with no serious exegesis of Scripture and little spiritual depth.

Churches that aren't serious Bible education institutions are building on the sand, and they won't stand for long in today's spiritual climate.

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Way of Life Encyclopedia Of The Bible & Christianity

6th Edition - Edited by David W. Cloud

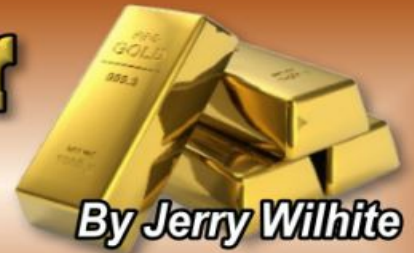
Over twenty-five years of research have gone into this one-of-a-kind reference tool. It is the only Bible encyclopedia/dictionary that is written by a Fundamental Baptist and based strictly upon the King James Bible.

Book \$29.95 Hardcover 690 pgs	HTML \$9.95 For Web Browser apps	PDF Set \$9.95 pdf set Book style, eBook
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[Click Here To Order From The Way of Life Bookstore](#)

Gold From Ophir

"Missions - Our Mission"



The Great Commission is the mission of the New Testament church. In brief, it is four-fold: Lift the Eyes, Evangelize, Baptize, and Catechize. Another way to state this is to See, Save, Submerge and School Souls. Now, the Great Commission is also emphasized throughout several books of the New Testament, especially in the Gospels, Acts and the letters to the churches and church pastors. Consider the following:

- **Matthew 28:19,20** emphasizes the procedure for the gospel
- **Mark 16:15** emphasizes people needing the gospel
- **Luke 24:47** emphasizes the preaching of the gospel
- **John 20:21** emphasizes the pattern of the gospel
- **Acts 1:8** emphasizes the plan for getting out the gospel
- **Romans 10:9-15** emphasizes the prayer of the gospel
- **1 Corinthians 9:16** emphasizes the passion of the gospel preacher
- **2 Corinthians 5:18-21** emphasizes preachers of the gospel

- **Galatians 1:8,9** emphasizes the purity of the gospel
- **Ephesians 6:11-19** emphasizes the protection for the gospel preacher
- **Philippians** emphasizes pleasure (joy) from believing the gospel
- **Colossians 2:8** emphasizes philosophies contrary to the gospel
- **1 Thessalonians 1:5** emphasizes the power of the gospel
- **2 Thessalonians 1:8,9** emphasizes the punishment from not believing the gospel
- **1 Timothy 1:15** emphasizes the purpose of the gospel
- **2 Timothy 3:15-17** emphasizes the precepts (Scripture) necessary to believe the gospel
- **Titus 2:13,14** emphasizes the product from the gospel
- **Philemon 16,17** emphasizes partners in the gospel

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Notable Quotes and Quotable Notes -

Years ago I was given a booklet which had the following quote on the evils of modern dancing, "1 Pet.4:3—'For the time past of our life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revellings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries.' Revellings comes from the Greek root word meaning 'wild jumpings,' and banquetings comes from the word meaning 'wild parties.' It is not the typical banquet such as we have in our churches where one eats a meal. What Peter is saying that salvation saves a man from the lustful pleasures he once enjoyed when his lifestyle centered around the satisfying of bodily appetites, including lusts, sex, liquor, wild parties. The wild jumpings took place similar to modern dancing where the victims shake their torsos at one another connotating sex." ~ Warren Roy. (Paul used the same word when he described the works of the flesh in **Ga 5:21** Envyings, murders, drunkenness, **revellings**, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told *you* in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. - Ed)

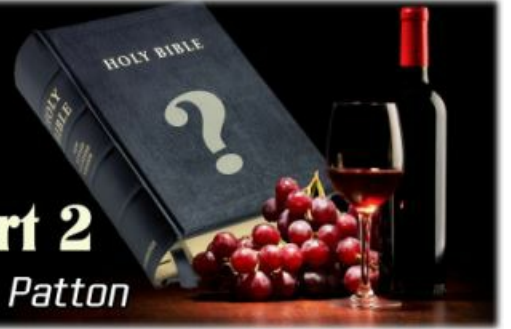
- Some people are kind, polite, and thoughtful until you sit in their pew.

- The more chances you give someone the less respect they'll start to have for you. They begin to ignore the standards that you set because they know another chance will always be given. They are not afraid to lose you because they know no matter what, you won't walk away. They get comfortable with depending on your forgiveness. Never let a person get comfortable disrespecting you. - selected and quoted by Hazel Pinero
- Opportunity may knock once, but temptation is forever banging on the front door.
- I don't know why some people change churches; What difference does it make which one they stay home from?
- We don't need to change the message. The message needs to change us.
- You can tell how great a person is by what it takes to discourage him.

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Bible Wines and the Laws of Fermentation – Part 2

By William S. Patton



(Many years ago I was given a copy of William Patton's book on Bible answers to the questions regarding Christians drinking alcohol. I was impressed with it then and am still impressed with it. The author's knowledge of ancient writers and their comments on fermented and non-fermented wine is amazing.

Pastors, missionaries, and evangelists, if your hearers are drifting into social drinking and defending it, ask them to read this book. I will publish it in parts over the next six months or so, but if you wish to read it in its entirety or reprint it you can gain access to it on the following website: <https://archive.org/details/biblewinesorlaw00pattgoog> - Ed)

DID THE ANCIENTS USE METHODS TO PRESERVE THE JUICES SWEET?

Augustine Calmet, the learned author of the Dictionary of the Bible, born 1672, says: "The ancients possessed the secret of preserving wines sweet throughout the whole year." If they were alcoholic, they would preserve themselves. The peculiarity was preserving them sweet. Chemistry tells us that the juice loses its sweetness when, by fermentation, the sugar is converted into alcohol. Preserving them sweet throughout the whole year meant preserving them unfermented.

Chemical science instructs us that by reason of the great sweetness of the juice and the heat of the climate at the vintage, the vinous fermentation would be precluded, and that, unless by some method prevented, the acetous would certainly and speedily commence. Four modes were known and practised by the ancients which modern chemical science confirms.

BOILING, OR INSPISSATING.

By this process the water is evaporated, thus leaving so large a portion of sugar as to prevent fermentation.

Herman Boerhave, born 1668, in his Elements of Chemistry, says, "By boiling, the juice of the richest grapes loses all its aptitude for fermentation, and may afterwards be preserved for years without undergoing any further change." — *Nott, London Edition*, p. 81.

Says **Liebig**, "The property of organic substances to pass into a state of decay is annihilated in all cases by heating to the boiling point." The grape-juice boils at 212°; but alcohol evaporates at 170°, which is 42° below the boiling point. So then, if any possible portion of alcohol was in the juice, this process would expel it. The obvious object of boiling the juice was to preserve it sweet and fit for use during the year.

Parkinson, in his *Theatrum Botanicum*, says: "The juice or liquor pressed out of the ripe grapes is called vinum (wine). Of it is made both sapa and defrutum, in English cute, that is to say, BOILED WINE, the latter boiled down to the half, the former to the third part." — *Bible Commentary*, 36. This testimony was written about A.D. 1640, centuries before there was any temperance agitation.

Archbishop Potter, born A.D. 1674, in his *Grecian Antiquities*, Edinburgh edition, 1813, says, vol. 2. p. 360. "The Lacedaemonians used to boil their wines upon the fire till the fifth part was consumed; then after four years were expired began to drink them." He refers to Democritus, a celebrated philosopher, who travelled over the greater part of Europe, Asia, and Africa, and who died 361 B.C., also to Palladius, a Greek physician, as making a similar statement. These ancient authorities called the boiled juice of the grape wine, and the learned archbishop brings forward their testimony without the slightest intimation that the boiled juice was not wine in the judgment of the ancients.

Aristotle, born 384 B.C., says, "The wine of Arcadia was so thick that it was necessary to scrape it from the skin bottles in which it was contained, and to dissolve the scrapings in water." — *Bible Commentary*, p. 295, and *Nott*, London Edition, p. 80.

Columella and other writers who were contemporary with the apostles inform us that "in Italy and Greece it was common to boil their wines." — *Dr. Nott*.

Some of the celebrated Opimian wine mentioned by **Pliny** had, in his day, two centuries after its production, the consistence of honey. **Professor Donovan** says, "In order to preserve their wines to these ages, the Romans

concentrated the must or grape-juice, of which they were made, by evaporation, either spontaneous in the air or over a fire, and so much so as to render them thick and syrupy.” — *Bible Commentary*, p. 295.

Horace, born 65 B.C., says “there is no wine sweeter to drink than Lesbian; that it was like nectar, and more resembled ambrosia than wine; that it was perfectly harmless, and would not produce intoxication.” — *AntiBacchus*, p. 220.

Virgil, born 70 B.C., in his *Georgic*, lib. 1 line 295, says: “Aut dulcis musti Vulcano decoquit humorem, Et foliis undam tepidi despumat aheni.”

Thus rendered by **Dr. Joseph Trapp**, of Oxford University: “Or of sweet must boils down the luscious juice, And skims with leaves the trembling caldron’s flood,” More literally translated thus by **Alexander**: “Or with the fire boils away the moisture of the sweet wine, and with leaves scums the surge of the tepid caldron.”

“The *Mishna* states that the Jews were in the habit of using boiled wine.” — *Kitto*, vol. 2. p.477.

W. G. Brown, who travelled extensively in Africa, Egypt, and Syria from A.D. 1792 to 1798, states that “the wines of Syria are most of them prepared by boiling immediately after they are expressed from the grape, till they are considerably reduced in quantity, when they were put into jars or large bottles and preserved for use. He adds, “There is reason to believe that this mode of boiling was a general practice among the ancients.”

Volney, 1788, in his *Travels in Syria*, vol. 2 chap. 29, says: “The wines are of three sorts, the red, the white, and the yellow. The white, which are the most rare, are so bitter as to be disagreeable; the two others, on the contrary, are too sweet and sugary. This arises from their being boiled, which makes them resemble the baked wines of Provence. The general custom of the country is to reduce the must to two-thirds of its quantity.” “The most esteemed is produced from the hillside of Zouk — it is too sugary.” “Such are the wines of Lebanon, so boasted by Grecian and Roman epicures.” “It is probable that the inhabitants of Lebanon have made no change in their ancient method of making wines.” — *Bacchus*, p. 374, note.

Dr. Bowring, in his report on the commerce of Syria, praises, as of excellent quality, a wine of Lebanon consumed in some of the convents of Lebanon, known by the name of vino d’or — golden wine. (Is this the yellow wine which Volney says is too sweet and sugary?) But the Doctor adds “that the habit of boiling wine is almost universal.” — *Kitto*, ii. p.956.

Caspar Neuman, M.D., Professor of Chemistry, Berlin, 1759, says: “It is observable that when sweet juices are boiled down to a thick consistence, they not only do not ferment in that state, but are not easily brought into fermentation when diluted with as much water as they had lost in the evaporation, or even with the very individual water that exhaled from them.” — *Nott*, London Ed., p. 81.

Adams’ Roman Antiquities, first published in Edinburgh, 1791, on the authority of Pliny and Virgil, says: “In order to make wine keep, they used to boil (deconquere) the must down to one half, when it was called defrutum, to one-third, sapa.”

Smith’s Greek and Roman Antiquities: “A considerable quantity of must from the best and oldest vines was inspissated by boiling, being then distinguished by the Greeks under the general name Epsuma or Gleuxis, while the Latin writers have various terms, according to the extent to which the evaporation was carried; as Carenum, one-third; defrutum, one-half; and sapa, two thirds.” **Professor Anthon**, in his *Greek and Roman Antiquities* makes the same statement.

Cyrus Redding, in his *History of Modern Wines*, says “On Mount Lebanon, at Kesroan, good wines are made but they are for the most part vins cuit (boiled wines). The wine is preserved in jars.” — *Kitto*, ii. p.956.

Dr. A. Russell, in his *Natural History of Aleppo*, considers its wine (Hebon) to have been a species of sapa. He says: “The inspissated juice of the grape, sapa vina called here dibbs, is brought to the city in skins and sold in the public markets; it has much the appearance of coarse honey, is of a sweet taste, and in great use among the people of all sorts.” — *Kitto*, ii. p.956.

Leiber, who visited Crete in 1817, says: “When the Venetians were masters of the island, great quantities of wine were produced at Rettimo and Candia, and it was made by boiling in large coppers, as I myself observed.” — *Nott*.

Mr. Robert Alsop, a minister among the Society of Friends, in a letter to Dr. F. R. Lees in 1861, says: “The syrup of grape-juice is an article of domestic manufacture in most every house in the vine districts of the south of France. It is simply the juice of the grape boiled down to the consistence of treacle.” — *Bible Commentary*, p. 34.

Rev. Dr. Eli Smith, American missionary in Syria, in the *Bibliotheca Sacra* for November, 1846, describes the methods of making wine in Mount Lebanon as numerous, but reduces them to three classes: 1. The simple juice of the grape is fermented. 2. The juice of the grape is boiled

down before fermentation. 3. The grapes are partially dried in the sun before being pressed. With characteristic candor, he states that he “had very little to do with wines all his life, and that his knowledge on the subject was very vague until he entered upon the present investigation for the purpose of writing the article.” He further as candidly confesses that the “statements contained in his article are not full in every point;” that “it was written in a country where it was very difficult to obtain authentic and exact information.” Of the vineyards, he further states that in “an unbroken space, about two miles long by half a mile wide, only a few gallons of intoxicating wine are made. The wine made is an item of no consideration; it is not the most important, but rather the least so, of all the objects for which the vine is cultivated.” He also states that “the only form in which the unfermented juice of the grape is preserved is that of dibbs, which may be called grape-molasses.” Dr. E. Smith here confirms the ancient usage of boiling the unfermented juice of the grape. The ancients called it wine; the present inhabitants call it dibbs; and Dr. E. Smith calls it grape-molasses. It is the same thing under these various designations. “A rose may smell as sweet by any other name.”

The **Rev. Henry Homes**, American missionary to Constantinople, in the *Bibliotheca Sacra* for May, 1848, gives the result of his observation. He wrote two years subsequently to Dr. Eli Smith, and has supplied what was lacking in Dr. E. Smith’s statements which were “not full on every point.” He did not rely upon information from others, but personally examined for himself, and in every case obtained exact and authentic knowledge. He says: “Simple grape-juice, without the addition of any earth to neutralize the acidity, is boiled from four to five hours, so as to reduce it ONE-FOURTH the quantity put in. After the boiling, for preserving it cool, and that it be less liable to ferment, it is put into earthen instead of wooden vessels, closely tied over with skin to exclude the air. It ordinarily has not a particle of intoxicating quality, being used freely by both Muslims and Christians. Some which I have had on hand for two years has undergone no change.” “The manner of making and preserving this unfermented grape-liquor seems to correspond with the receipts and descriptions of certain drinks included by some of the ancients under the appellation of wine.”

“The fabricating of an intoxicating liquor was never the chief object for which the grape was cultivated among the Jews. Joined with bread, fruits, and the olive-tree, the three might well be representatives of the productions most essential to them, at the same time that they were the most abundantly provided for the support of life.” He mentions sixteen uses of the grape, winemaking being the least important. “I have asked Christians from Diarbekir, Aintab, and other places in the interior of Asia Minor, and all concur in the same statement.”

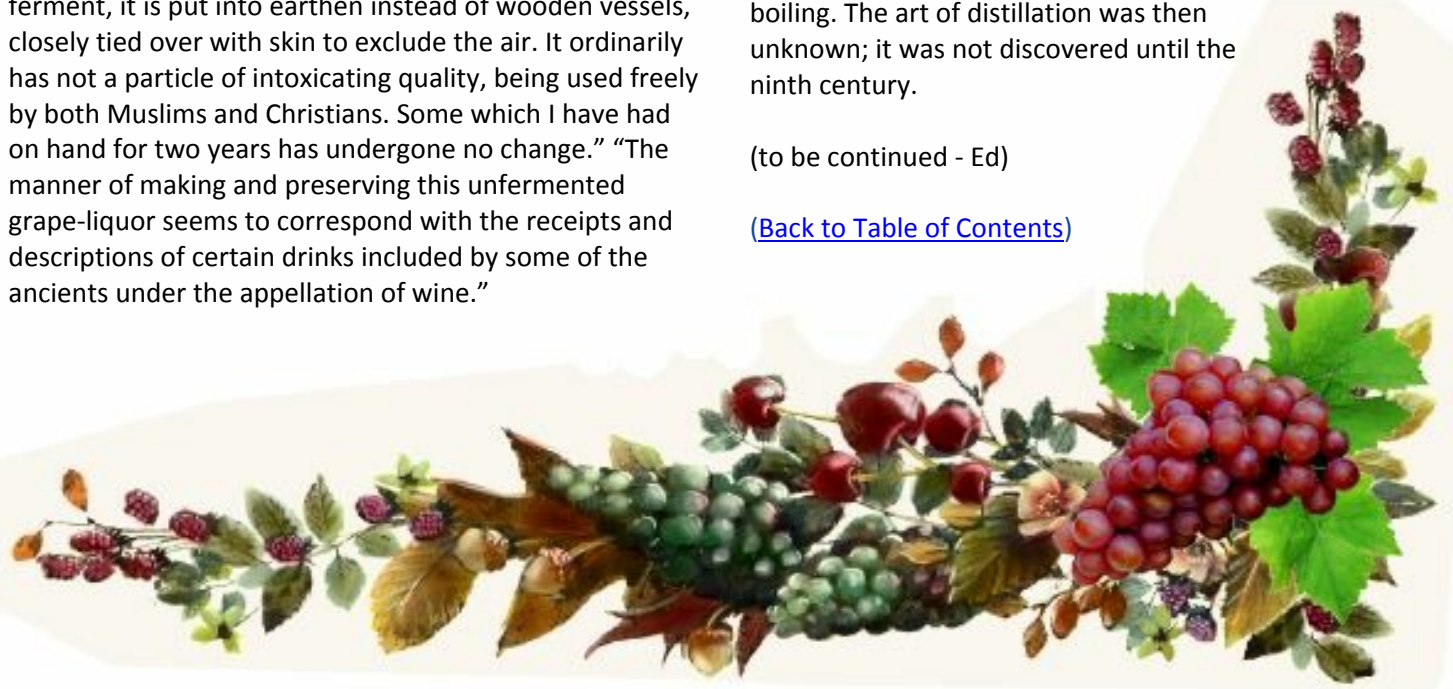
Dr. Eli Smith, as above, testifies that “wine is not the most important, but the least, of all the objects for which the vine is cultivated.” These statements are fully confirmed by the **Rev. Smylie Robson**, a missionary to the Jews of Syria, who travelled extensively in the mountains in Lebanon, as may be seen by his letters from Damascus and published in the Irish Presbyterian Missionary Herald of April and May, 1845.

The **Rev. Dr. Jacobus**, commenting on the wine made by Christ, says: “This wine was not that fermented liquor which passes now under that name. All who know of the wines then used will understand rather the unfermented juice of the grape. The present wines of Jerusalem and Lebanon, as we tasted them, were commonly boiled and sweet, without intoxicating qualities, such as we here get in liquors called wines. The boiling prevents the fermentation. Those were esteemed the best wines which were least strong.”

The ancients had a motive for boiling the unfermented juice. They knew from experience that the juice, by reason of the heat of the climate and the sweetness of the grapes would speedily turn sour. To preserve it sweet, they naturally resorted to the simple and easy method of boiling. The art of distillation was then unknown; it was not discovered until the ninth century.

(to be continued - Ed)

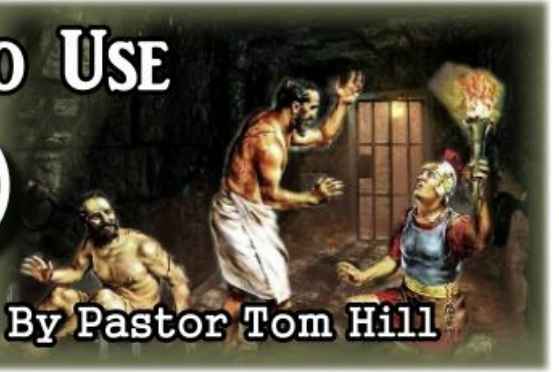
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THE WORDS GOD CHOSE TO USE

HUBRIZO

SPITEFULLY ENTREATED ~ By Pastor Tom Hill



It was shortly after the rich ruler that came to Christ asking what he needed to do to inherit eternal life, and Jesus' subsequent rejection of even the question that one could do something so as to be made right with God. It was after that He took the twelve and explained yet again what was about to happen to Himself. Luke records His words in **Luke 18:31-33**, "**31 Then He took unto Him the twelve, and said unto them, Behold, we go up to Jerusalem, and all things that are written by the prophets concerning the Son of man shall be accomplished. 32 For He shall be delivered unto the Gentiles, and shall be mocked, and spitefully entreated, and spitted on: 33 And they shall scourge Him, and put Him to death: and the third day He shall rise again.**"

One of the words that Jesus uses to describe mankind's actions toward Him in v. 32 is translated SPITEFULLY ENTREATED. This is from the Greek word **HUBRIZO** (pronounced HOO - BREED - TSO). It comes from the word HUBRIS. The word basically means "to be insolent, to behave insolently, wantonly, outrageously, to act insolently and shamefully towards one, one who injures another by speaking evil of him." According to linguists, the word conveys the idea of being weighty or heavy laden. Whenever the noun form was used, it originally spoke of an act which invaded the sphere of another to his hurt, a "trespass," a "transgression" in violation of divine and human right (TDNT Vol. 8, p. 295). When the word was used either in the secular world or in the Bible, there was the implication of arrogance being exhibited by the "transgressor." The Hebrew equivalent to hubris is the word **GA AVAH** which means "pride, haughtiness."

Hubris in all of its forms is found eleven times in the New Testament. We find five uses of it in its verbal form (Matthew 22:6; Luke 11:45, 18:32; Acts 14:5; 1 Thessalonians 2:2), four times it is used as a noun (Acts 27:10, 21; 2 Corinthians 12:10; 1 Timothy 1:13), once it is used as an adjective (Romans 1:30), and finally, it is used as a compound verb one time (Hebrews 10:29).

For the purpose of this short word study, we are considering only three places where the word is used. The word hubrizo is found in **Luke 11:45**, "**Then answered one of the lawyers, and said unto him, Master, thus saying**

thou reproachest us also." The context of this verse is when Jesus was denouncing the Pharisees and lawyers for their hypocrisy. In the mind of the lawyer, Jesus had behaved insolently, He had injured him and his fellow hypocrites. This is truth's effect upon those who reject truth. Truth was expressed by the Creator, and it was clearly rejected by this lost man. The lawyer's usage of *hubrizo* was from the standpoint of a natural man, that is, a man that is lost in his sins. Such is the world. When we present the truth of God to the world, the reaction by the world is that we have reproached them. We have behaved insolently. We deserve punishment. That is exactly where this world is headed. In some places, it is considered "hate speech" to preach the gospel, to declare God's Word, and to condemn sin. Pastors can be fined or jailed if certain groups are offended.

Another place we want to consider is the text verse of **Luke 18:32** "**For He shall be delivered unto the Gentiles, and shall be mocked, and spitefully entreated, and spitted on.**" The word is again the verbal form, which is *hubrizo*. *Hubrizo* is used here as the view of Heaven toward what sinful men would soon do to the Savior.

They would treat the Creator with insolence. They would treat Him with shame and would seek to injure the Savior by speaking evilly of Him. The religious leaders considered Christ to be arrogant, to be deserving this sort of treatment. For what cause did He receive such treatment? All He had done was to speak truth. On the other hand, for what cause had the lawyer and the other religious leaders received from Christ they perceived as being "hubris"? They were guilty of all the Savior stated. Our Lord spoke the truth in love and they accused Him of being arrogant and insolent.

Finally, consider what Paul declared about the situation in Thessalonica in **1 Thessalonians 2:2**, "**But even after that we had suffered before, and were shamefully entreated, as ye know, at Philippi, we were bold in our God to speak unto you the gospel of God with much contention.**" Paul is referring to the incident recorded in Acts 16:23, 24 when he and Silas had been publicly whipped, put into stocks and confined to the prison at Philippi. Previously, Paul had cast out the demon from the slave girl that kept

saying that *"these men are the servants of the most high God, which shew unto us the way of salvation."*

Her owners lost their way of making money through her when she could no longer use demonic powers to tell fortunes, so they caught Paul and Silas and delivered them over to the rulers and magistrates to be persecuted. They not only suffered physically, they were treated shamefully - hubrizo. The way that Paul states this, the shameful treatment was worse than the physical suffering that they had faced.

Think of what this shameful, insolent treatment involved: they were brought up on false charges, they were stripped of their clothes and publicly beaten without a trial. Then they were tossed into the inner prison with their feet put in painful stocks as if they were the most dangerous criminals in the world. Why? The only thing in which they were guilty of was preaching the truth, and acting in the truth of God's word. They experienced the "hubrizo" of the enemies of the gospel.

Obadiah Holmes, in July of 1651, was arrested along with Dr. John Clarke and Mr. Crandall for going into Massachusetts from neighboring Rhode Island and participating in worship of God, at an informal church service in the private home of an aged Baptist man, a brother who was blind and known for his strong convictions against state-church rule and infant baptism.

Fines were leveled against each man. Clarke was fined twenty pounds, Holmes, thirty pounds, and Crandall was fined five pounds. Someone paid Clarke's fine, and Crandall was released on a promise he would appear in the next court. But Holmes remained in prison until September. The magistrates decided that if the fine was not paid, the offender would face a public whipping.

Some sources say that someone offered to pay Holmes' fine but he refused and chose to suffer for

Christ being shamefully entreated by the magistrates in a land supposedly founded upon the grounds of "religious freedom." But the Congregationalists of New England refused to allow anyone to practice any sort of faith other than that of congregationalism.

Since his fine was not paid, Bro. Holmes was taken out of the prison and publicly whipped.

History records the following from Bro. Holmes:

"As the strokes fell upon me I had such a spiritual manifestation of God's presence as the like thereof I never had nor felt, nor can with fleshly tongue express; and the outward pain was so removed from me that indeed I am not able to declare it to you; it was so easy to me that I could well bear it, yea, and in a manner felt it not, although it was grievous, as the spectators said, the man striking with all his strength (yea, spitting in his hand three times, as many affirmed) with a three-corded whip, giving me there with thirty strokes."

To his tormentors Bro. Holmes declared, "You have struck me as with roses!" Some accounts of his terrible whipping report that after the beating, his shoes were filled with blood, Bro. Holmes gave thanks to the Lord that he was counted worthy to suffer for His Savior.

Could we be as bold as the apostles and others who were spreading the gospel? Could we face such shameful harm and hatred, hubrizo, by those who hate us and the gospel of our Lord and Savior? We may very well face hubrizo as we continue to march toward the end of this age, brethren.

May we face it as Christ, the disciples, and men like Bro. Holmes.

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Hebrews 12:1, "...let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us..."

All of us have seen, or know of brothers or sisters in Christ who exhibit in their life behaviour or character traits that are less than ideal. The brother whose bad temper far too often runs away with him; the sister whose gossiping tongue causes hurt, those with a critical spirit towards anything and everything, it seems. Then there are the brethren who are still struggling with bad habits - smoking, swearing and like things. Some sisters just cannot seem to control their eating habits, or the things they read or watch during the day. The idea that many, perhaps most, Christians have a "besetting sin/s" is widespread. This teaching is commonly held across denominational divides and through differing age groups. But is it right?

The concept of besetting sin appears to go all the way back to the brothers John and Charles Wesley, although I've been unable to determine whether or not the doctrine started with them. It certainly became prevalent during the rise of the holiness movement, with its emphasis on post-salvation experiences. The belief was that, if sought for, God would graciously grant a "second" blessing which brought about entire sanctification, or, as some called it, sinless perfection.

This thirsting after God was a good thing, but, as is often the case, it was hijacked by well-meaning but misguided men. As a little aside, it's interesting that the excuses or reasons given then why a seeker didn't receive the sought-for blessing, were exactly the same as those heard from Pentecostal/charismatic leaders today, when faced with similar situations- the seeker's faith is somehow defective, or there is some hidden sin, or the desire isn't strong enough, etc. Perhaps this connection isn't so surprising, given the historical sources of many of the Pentecostal doctrines and the associations of many of their pioneers with the Holiness movement.

Many of us, conscious as we are of our fallen nature, our weakness and reluctance to trust Christ and lean on Him as we ought, seem to grasp this idea of besetting sin almost as if our mind needed an excuse for our many

failures at living as we should. We postpone the matter of dealing with our perceived besetting sin for another time. However, is this what the verse is really saying?

Firstly, let us realise that this is the only place in the New Testament where this word "... beset ..." is used (Gr "*euperistatos*"). Its meaning is taken from an athletic competition, such as a race, (which is a familiar figure of speech in the epistles). The Greek word describes a competitor thwarting in every way and every direction, his opponent. Not fair; no. Not sportsmanlike; no. Cheating; yes. Frustrating; yes.

Difficult to overcome; yes. The word describes the sin of unbelief, (specifically), skilfully surrounding us and as having advantage in favour of its prevailing.

Now, let us take notice of just where this verse occurs. It is immediately after Hebrews 11, the acknowledged "Faith" chapter, which lists so many of the Biblical heroes and their exploits in and through faith. The first verse of Hebrews 12 talks about our being '... compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses ...'. It is this multitude of Old Testament saints just listed for us in the previous chapter that is this '... great cloud ...', not the angels, as I have heard some propound. It is these men and women, flesh and blood people, just like you and me, struggling day-by-day believers, seeking to honour and glorify God in all we do and say and think- so often coming up short. And why are these dear saints spoken of as surrounding us as witnesses?

Are we to take that to mean that their spirits are somehow hovering around and over us, checking up on our progress watching for every little slip-up? No, no, no! They aren't surrounding us in that way at all. Rather, we are surrounded by their witness, we are reminded of the race they ran, every time we read their stories, every time we remember their pilgrim life. Their witness is meant as an encouragement to us and for us. If, in spite of their difficulties, their hurdles, their fallen humanity, they could overcome, then so can we.

If you want to go on believing that this verse is talking about "besetting sin," I can't stop you. But understand this- our problem isn't a besetting sin or sins, but SIN

itself! Hebrews 12:1 does not say that we have besetting sins; it says sin, any sin, all sin, oh, so very easily besets us, because we are sinners! Does this then mean that we give up the struggle and cease to worry about sin, because we're going to do it anyway?

Come on! Is that how you interpret Romans 7: 14-20?

This warfare within us between the spiritual man and the natural man is on-going and will not end until death or the Rapture sets us free from this mortality. You may well struggle with one or more sins over which it seems you never win. You are not alone. That remark is not made to give any justification for not fighting, or not running. It's simply acknowledging that we are all in the same boat - just as were that great cloud of witnesses; just as were the disciples on the Sea of Galilee.

And like them all, like every believer in every age, all we can do is cry out, "Lord, save us: we perish!"

And because of who Jesus is, He will hear and answer any such call made in faith. And I'm so glad that the Saviour is no respecter of persons. A sinner crying those words for the very first time is heard of the Master of the sea and is plucked from drowning in a watery grave. A saint, bowed by time, battered from the battles against Satan and his emissaries, bruised from the warfare against his own flesh, calling those same words, is also heard by the Captain of our salvation and is strengthened and comforted in his distress.

Forget about "besetting sin." There ain't no such animal. It is SIN that '... so easily besets us' But we have a Saviour, we have a Champion, we have an Advocate, we have Jesus - and He is all we need.

"... But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ ..." (1 Cor 15:57)

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TARGET'S RESPONSE TO PETITION - TARGET TO AFA REP: WE DON'T CARE ~ Chris Woodward (OneNewsNow.com)

A spokesman for the American Family Association says he was clearly snubbed by Target officials today when he expressed his group's deep concerns about the retailer's bathroom policy.

AFA's Abraham Hamilton III went to today's Target shareholders meeting in Southern California to raise concerns again about the company's policy allowing transgenders to use the bathroom or changing room of the gender in which they say they identify. AFA's concern has been that sexual predators may take advantage of the policy, thereby putting women and children at risk.

"It's amazing. The response really was *We don't care what you have to say. We don't care what the American Family Association represents. We don't care what those people who signed your petition represent. We are committed to the complete overhaul of American society as it pertains to sex,*" says Hamilton. "That literally is their response."

[AFA's online petition to boycott Target](#) had over 1.3 million signatures as of Wednesday. Based on this,

Hamilton questioned whether Target had done a cost-benefit analysis prior to pursuing its bathroom policy.

"You want to know what the answer was? Basically, *No, we believe it's the best thing for our company, so we're going to do it.*"

Meanwhile, AFA's public policy analyst says shareholders who share the same concerns were present in the audience, but the corporate answer was unchanged. Therefore, says Hamilton, AFA's boycott will continue - with efforts ramping up in the weeks and months ahead.

"Father's Day is right around the corner ... and even back-to-school efforts," he tells OneNewsNow. "[So] we plan to increase and expand our boycott effort because Target has put us in an unenviable position by saying *We don't care what you think* - so we're going to have to make them care what we think."

OneNewsNow has contacted Target on several occasions for comment. Target never responded.

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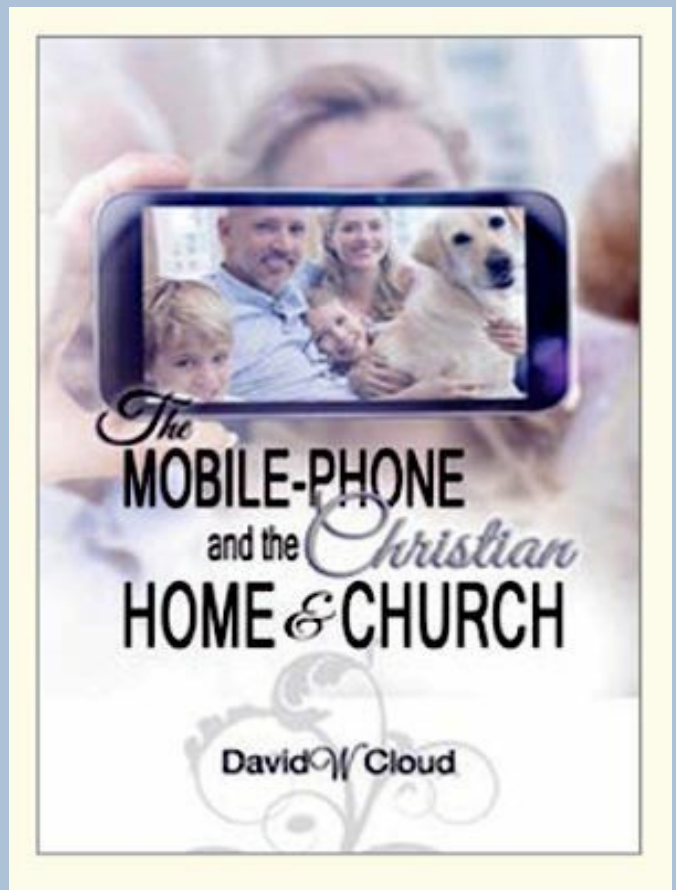
Phone Use – How's Yours?

TEENS SPENDING MOST OF THEIR TIME ONLINE (Friday Church News Notes, June 3, 2016, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org. 866-295-4143) - According to a study by Common Sense Media, teens are spending nine of their waking 15 hours consuming media online. That is nearly double the time that adults spend online ("A study says," Business Insider, May 27, 2016). Children eight to 12 spend nearly six hours a day online. Psychologists are discovering manifold problems with this scenario, such as impeding the ability to concentrate and build a large vocabulary, but the moral and spiritual dangers are even greater. The book *The Mobile Phone and the Christian Home and Church*, a new youth discipleship course, gives many tips for parents in protecting their families from moral dangers in the smartphone age. It is available in print and free eBook editions from www.wayoflife.org.

<http://www.adweek.com/news/television/us-adults-consume-entire-hour-more-media-day-they-did-just-last-year-172218>

Are YOU obsessed with your phone? Researchers reveal addicts touch their handset over 5,400 times a DAY.

A top 10% touch smartphones 5,427 times a day - 2 million times a year

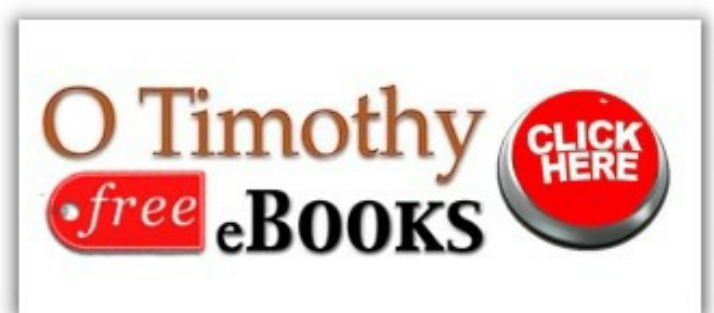


- More than half of users check phone between midnight and 5 AM
- People have average 76 sessions with their phone - power users have 132
- Facebook is the most touched App, while Google has the most sessions.

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CLANCY @ THE OVERFLOW
(WHAT BANJO WOULD WRITE TODAY)

I had written him a text
Which I'd sent, hoping the next
Time he came in mobile coverage
He'd have time to say hello.
But I'd heard he'd lost his iPhone,
So I emailed him from my smart phone,
Just addressed, on spec, as follows:
clancy@theoverflow

And the answer redirected
Wasn't quite what I'd expected
And it wasn't from the shearing mate
Who'd answered once before.
His ISP provider wrote it
And verbatim I will quote it:
'This account has been suspended:
You won't hear from him any more.'

In my wild erratic fancy
Visions come to me of Clancy:
Out of reach of mobile coverage
Where the Western rivers flow.
Instead of tapping on the small screen,
He'd be camping by the tall green
River gums, a pleasure
That the town folk never know.

Well, the bush has friends to meet him
But the rest of us can't greet him:
Out there, even Telstra's network
Doesn't give you any bars.
He can't blog the vision splendid
Of the sunlit plains extended
Or tweet the wondrous glory
Of the everlasting stars.



I am sitting at the keyboard,
I'm too stressed out to be bored
As I answer all the emails
By the deadlines they contain.
While my screen fills with promotions
For 'Viagra' and strange potions
And announcements of the million-dollar
Prizes I can claim.

But the looming deadlines haunt me
And their harassing senders taunt me
That they need response this evening
For tomorrow is too late!
But their texts, too quickly ended,
Often can't be comprehended
For their writers have no time to think
They have no time to wait.

And I sometimes rather fancy
That I'd like to trade with Clancy:
Just set up an email bouncer
Saying 'Sorry, had to go.'
While he faced an inbox jamming
Up with deadlines and with spamming
As he signed off every message:
clancy@theoverflow.

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THERAPY FOR THE FUNNY BONE -

Husband in Training - "Before I got married, I didn't even know there was a wrong way to put the milk back in the fridge."

At the last World Council of Churches ecumenical gathering, the moderator invited pastors from all the denominations to the platform to answer the deep theological question, "How do pastors in your denomination change a light bulb?" The answers were as follows:

A Presbyterian Pastor responded, "If the lights go out in our churches, we believe that it is predestined that we are to sit in the dark."

A Charismatic Pastor replied, "We wait till it cools off and then lay hands on it and pray for it to be healed."

A Uniting Church Bishop replied, "We gather around it and have communion, singing Kumbaya, and close our eyes to get used to the darkness."

A World Baptist Alliance Pastor responded, "We turn on our iPads to see how to eat our fried chicken while we wait for word from Headquarters."

The United Methodist Minister replied, "If the congregation just smiles at it in perfect unity, the new light bulb will be inspired to screw itself in."

A Unitarian Pastor replied, "We don't believe light bulbs can burn out as there is no such thing as darkness. All is sweetness and light."

A Roman Catholic Archbishop replied, "The traditions of the church fathers require that we replace all burnt out light bulbs with candles."

A Mormon Elder replied, "We are still looking for Joseph Smith's seer stones so we can find the light fixture."

A Jehovah's Witness Elder replied, "We haven't sold enough Watchtower magazines this year to buy a replacement light bulb."

A Hillsong Worship leader replied, "We rely on all those with iPhones to use their camera flashes to light the stage so the show can go on."

An Anglican Rector replied, "We are meeting with the Pope next week to work out a price for buying candles in bulk."

A Lutheran Pastor replied, "We are combining with the Anglicans and Catholics next week so we'll just use their candles."

The Seventh Day Adventist Pastor replied, "We have to wait until tomorrow to change it since it is the Sabbath."

The Christian Science Practitioner replied, "We do not change light bulbs since darkness is a figment of the imagination."

The Jewish Rabbi who attended as an observer replied, "We can sell light bulbs to you for a discount if you will be circumcised and buy them by the truckload and pay for the shipping."

The Muslim Imam replied, "Don't buy any light bulbs from Zionists. We Palestinians have a new light bomb that ISIS will deliver via a Syrian refugee as soon as President Obama sends us some more travel funds."

SMALL TOWN JUSTICE

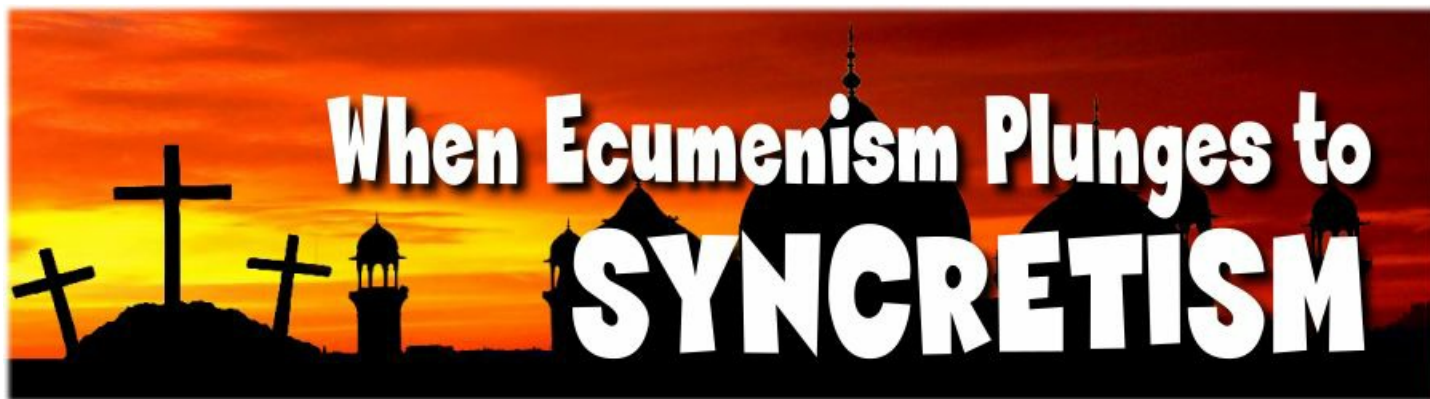
Two small county judges both got arrested for speeding on the same day. Rather than call the state Supreme Court for a visiting judge, each agreed to hear the other's case.

The first judge took the bench while the second stood at the defendant's table and admitted his guilt. The sentencing judge immediately suspended both the fine and costs. They switched places.

The second judge admitted that he was speeding, too. Thereupon the first judge immediately fined him \$250 and ordered him to pay court costs. The second judge was furious. "I suspended your fine and costs, but you threw the book at me!" he fumed.

The first judge looked at him and replied, "This is the second such case we've had in here today. Someone has to get tough about all this speeding!"

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BAPTISTS AND EVANGELICALS SUPPORT CONSTRUCTION OF A MOSQUE

(Friday Church News Notes, June 17, 2016, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org,) –

Baptists and evangelicals have joined hands with Muslims to support the building of a mosque. After the planning board of Basking Ridge, New Jersey, denied a building permit for the mosque last December, the Muslims filed a federal lawsuit. They are joined by two agencies of the Southern Baptist Convention (the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission and the International Mission Board), plus the Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty and the National Association of Evangelicals.

According to the New York Times, "A leading opponent of the mosque project, who has said that Islamic Shariah law is 'one of the greatest threats to American values and liberties,' led a relentless campaign of challenges to virtually every aspect of the project" ("Muslims Sue," New York Times, Mar. 10, 2016).

Brent Walker of the Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty says that this is a simple issue of religious liberty. "We really felt it was important to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with our Muslim brothers and sisters" ("Baptists join diverse faith groups to support mosque-building effort," Baptist News, May 26, 2016).

The "leading opponent" previously cited is correct. Islam is not just "another religion." It aspires to world dominion, and its mosques are outposts for this dominion.

According to Islam, the world is divided into Dar al-Harb (the world of war or the non-Islamic people) and Dar al-Islam (the world of peace or the Muslim world). "The presumption is that the duty of jihad will continue, interrupted only by truces, until all the world either adopts the Muslim faith or subjects to the Muslim rule" (Gene Gerganus, *Peril of Islam: Telling the Truth*, pp. 59, 60). According to Islam, humanity is divided into those who accept Muhammad as the prophet of Allah and those who do not. Those who do not are the Kafirs (pronounced

ka'-fir). Kafir is the word that is used in the Quran, and it is a strong word. It is the word for Allah's enemies. It is the word for those who resist the truth of Islam. Kafirs are unclean, evil, cursed, ignorant liars, and partners of Satan.

(See *The Bible and Islam*, which is available in print and as a free eBook from Way of Life Literature.)

A CHRISTIAN GROUP IS RAISING RED FLAGS ABOUT PRO-ISLAMIC BIAS IN BBC PROGRAMMING

The Voice for Justice UK is asking the taxpayer funded British Broadcasting Corporation not to accept proposals that will decrease Christian programs.

Great Britain's Muslim population has doubled within a decade, topping the three million mark, according to a report by the Daily Mail.

Still, the vast majority of Britain's 65 million people claim to be Christian. But the Voice for Justice UK says Islamic influence in the culture is increasing rapidly, and Muslim programming appears to now take first priority on BBC.

The Christian group currently has 12,000 signatures to deliver to the network, hoping this will keep certain Christian programming.

The Head of Religion and Ethics at BBC is a man named Aaqil Amhed. According to reports, he is a Muslim who has been very outspoken.



The *Telegraph* reports that Ahmed pushed for more coverage of religions other than Christianity.

And Voice for Justice UK argues there is now an "unacceptable bias in favor of Islam and against Christianity" on BBC religious programming.

"The UK is actually a Christian country, it's established as such by statute, all our laws, our traditions, our culture is founded on Christian values, so it would seem entirely right that Christianity be given priority air time," said Lynda Rose, CEO of the group.

"It's scandalous that someone displaying such clear pro-Islamic bias and contempt for Christianity should be BBC's Head of Religion and Ethics," Rose said.

BBC responded in saying that Ahmed is not biased against Christianity and he does not show any pro-Islamic bias. However, in May of 2016 the BBC concluded that Christianity was too prominent on their network.

"Christianity remains the cornerstone of our output and there are more hours dedicated to it than there are to other faiths. Our output in this area is not static, though. It has evolved over the years and we regularly assess it," Ahmed said in a statement back in May.

Ibrahim Mogra from the Muslim British Council suggested that BBC should air Friday prayers from a mosque, and show children attending Islamic schools called madrasahs.

"We may be a multicultural society, but the UK is still officially a Christian country, and Christianity should be given proper coverage and treated with respect," said Rose.

<http://www1.cbn.com/cbnnews/cwn/2016/june/christians-petition-bbc-over-pro-islamic-bias>



meeting in Portland, Oregon. Wajidi Said, cofounder of the Muslim Education Trust, led the attendees in the prayer to the Islamic deity - a move arranged by the Ecumenical and Interfaith ministry staff at the assembly.

The prayer was part of the "first order of business" during the meeting's opening session, a time dedicated to praying for those affected by the Orlando shooting that occurred just weeks before.

"In the name of Allah, the beneficent, the merciful, let us praise the Lord... Peace be upon them and peace be upon Allah," Said prayed. He also prayed peace on the "bigots" and "Islamaphobes."

Later, at the conclusion of the session, Rev. Gradye Parsons offered an apology to anyone who was offended by the prayer. He assured the congregation that mistakes can be made, but the prayer was not an intentional one.

"It was never the intention to offend anyone, and we offer an apology to those who were offended," Rev. Parsons said.

But the Presbyterian church still affirms that it will advocate for "positive relationships with people of other religious traditions" and is committed to fighting "the rise in Islamophobia."

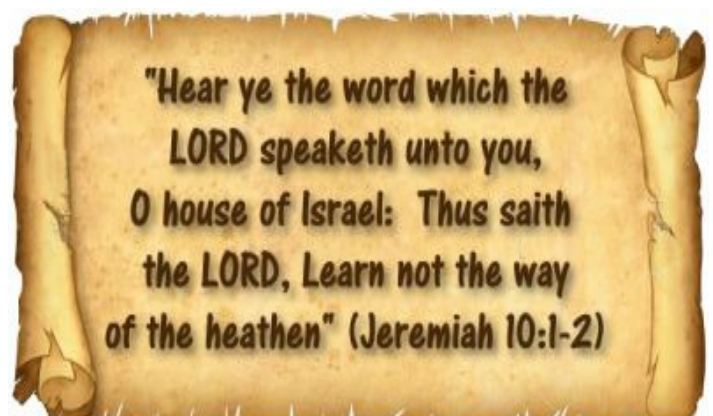
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MAINLINE CHRISTIAN DENOMINATION PRAYING TO ALLAH?

The Presbyterian Church, U.S.A. is raising eyebrows after lifting up prayers to Allah at its General Assembly meeting last week.

"Allah bless us and bless our families and bless our Lord. Lead us on the straight path - the path of all prophets: Abraham, Ishmael, Isaac, Moses, Jesus, and Muhammad."

These were the words that rang out over the congregation at The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, USA



A WEAKNESS FOR POSTERS -

**Before you marry a person you
should first make them use a
computer with slow Internet to see
who they really are.**

— Will Ferrell

fb/david avocado wolfe



fb/david avocado wolfe



**A brave snake
saving a fish from
drowning.**

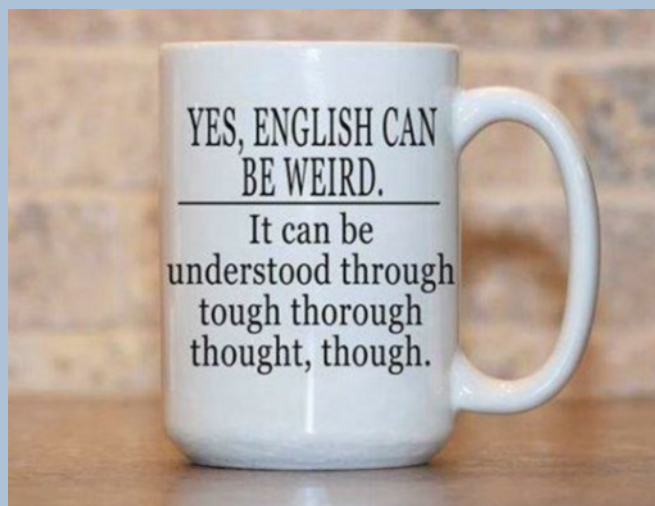
**This is how
the media reports
the news these
days.**



**Nothing in the world
is friendlier than a
WET DOG!**



**The best
kind of friend
is a praying
friend.**



**YES, ENGLISH CAN
BE WEIRD.**
It can be
understood through
tough thorough
thought, though.



Be these.
Matthew 5:13-16

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After twenty-six years of living in North Carolina, I have learned some of the lingo. Down here, “hepin” is a quick way to say “helping”. So let’s get “rat” to it - and no, I don’t mean that mousy kind of rat! We expect unregenerate crowds to be on the devil’s side. Let’s face it - they are a majority. In our culture, the devil’s children (John 8:44) are bent on worshiping the enemy of our souls. We do not expect Christians, particularly true believers, to help Satan, yet we often do just that.

Paul explains this basic tenet in **Romans 6:12,13**: “Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin; but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.”

We don’t have to help the devil, but we do so when we advance his agenda. The member that we use to speed the work of the evil one is most often the tongue. (James 3:1-10) The tongue utters words, and words have meaning. Even names can serve the devil’s purposes: “Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh His name in vain.” (**Exodus 20:7**)

When we use words that are misleading or patently untrue, we serve the enemy. Unfortunately, Christians today have bowed to “political correctness”. Our pagan society, along with the emerging and emergent church, persists in softening words that describe sin. The most heinous of sins is dressed up with fancy words that make wicked people feel good.

TRANSGENDER

Let me begin with the most recent lie. There is no such thing as a “transgender”. God settled this issue at creation. The genders are man and woman, and that is all there is; there is nothing more. Sinners may try to cover up their wicked world, but believers are plainly disobedient if we join that stampede. “Transgender” is a lie from the pit of hell, and we should refuse to even use the word. If you do, you are “hepin” the devil. Wicked minds have invented this lie with “psycho-heresy” and

humanistic psychology. The Bible is the final authority on anything it speaks to: “...let God be true, but every man a liar...” (**Romans 3:4**). A person’s response to this charge will tell you just how far that individual has moved from Scriptures that are authoritative and sufficient.

SAME-SEX MARRIAGE

While I have dealt with this topic before, here it is again: there is no such thing as “same-sex marriage”. God settled this when He created marriage. It is one man, one woman, for one lifetime. Stop using the devil’s vocabulary. Stop using that term. To do so is “hepin” the devil. If you think God is dead, or that the Bible is not clear, then this discussion is not for you. “Same-sex marriage” is a lie, and even the denigrators know it is a lie. Don’t let them drag you down into their pit of lies.

GAY, HOMOSEXUAL, SODOMY

There is nothing at all gay about this horrible wickedness. God has spoken clearly regarding this sin. I understand how those who use allegorical interpretation tend to treat Romans 1, but the clear, plain statement of the text is pointed. Those who practice sodomy (1:26-27) are condemned: “Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.” Hang on to your hat; the plain, clear statement is that this is a capital crime. To support this evil in any way is to support a lie and is “hepin” the devil.

The term “homosexual” may be a true description, but it should never be used as an approval or recommendation. That kind of activity is better described by God as sodomy. That is why evil people hate that word so much and have bullied Christians into avoiding it. Those Christians are often so very fearful that they even bully those who use plain speech.

FORNICATION AND ADULTERY

Pulpits used to be very clear about such activity; now some have willingly followed the “dumbing down” of sin. They went from that terminology to “shacking up” to “living together” to “relationship”. By using these terms, they are “hepin” the devil and promoting a lie. Stop using words that are clearly lies and give support to the “god of

this world". And then there is the topic of abortion where, sadly, silence reigns among most Christians.

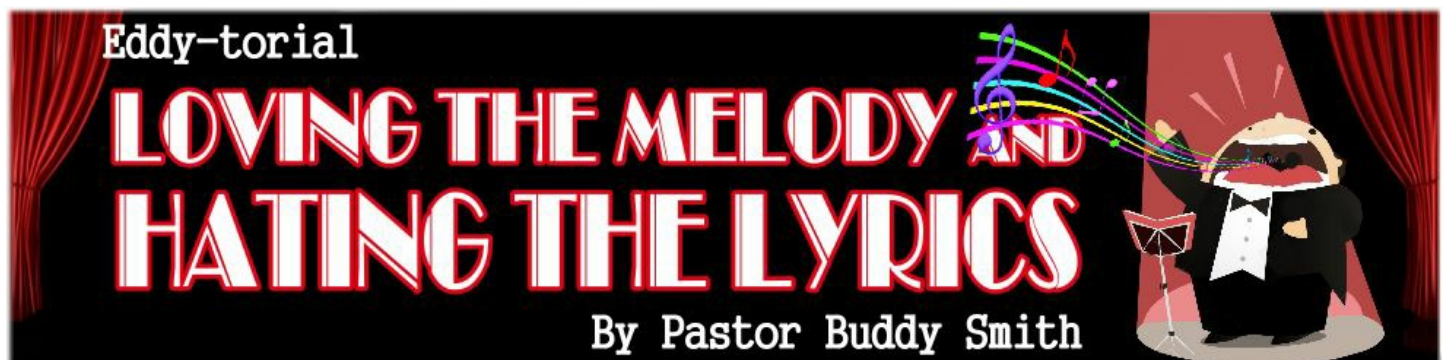
LAME EXCUSES FOR SUPPORTING WICKEDNESS

So why do (professing) Christians today so often support sin and the devil with their vocabulary? Some appeal to love, but you neither love someone that you help with a lie nor should you feel comfortable about sin. Love doesn't blind sinners to righteousness, knowing they are headed for hell. Some persist in believing that all sin is bad, and that is true; but God is clear about the fact that some sins are worthy of death. Using sin to protect sin is

"hepin" the devil. Others insist that plain talk (truth) will turn people away, and that is why hell and judgment have disappeared from their message. If that ploy doesn't work, they then attack the messengers, the truth-tellers' character.

Remember this: Holiness is God's primary characteristic; truth rises from holiness, and love rises from truth. Telling lies is not true, righteous, or holy. Telling lies is "hepin" the devil, and it grieves the heart of God.

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Not all the captives carried away by Nebuchadnezzar were taken to Babylon. Ezekiel, Nehemiah, Mordecai and Esther were among those who were lodged in cities to the north and east of Babylon. Daniel spent his latter years in Shushan, far to the east of Babylon (8:2).

Ezekiel prophesied to the Jews in Babylonian captivity. He preached to the remnant to win them back to the God they had forsaken. Some listened, some believed and responded. The ones who did so were a remnant within the remnant. They were that generation's Cathari, its Puritans, these converts of Ezekiel. Malachi spoke of them when he wrote, "Then they that feared the LORD spake often one to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name " (**Malachi 3:16**).

BIBLICAL PREACHING LIKE EZEKIEL'S IS A THANKLESS TASK

Every God-called man needs to settle one issue at the very beginning of his ministry, "A preacher never receives the respect he deserves in this life." The highest calling of all, the ministry of the Word of God, is despised, disdained, and disrespected by men.

No sour grapes, no resentment in this insight, just the simple facts.

If you doubt, you only need to read the accounts of our Lord's visits to Nazareth after his baptism. Luke records

the details of his first visit in chapter 4:16-30, and describes the Nazarene rejection of their Messiah. We usually skim over this momentous event so carelessly, when we ought to stop there for a month and ponder deeply the significance of Jesus' words, "*And he said unto them, Ye will surely say unto me this proverb, Physician, heal thyself: whatsoever we have heard done in Capernaum, do also here in thy country. And he said, Verily I say unto you, No prophet is accepted in his own country. But I tell you of a truth, many widows were in Israel in the days of Elias, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, when great famine was throughout all the land; But unto none of them was Elias sent, save unto Sarepta, a city of Sidon, unto a woman that was a widow. And many lepers were in Israel in the time of Eliseus the prophet; and none of them was cleansed, saving Naaman the Syrian.*" (**Luke 4:23-27**)

So there we have it! The perfect Wisdom of God commenting with impeccable insight and perception regarding the warped responses of fallen men.

It is striking that the Lord returned to Nazareth again, at least once more, to offer Himself and His truths to the people of his hometown. "*And when he was come into his own country, he taught them in their synagogue, insomuch that they were astonished, and said, Whence hath this man this wisdom, and these mighty works? Is not this the carpenter's son? is not his mother called Mary? and his brethren, James, and Joses, and Simon, and Judas? And his sisters, are they not all with us? Whence*

then hath this man all these things? And they were offended in him. But Jesus said unto them, *A prophet is not without honour, save in his own country, and in his own house.* And he did not many mighty works there because of their unbelief." (Matthew 13:54-58).

What courage, what holy boldness it took for Him to return to that same synagogue that erupted in fierce hatred when he told them the truth a year or so previously!

EZEKIEL HAD A LOVELY VOICE BUT THE REMNANT HATED THE WORDS HE SANG TO THEM

That's what the Lord said to him in a metaphor, *"Also, thou son of man, the children of thy people still are talking against thee by the walls and in the doors of the houses, and speak one to another, every one to his brother, saying, Come, I pray you, and hear what is the word that cometh forth from the LORD. And they come unto thee as the people cometh, and they sit before thee as my people, and they hear thy words, but they will not do them: for with their mouth they shew much love, but their heart goeth after their covetousness. And, lo, thou art unto them as a very lovely song of one that hath a pleasant voice, and can play well on an instrument: for they hear thy words, but they do them not. And when this cometh to pass, (lo, it will come,) then shall they know that a prophet hath been among them."* (Ezekiel 33:30-33).

How eloquently, how interestingly, how graciously he spoke the words of the Lord when he preached to the exiles, and they loved to go and hear him speak! But take note how critically they spoke of Ezekiel when they were at a distance. In their conversations in the streets and at home they "talked against" Ezekiel. He was without honour among his own people. Here is an example of "what the centuries say to the hours"! A timeless truth!

Men often love the melody, but hate the lyrics when the man of God preaches all that God has spoken to them.

The list of faithful men is short, but thank God there is such a list given us in Holy Scripture. Enoch and Moses, Elijah and Elisha, Isaiah and Jeremiah, Micaiah and Daniel, Jeremiah and Ezekiel, and above all, our Lord Jesus and His apostles.

Have you noticed how many men came to hear them, and even sought them out, and then rejected the message they preached?

John Baptist is an example. The people came to hear him from every city and town. In his message of repentance he spoke out against the adultery of Herod. Herod responded in several ways. He feared him, he observed

him, he listened to him, he acted on (some of) the things he said, he heard him gladly, and then he cut off his head.

"For Herod feared John, knowing that he was a just man and an holy, and observed him; and when he heard him, he did many things, and heard him gladly." (Mark 6:20).

Herod loved the militant music of John's boldness, his fearlessness, and his faithfulness, but he hated the lyrics of John's message.

EZEKIEL, TAKE HEED WHEN MEN LOVE YOUR MUSIC!

It is a very discerning (and courageous!!!) preacher who dares to preach the words God spoke to Ezekiel, or even to print them out, or to post them in public! Better yet, it is a wise and discerning preacher who memorizes them, engrafs them into his heart, and then fills his pulpit week by week with these words in mind.

Isaiah 6 is a favorite chapter for missionaries to preach in missions conferences, but who among us is brave enough to preach the words that follow *"Here am I, send me"*? You don't remember them? They are similar words to the first verse of Ezekiel's lovely song, *"Go, and tell this people, hear ye indeed, but understand not; and see ye indeed, but perceive not..."* These words are a footnote to Isaiah's Great Commission, *"Go and tell them, but I tell you beforehand that if they love the melody, they will hate the lyrics."*

SO THEN, WHAT LESSONS DO WE 21ST CENTURY PREACHERS LEARN FROM GOD'S MESSAGE TO EZEKIEL?

First, there is that basic truth we noted already, that a faithful preacher will find no honor at home, no respect among those who know him best. Don't be surprised when it happens to you, when you are ignored and passed over, when your name is left off the honors list.

You are not the first, and you won't be the last preacher to go weeks, months, years without a thank you or a pat on the back. God said it would happen to us as it did to the Saviour. *A prophet is not without honor, save in his own country, and in his own house.*

Second, we must not depend on the praises of men. *Those who DO say nice things to you at the door may be referring to the melody of your voice, not the lyrics of your sermons.*

If they persist in praising what they hear from your pulpit, it will be advisable to ask them what Bible truths are helping them the most. When they get that faraway look in their eyes and "start humming the melody", then it is most likely the melody, not the lyrics, they like.

I have observed numerous times that the most effusive praise comes from church members who become the greatest adversaries you will ever face. *And, lo, thou art unto them as a very lovely song of one that hath a pleasant voice, and can play well on an instrument: for they hear thy words, but they do them not.*

Third, we must learn that it is the message of the sermon that is of greatest importance, not the sweetness of your voice or the graciousness of your manner. Your personality, your smile, your comeliness, your new suit and tie, your mannerisms and gestures, your eloquence and wit may make your sermon melodious to the ear and the eye, but it is the lyrics, the words of God that carry the truth of God to the hearts of men that God uses to do His work.

"And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God. For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified. And I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling. And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God." (1 Corinthians 2:1-5).

Fourth, we must learn, sooner rather than later, that God calls us into the ministry to please Him, not to please men!

"But as we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel, even so we speak; not as pleasing men, but God, which trieth our hearts. For neither at any time used we flattering words, as ye know, nor a cloke of covetousness; God is witness: Nor of men sought we glory, neither of you, nor yet of others, when we might have been burdensome, as the apostles of Christ." (1 Thessalonians 2:4-6).

Fifth, We must learn the truth of **John 5:44**, *"How can ye believe, which receive honour one of another, and seek not the honour that cometh from God only?"*

The pecking order in the ministry is simple, but it is opposite to all the self esteem and self love of a fallen world. For the preacher, greatness is found at the bottom of the ladder, not the top. So instead of striving to be asked to speak at Leadership Conferences, to sit in high seats, to feast with the elite, and to sleep in five star palaces, we long for our Lord to increase and for us to decrease.

Honour is most often a great impediment to faith. That's what Jesus said to the Jews.

Sixth, we must never forget that the rewards from God do not come in this lifetime. The glory seekers of Jesus' day boasted of their prayers, their alms, and their fastings, seeking the praise of men who bowed and scraped, cheered and applauded for them.

Jesus told the Jews they'd already received all the reward they are ever going to get. For God's prophets the crowns must all wait till the Judgment Seat, but the cross is ours to bear at present. We must not run with Gehazi to beg of Naaman the paltry treasures men can give. Leprosy is too often found there.

"Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock. And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away." 1 Peter 5:2-4 "If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honour." (John 12:26).

And **seventh**, we must learn how empty are the praises of men. All the sweet words of flatterers add up to a zero with the line rubbed out. Our Lord Jesus saw through the double hearts of His admirers, and had no confidence in them. *"Now when he was in Jerusalem at the passover, in the feast day, many believed in his name, when they saw the miracles which he did. But Jesus did not commit himself unto them, because he knew all men, And needed not that any should testify of man: for he knew what was in man." (John 2:23-25).* He sought only that praise that comes from God, and so must we!

Preacher, don't despair! Not all professing Christians stone the prophets! There are still 7000 who've never bowed the knee to Baal! (Oh, that they were more vocal and more visible!) Over the years you will discover that there are some who love the sharp edged lyrics of sound doctrine even more than the beautiful melodies of your sermons. God gives the 7000 lovers of truth to us as tokens for good when men mock and despise our preaching. *"Shew me a token for good; that they which hate me may see it, and be ashamed: because thou, LORD, hast holpen me, and comforted me." (Psalm 86:17).*

I often wonder if the apostle even noticed that lad at Lystra or Derbe, who attended so keenly to the lyrics of Paul's preaching? It is certain that God did a work in young Timothy's heart under Paul's preaching, but Paul saw it not in Acts 13. Not until the next time he visited the church in Acts 16 did he find in the church a fledgling, an

eagle for God, ready to leave the nest and soar with Paul and Silas to regions beyond.

Years later Paul wrote of Timothy these words, *"... I have no man likeminded, who will naturally care for your state. For all seek their own, not the things which are Jesus Christ's. But ye know the proof of him, that, as a son with the father, he hath served with me in the gospel. Him therefore I hope to send presently, so soon as I shall see how it will go with me."* (Philippians 2:20-23).

There are those few who hear the tough lyrics and the sweet melody and love the lyrics best. Though we see them not, we may even pass through life unacquainted with them, but God knows who they are. Never mind, He will one day gather us together in an innumerable choir in Heaven where we shall sing with them the endless anthems of praise to the Lamb, world without end.

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A Youth Discipleship Course

by David W. Cloud

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Heads Up!

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