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## Heads Up!

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THIS WORLD: PLAYGROUND OR BATTLEGROUND? - by A. W. Tozer (1897-1963)

Things are for us not only what they are; they are what we hold them to be. Which is to say that our attitude toward things is likely in the long run to be more important than the things themselves. This is a common coin of knowledge, like an old dime, worn smooth by use. Yet it bears upon it the stamp of truth and must not be rejected because it is familiar.

It is strange how a fact may remain fixed, while our interpretation of the fact changes with the generations and the years.

One such fact is the world in which we live. It is here and has been here through the centuries.

It is a fact quite unchanged by the passing of time, but how different is modern man's view of it from the view our fathers held. Here we see plainly how great is the power of interpretation. The world is for all of us not only what it is; it is what we believe it to be. And a tremendous load of woe or weal rides on the soundness of our interpretation.

Going no farther back than the times of the founding and early development of our country we are able to see the wide gulf between our modern attitudes and those of our fathers. In the early days, when Christianity exercised a dominant influence over American thinking, men conceived the world to be a battleground. Our fathers believed in sin and the devil and hell as constituting one force; and they believed in God and righteousness and heaven as the other. These were in the nature of them forever opposed to each other in deep, grave, irreconcilable hostility. Man, so our fathers held, had to choose sides; he could not be neutral. For him it must be life or death, heaven or hell, and if he chose to come out on God's side he could expect open war with God's enemies. The fight would be real and deadly and would last as long as life continued here below. Men looked forward to heaven as a return from the wars, a laying down of the sword to enjoy in peace the home prepared for them.



Sermons and songs in those days often had a martial quality about them, or perhaps a trace of homesickness. The Christian soldier thought of home and rest and reunion, and his voice grew plaintive as he sang of battle ended and victory won. But whether he was charging into enemy guns or dreaming of war's end and the father's welcome home, he never forgot what kind of world he lived in. It was a battleground, and many were the wounded and the slain.

That view of things is unquestionably the scriptural one. Allowing for the figures and metaphors with which the Scriptures abound, it still is a solid Bible doctrine that tremendous spiritual forces are present in the world, and man, because of his spiritual nature, is caught in the middle. The evil powers are bent upon destroying him, while Christ is present to save him through the power of the gospel. To obtain deliverance he must come out on God's side in faith and obedience. That in brief is what our fathers thought; and that, we believe, is what the Bible teaches.

How different today. The fact remains the same, but the interpretation has changed completely. Men think of the world not as a battleground but as a playground. We are not in a foreign land, we are already living, and the best we can do is to rid ourselves of our inhibitions and our frustrations and live this life to the full. This, we believe, is a fair summary of the religious philosophy of modern man, openly professed by millions who live out that philosophy without having given verbal expression to it.

This changed attitude toward the world has had and is having its effect upon Christians, even gospel Christians who profess the faith of the Bible. By a curious juggling of the figures they manage to add up the column wrong and yet claim to have the right answer. It sounds fantastic but it is true?

That this world is a playground instead of a battleground has now been accepted in practice by the vast majority of fundamentalist Christians. They might hedge around the question if they were asked bluntly to declare their position, but their conduct gives them away. They are facing both ways, enjoying Christ and the world too, and gleefully telling everyone that accepting Jesus does not require them to give up their fun, and that Christianity is just the jolliest thing imaginable.

The "worship" growing out of such a view itself, a sort of sanctified night clubbing without the champagne and the dressed up drunks.

This whole thing has grown to be so serious of late that it now becomes the bounded duty of every Christian to re-examine his spiritual philosophy in the light of the Bible and having discovered the scriptural way, to follow it, even if to do so he must separate himself from much that he formerly accepted as real but which now in the light of the truth he knows to be false.

A right view of God and the world to come requires that we have also a right view of the world in which we live and our relation to it. So much depends upon this that we cannot afford to be careless about it.

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## DEACON TRUE SEZ -



**Most "fellowship" among God's people ought to be called "Christian Night Clubbing."**

**Have a listen the next time you sit down with your Christian friends and see how much of the conversation is about earthly, carnal, temporal things and how much is about the Lord and His Word, answers to prayer, and eternal matters.**

**You might be surprised.**

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## NOTABLE QUOTES AND QUOTABLE NOTES -

- The branch that bears the fruit gets the knife. - Leonard Ravenhill
- The branches that bear no fruit get the fire - (Editor)
- Paul was at one and the same time, the most contented and the most discontented man on earth. Regarding this life, perfectly contented, but regarding the spread of the gospel, he was forever seeking to go where no man had yet gone. - Anon.

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*“The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.” – Psalm 51:17*

This psalm is David’s penitential psalm. It may be fitly so called, because it is a psalm by which is manifest the unfeigned sorrow which he had for his horrible sin, in defiling of Bathsheba, and slaying Uriah her husband; a relation at large of which you have in the 11th and 12th of the Second of Samuel.

Many workings of heart, as this psalm showeth, this poor man had, so soon as conviction did fall upon his spirit. One while he cries for mercy, then he confesses his heinous offences, then he bewails the depravity of his nature; sometimes he cries out to be washed and sanctified, and then again he is afraid that God will cast him away from his presence, and take his Holy Spirit utterly from him. And thus he goes on till he comes to the text, and there he stayeth his mind, finding in himself that heart and spirit which God did not dislike; ‘The sacrifices of God,’ says he, ‘are a broken spirit’; as if he should say, I thank God I have that. ‘A broken and a contrite heart,’ says he, ‘O God, thou wilt not despise’; as if he should say, I thank God I have that.

The demonstration of this is plain: for that heart God will not despise it. ‘A broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.’ Whence I draw this conclusion: That a spirit rightly broken, a heart truly contrite, is to God an excellent thing. That is, a thing that goeth beyond all external duties whatever; for that is intended by this saying, The sacrifices, because it answereth to all sacrifices which we can offer to God; yea it serveth in the room of all: all our sacrifices without this are nothing; this alone is all.

#### THERE ARE FOUR THINGS THAT ARE VERY ACCEPTABLE TO GOD.

The **First** is The sacrifice of the body of Christ for our sins. Of this you read (Heb 10) for there you have it preferred to all burnt-offerings and sacrifices; it is this that pleaseth

God; it is this that sanctifieth, and so setteth the people acceptable in the sight of God.

**Second.** Unfeigned love to God is counted better than all sacrifices, or external parts of worship. ‘*And to love him [the Lord thy God] with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the soul, and with all the strength, and to love his neighbour as himself, is more than all whole burnt-offerings and sacrifices*’ (Mark 12:33).

**Third.** To walk holily and humbly, and obediently, towards and before God, is another. Hath the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord?— ‘*Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice; and to hearken than the fat of rams*’ (Micah 6:6-8; 1 Sam 15:22).

**Fourth.** And this in our text is the fourth: ‘The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.’ But note by the way, that this broken, this broken and contrite heart, is thus excellent only to God: ‘O God,’ saith he, ‘THOU wilt not despise it.’ By which is implied, the world have not this esteem or respect for such a heart, or for one that is of a broken and a contrite spirit.

No, no, a man, a woman, that is blessed with a broken heart, is so far off from getting by that esteem with the world, that they are but burdens and trouble houses wherever they are or go. Such people carry with them molestation and disquietment: they are in carnal families as David was to the king of Gath, troublers of the house (1 Sam 21). Their sighs, their tears, their day and night groans, their cries and prayers, and solitary carriages, put all the carnal family out of order.

Hence you have them brow-beaten by some, contemned by others, yea, and their company fled from and deserted by others. But mark the text, ‘A broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise,’ but rather accept; for not to despise is with God to esteem and set a high price upon.



THE DOCTRINE, ASSERTION, DEMONSTRATION, AND  
CONCLUSION, THAT A BROKEN AND TRULY CONTRITE HEART IS  
AN EXCELLENT HEART.

But we will demonstrate by several particulars, that a broken spirit, a spirit RIGHTLY broken, an heart TRULY contrite, is to God an excellent thing.

**First.** This is evident from the comparison, 'Thou desirest not sacrifice, else would I give *it*, thou delightest not in burnt-offering. The sacrifices of God *are* a broken spirit,' &c. Mark, he rejecteth sacrifices, offerings and sacrifices: that is, all Levitical ceremonies under the law, and all external performances under the gospel; but accepteth a broken heart. It is therefore manifest by this, were there nothing else to be said, that proves, that a heart rightly broken, a heart truly contrite, is to God an excellent thing; for as you see such a heart is set before all sacrifice; and yet they were the ordinances of God, and things that he commanded; but lo, a broken spirit is above them all, a contrite heart goes beyond them, yea, beyond them when put all together. Thou wilt not have the one, thou wilt not despise the other. O brethren, a broken and a contrite heart is an excellent thing. Have I said a broken heart, a broken and a contrite heart is esteemed above all sacrifices; I will add,

**Second.** It is of greater esteem with God than is either heaven or earth; and that is more than to be set before external duties. 'Thus saith the Lord, The heaven *is* my throne, and the earth *is* my footstool, where *is* the house that ye build unto me? and where *is* the place of my rest? For all those *things* hath mine hand made, and all those things have been, saith the Lord: but to this *man* will I look, *even to him that is* poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word' (Isa 66:1,2). Mark, God saith, he hath made all these things, but he doth not say, that he will look to them, that is, take complacency and delight in them; no, there is that wanting in all that he hath made that should take up and delight his heart. But now, let a broken-hearted sinner come before him; yea, he ranges the world throughout to find out such an one, and having found him, 'To this *man*,' saith he, 'will I look.' I say again, that such a man to him is of more value than is either heaven or earth; 'They,' saith he, 'shall wax old'; 'they shall perish' and vanish away; but this man he continues: he, as is presented to us in another place, under another character, 'he shall abide for ever' (Heb 1:10-12; 1 John 2:17). 'To this *man* will I look,' with this man will I be delighted; for so to look doth sometimes signify. 'Thou hast ravished my heart, my sister, *my* spouse,' saith Christ to his humble-hearted, 'thou hast ravished my heart with one of thine eyes' (Cant 4:9). While it is as a conduit to let the rivers out of thy broken heart. I am taken, saith he, 'with one chain of thy neck' (Can 4:9). Here you see he

looks and is ravished, he looks and is taken, as it saith in another place, 'The king *is* held in the galleries'; that is, is taken with his beloved, with the dove's eyes of his beloved, with the contrite spirit of his people (Cant 7:5, 1:15). But it is not thus reported of him with respect to heaven or earth: them he sets more lightly by, them he 'reserves unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men' (2 Peter 3:7), but the broken in heart are his beloved, his jewels. Wherefore, what I have said as to this must go for the truth of God, to wit, That a brokenhearted sinner, a sinner with a contrite spirit, is of more esteem with God than is either heaven or earth. He saith he hath made them, but he doth not say he will look to them. He saith they are his throne and footstool, but he doth not say they have taken or ravished his heart. No, it is those that are of a contrite spirit do this. But there is yet more in the words, 'To this *man* will I look': that is, For this man will I care, about this man will I camp, I will put this man under my protection; for so to look to one doth sometimes signify; and I take the meaning in this place to be such (Prov 27:23; Jer 39:12, 40:4). 'The Lord upholdeth all that fall, and raiseth up all *those that be* bowed down' (Psa 145:14). And the broken-hearted are of this number; wherefore he careth for, campeth about, and hath set his eyes upon such an one for good. This, therefore, is a second demonstration to prove, that the man that hath his spirit rightly broken, his heart truly contrite, is of great esteem with God.

**Third.** Yet further, God doth not only prefer such an one, as has been said, before heaven and earth, but he loveth, he desireth to have that man for an intimate, for a companion; he must dwell; he must cohabit with him that is of a broken heart, with such as are of a contrite spirit. 'For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy, I will dwell in the high and holy *place*, with him also *that is* of a contrite and humble spirit' &c. (Isa 57:15). Behold here both the majesty andn condescension of the high and lofty One; his majesty, in that he is high, and the inhabiter of eternity; 'I am the high and lofty One,' saith he, 'I inhabit eternity.' Verily this consideration is enough to make the broken-hearted man creep into a mouse-hole to hide himself from such a majesty! But behold his heart, his condescending mind; I am for dwelling also with him that hath a broken heart, with him that is of a contrite spirit; that is the man that I would converse with, that is the man with whom I will cohabit; that is, he, saith God, I will choose for my companion. For to desire to dwell with one supposeth all these things; and verily, of all the men in the world, none have acquaintance with God, none understand what communion with him, and what his teachings mean, but such as are of a broken and contrite heart. 'He is nigh unto them that are of a broken spirit' (Psa 34:18). These are they intended in the 14th Psalm, where it is said, 'The

Lord looked down from heaven, - to see if any did understand *and* seek God'; that he might find some body in the world with whom he might converse; for indeed there is none else that either understand, or that can tend to hearken to him. God, as I may say, is forced to break men's hearts, before he can make them willing to cry to him, or be willing that he should have any concerns with them; the rest shut their eyes, stop their ears, withdraw their hearts, or say unto God, Be gone (Job 21:14). But now the broken in heart can tend it; he has leisure, yea, leisure, and will, and understanding, and all; and therefore is a fit man to have to do with God. There is room also in this man's house, in this man's heart, in this man's spirit, for God to dwell, for God to walk, for God to set up a kingdom. Here, therefore, is suitableness. 'Can two walk together,' saith God, 'except they be agreed?' (Amos 3:3). The broken-hearted desireth God's company; when wilt thou come unto me? saith he. The broken-hearted loveth to hear God speak and talk to him. Here is a suitableness. 'Make me,' saith he, 'to hear joy and gladness, *that* the bones *which* thou hast broken may rejoice' (Psa 51:8). But here lies the glory, in that the high and lofty One, the God that inhabiteth eternity, and that was a high and holy place for his habitation, should choose to dwell with, and to be a companion of the broken in heart, and of them that are of a contrite spirit. Yea, and here also is great comfort for such.

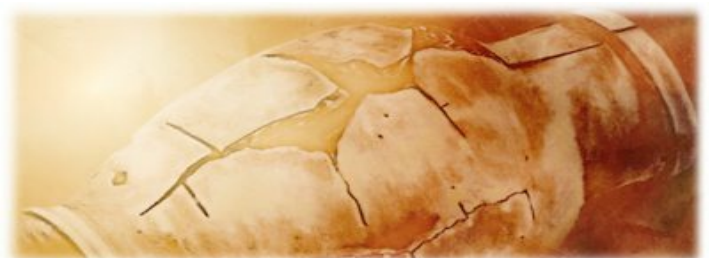
**Fourth.** God doth not only prefer such a heart before all sacrifices, nor esteems such a man above heaven and earth; nor yet only desire to be of his acquaintance, but he reserveth for him his chief comforts, his heartreviving and soul-cherishing cordials. 'I dwell,' saith he, with such to revive them, and to support and comfort them, 'to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones' (Isa 57:15). The broken-hearted man is a fainting man; he has his qualms, his sinking fits; he oftentimes dies away with pain and fear; he must be stayed with flagons, and comforted with apples, or else he cannot tell what to do: he pines, he pines away in his iniquity; nor can any thing keep him alive and make him well but the comforts and cordials of Almighty God (Exo 33:10,11). Wherefore with such an one God will dwell, to revive the heart, to revive the spirit. 'To revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.' God has cordials, but they are to comfort them that are cast down (2 Cor 7:6); and such are the broken-hearted; as for them that are whole, they need not the physician (Mark 2:17). They are the broken in spirit that stand in need of cordials; physicians are men of no esteem but with them that feel their sickness; and this is one reason why God is so little accounted of in the world, even because they have not been made sick by the wounding stroke of God. But now when a man is wounded, has his bones broken, or is made sick, and laid at the grave's mouth, who is of that esteem with him as is

an able physician? What is so much desired as are the cordials, comforts, and suitable supplies of the skilful physician in those matters. And thus it is with the broken-hearted; he needs, and God has prepared for him plenty of the comforts and cordials of heaven, to succour and relieve his sinking soul. Wherefore such a one lieth under all the promises that have succour in them, and consolation for men, sick and desponding under the sense of sin and the heavy wrath of God; and they, says God, shall be refreshed and revived with them. Yea, they are designed for them; he hath therefore broken their hearts, he hath therefore wounded their spirits, that he might make them apt to relish his reviving cordials, that he might minister to them his reviving comforts. For indeed, so soon as he hath broken them, his bowels yearn, and his compassions roll up and down within him, and will not suffer him to abide afflicting. Ephraim was one of these; but so soon as God had smitten him, behold his heart, how it works towards him. 'Is Ephraim,' saith he, 'my dear son?' that is, he is so; *'is he* a pleasant child?' that is, he is so; 'for since I spake against him, I do earnestly remember him still; therefore my bowels are troubled for him; I will surely have mercy upon him, saith the Lord' (Jer 31:18-20). This therefore is another demonstration.

**Fifth.** As God prefers such a heart, and esteems the man that has it above heaven and earth; as he covets intimacy with such an one, and prepares for him his cordials; so when he sent his Son Jesus into the world to be a Saviour, he gave him in special a charge to take care of such; yea, that was one of the main reasons he sent him down from heaven, anointed for his work on earth. 'The Spirit of the Lord God *is* upon me,' saith he; 'because hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,' &c. (Luke 4:18; Isa 61:1). Now that this is meant of Christ, is confirmed by his own lips; for in the days of his flesh he takes this book in his hand, when he was in the synagogue at Nazareth, and read this very place unto the people; and then tells them that that very day that Scripture was fulfilled in their ears (Luke 6:16-18).

(To read more of this sermon by John Bunyan go to <http://www.chapellibrary.org/johnbunyan/text/bun-acceptable.pdf> - Ed)

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*(Pastors who read their Bibles usually believe that there is a direct link between sin and demon possession. The fact is well documented that all sin is addictive in nature, that these addictions ultimately alter the mind of the sin-addict, and that the Devil takes advantage of this altered state of consciousness by taking control of the addict. In the New Testament, the literal term for demon possession is "demonised." I have observed, in varying cultures, both modern and primitive, what appeared to be demon possessed people who were "possessed" through involvement in the occult, in drugs, in long exposure to overpowering rock music, in alcoholism, in involvement in cultic religions (including Roman Catholicism!), etc. We are now seeing evidence of demon possession through addiction to technology, particularly through violent video games, as below. When we were teaching in high school some years ago I asked who had played a computer game the longest and one boy said he had played non-stop for 38 hours. I know little detail of these games, but looked up a review of Grand Theft Auto IV recently and was shocked to see what Christian Teens play all the time. Apparently Call of Duty (as below) has also been found to be very harmful. We are appealing to parents in our church to ban these (and other) vile, profane, immoral, blasphemous, crime promoting, murderous, anti-authority, anti-Christian games, and even to restrict their children's playing of "harmless" video games to an hour a week. Better yet, their children should be taken outdoors and taught to kick a ball, or to swim. I would like to urge every parent to purchase and watch the Captivated DVD! - Ed)*

WASHINGTON NAVY YARD GUNMAN AARON ALEXIS  
HEARD 'VOICES IN HEAD' AFTER PLAYING VIOLENT VIDEO  
GAMES UP TO 18 HOURS A DAY

18 Sep 2013 08:28

*The former navy reservist played "shoot 'em up" games like Call of Duty - with his best friend saying the games pushed his dark side*

Crazed Aaron Alexis was treated for mental illness after playing violent video games for up to 18 hours day and night. The 34-year-old told psychiatrists he heard voices in his head long before he went on the rampage at a US naval base and slaughtered 12 people before being shot dead himself. Friends said the length of time he spent glued to the "shoot 'em up" games on his computer, including the popular Call of Duty, triggered his dark side that had previously landed him in trouble with the police on gun crimes.

But despite his psychiatric problems and arrests for violence, the IT contractor was never declared mentally unfit by the US Navy - a move that would have stripped him of the security pass that allowed him to drive unchallenged into the Washington base and carry out his murderous mission.

And as a result, his gun licence was also never rescinded. "the killer was 'really into' Call of Duty and World of Warcraft. Mr Childs added: "There were a couple of guys I worked with that were kind of into shooter games, but by the time a new one came out, he would know a lot about the game." Another friend, Michael Ritrovato, told how he saw twisted Alexis playing the part of a killer in the



games. A source close to the case said: "What is emerging is a picture of someone who was clearly troubled but yet no one in authority picked up on it. "There are several events in his life that should have set alarm bells ringing that he was unsuitable to be around firearms. We know he had an obsession with violent video games and we will look into that part of the investigation."

Experts have argued for many years people addicted to violent computer games can be affected by their content. Call Of Duty are first-person shooting games where the gamer plays the role of military men on realistic missions. Alexis went to the Veterans Administration last month seeking treatment for paranoia, insomnia and possible schizophrenia. Around the same time he called police to his hotel room in Rhode Island after complaining of hearing voices. He had also claimed to be suffering from post traumatic stress disorder after helping with rescue efforts in the wake of the New York 9/11 attacks.

FOR FURTHER INFO, PLEASE SEE THE FOLLOWING LINKS AND ARTICLES: - **IS TECHNOLOGY REWIRING CHILDREN'S BRAINS?**  
[http://video.foxnews.com/v/2272568299001/is-technology-rewiring-childrens-brains/?intcmp=HPBucket&playlist\\_id=929831913001](http://video.foxnews.com/v/2272568299001/is-technology-rewiring-childrens-brains/?intcmp=HPBucket&playlist_id=929831913001)





THE MORE TEXTS YOU SEND, THE WORSE YOU SLEEP - by Emma Innes

<http://thedcpost.com/?p=31831>

**THE MORE TEXTS YOU SEND, THE WORSE YOU SLEEP: PEOPLE WHO CONSTANTLY MESSAGE 'EXPERIENCE MORE STRESS IN THEIR FRIENDSHIPS'**

- People who send a lot of texts sleep less well because they often feel pressurised to reply to messages in the middle of the night
- They also sleep with phone by their bed so are woken by incoming texts
- People who communicate by text have more stress in their friendships
- This is because texts are unable to convey the nuances important in discussing sensitive issues

Many people claim they couldn't live without their phone, but this addiction could be doing them more harm than good, experts warn.

People who text the most experience the most sleep problems. This is thought to be because they feel pressurised to reply to messages in the night and because they sleep with their phone by their bed so are woken by incoming messages.

Dr. Karla Murdock at Washington Lee University found that first year students who text a lot sleep less well, regardless of their level of stress. She asked students to answer questions that assessed their emotional well-being and sleep problems. She also asked them to estimate how many text messages they sent and received on an average day. The study also found that frequent text messaging is associated with more friendship-related stress because texts are unable to convey subtle nuances in conversation

The key finding was that a higher number of daily texts was associated with more sleep problems. The study also found that frequent text messaging is associated with more friendship-related stress.

Dr Murdock wrote: 'These correlational findings provide an initial indication that heavy text messaging could be problematic during times of stress.'

'Although speculative, it could be argued that text messaging is a uniquely unsuitable mode of communication for coping with interpersonal stress in close relationships.'

EXPERTS SAY EXPOSURE TO ARTIFICIAL LIGHT FROM TABLETS IS CAUSING SLEEP DISORDERS - by Deborah Rice

ABC NEWS 1 July 2013

The popularity of hand-held digital devices could lead to a big jump in sleep disorders, with experts warning the light emitted from digital screens can have a disturbing effect on the body clock. Leading Australian researcher Professor Shantha Rajaratnam says there is growing evidence that the night time use of portable digital devices is likely to compound the problems associated with artificial lighting. "We think that the advent of electric lighting has significantly impacted upon sleep-wake patterns, but with the proliferation of electronic devices that emit light we are expecting that these problems will increase," said Professor Rajatnam, from Monash University's School of Psychology and Psychiatry. A recent study in the United States showed that devices such as laptops, smart phones and tablets emit approximately 30 to 50 lux, about half the illumination of



an ordinary room light. "We know from preliminary reports that this level of light emission, 30 to 50 lux, is sufficient over a week or so to delay the timing of the circadian clock as well as suppress the production of the hormone melatonin," says Professor Rajaratnam.

**Key points**

- Body clock is affected by artificial light.
- Short wavelength blue light is the most disruptive.
- Body does not produce as much melatonin, a hormone that helps sleep.

- Lack of sleep can affect alertness, concentration and memory.
- Risk is most significant for adolescents.

Melatonin, which is produced when it is dark, helps regulate and promote sleep. People who do not have enough of the hormone take longer to fall asleep.

"The extent of the response of the circadian clock will depend on how bright the light is - that is how far away the device is from the eyes - as well as what colours of light are being emitted," Professor Rajaratnam said. Most disruptive to the body clock is short wavelength blue light - exactly what backlit portable screens shine directly into the eyes. In addition, the devices are held close to the face and they are easily used in bed.

Dimming the screen brightness may help reduce the effect and technology is being developed that will allow filtering of the worst wavelengths.

Professor Rajaratnam says the best solution is the simplest. "We would recommend that these devices are shut down or closed off up to two hours before bed time, but at least one hour before bed time, to try to reduce the impact of these light sources on sleep."

#### Increase in screen-related disorders

Clinical psychologist Dr Amanda Gamble, from Sydney's Woolcock Insomnia Clinic, agrees.

Dr Gamble says she is seeing an increasing number of patients who are presenting with screen-related sleep problems

"We've gone from bigger devices - the computers that were fixed on our desk to the handheld portable devices ... so it's become a much more difficult issue to actually create a boundary between sleep and switching off these devices, because of course they come into the bedroom and a lot of people use their mobile phones as their alarm clock," she said.

Dr Gamble says studies show many young people are using computer screens every night in the hour before bed and also in bed. She believes it is a growing problem.

"Often what we're seeing is the device use is getting younger and younger so we now have children in grades 4, 5 and 6 that have mobile phones and computers," she said.

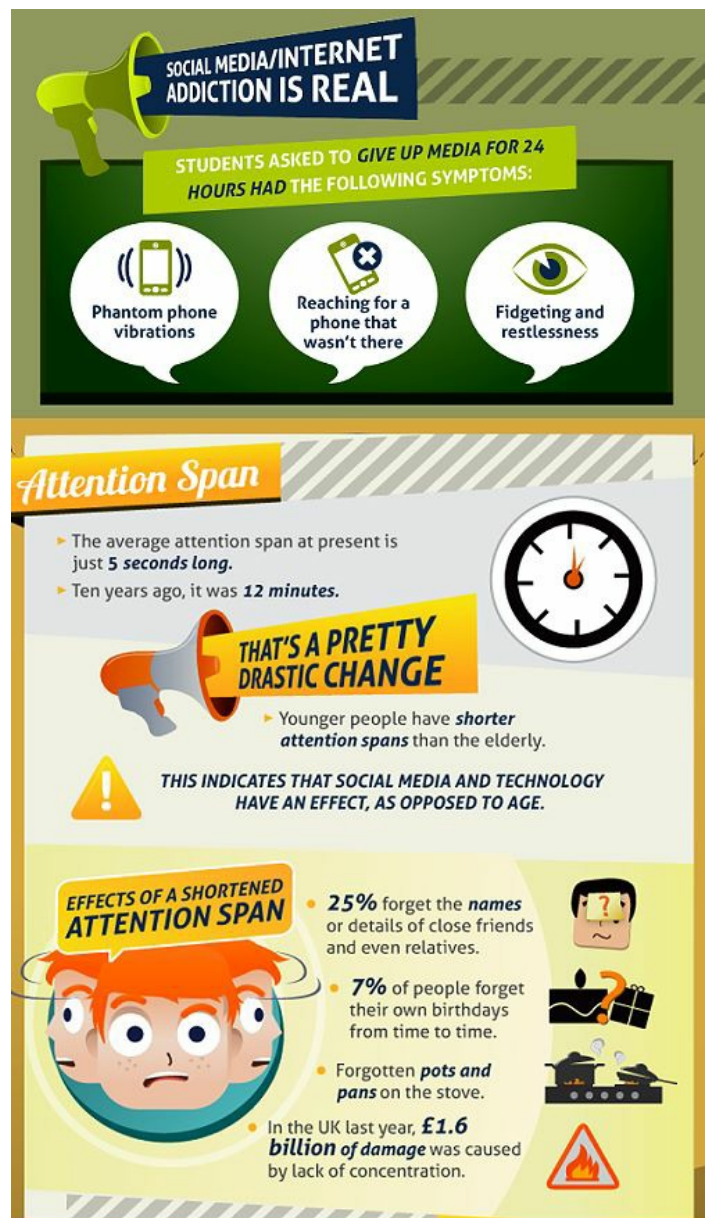
"There's a shift in schools too, to ask students to complete their work online, rather than writing with pen and paper. "So they've got a number of messages coming at them that lead them to use devices more frequently and to use them in younger age groups as well."

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2013-07-01/artificial-light-leading-to-increase-in-sleep-disorders/4790448?section=australianetworknews>

#### HOW SOCIAL MEDIA IS RUINING YOUR MIND

<HTTP://SINGULARITYHUB.COM/2011/12/13/HOW-SOCIAL-MEDIA-IS-RUINING-YOUR-MIND/>

Singularity Hub is a blog and news network covering the latest in robots, genetics, longevity, artificial intelligence, aging, stem cells, and more. The *singularity* is the point in mankind's future when we will transcend current intellectual and biological limitations and initiate an intelligence and information explosion beyond imagining. The impossible is becoming possible. The future that you thought would not come in your lifetime is coming sooner than you thought. Singularity Hub is here to tell you about it.



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The Scriptures are very clear that God has revealed Himself to all men (Romans 1:19). The creation itself is a testimony to the Creator – not "nature" but creation. The term "nature" speaks of that which occurs naturally.

Lost men use that term to refer to their convoluted idea of evolution. Because off the witness of creation, men are without excuse when it comes to the truth of the existence of God and His truth. But they are also without excuse when it comes to the truth concerning the wrath of God. History bears witness to His wrath.

We read in **Romans 1:18**, *"For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness."*

God's wrath is a vital component concerning His salvation. The word WRATH is the Greek word ORGE. This is a very interesting word that comes from the idea of "to teem, to swell." It eventually came to speak of "anger." God's wrath is the temper of God toward sin. This is His anger toward those who break His law, which speaks of all mankind. Men must understand that they are sinners before a perfect and holy God, and that His wrath abides upon them (John 3:18).

Those who reject Jesus Christ, and those who embrace modern religious movements have concluded that God would never stoop to any form of anger. They declare that the God of the Old Testament is not the same as the God of the New Testament. Yet, the New Testament speaks of the wrath of the Lamb of God, Who is God that came in the flesh.

For example, on two occasions, Christ cleaned out the Temple of what amounted to a religious flea market. Both times, He showed His wrath. The Revelation of Jesus Christ shows the wrath of the Lamb throughout the book.

The wrath of God is being revealed even now "against all ungodliness" which speaks of irreverence and the "unrighteousness of men", their violation of God's laws.

His wrath is His displeasure with sin. That wrath is revealed to all people. When men sin, there is always a just and righteous consequence to that sin. But what about those who are not seeing it or who are seemingly not seeing the revealing of that wrath?

In the last part of the verse, Paul says something a bit curious as to what they are doing concerning God's wrath. Paul says that these are those "who hold the truth in unrighteousness." What does Paul mean by saying that they HOLD THE TRUTH? Do they not reject the truth? Absolutely. The key word is the word HOLD. The word HOLD is the Greek word KATECHO. That means "to hold back, to hinder, to hold down, to suppress."

Paul is declaring that they are suppressing the truth of God in their unrighteousness. In other words, by their wicked lives and the deeds thereof, men are suppressing the revealed truth of God. That includes God's wrath and God's truth. That is the reason that foolish inventions of philosophies and religions have become so rampant in our day. That is the reason that damning lies such as evolution are taught in schools and colleges, and why it is espoused by so many religions.

No doubt, all of us have talked with and sought to declare truth to those who suppress the truth of God. Some believe by their espousing evolution that they are not accountable.

Think of those who constantly suppressed truth in the New Testament – the Pharisees and Sadducees, Pilate and Herod, Judas, Festus and Agrippa. Because of their choice, they have discovered the continued wrath of God as it is being experienced by them in hell right now.

One day, they will come before the Great White Throne and will be without excuse before the One that sits on that throne. Their sentence for suppressing the truth is the lake of fire.

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(The storyline of immoral celebrities who take turns smooching up to microphones and pontificating from pulpits sounds like it was written in Sodom and played out in Las Vegas. Hyles, Schaap, Aguilar and all the rest. I keep think about the comment made by the CCM performer, "You can't swing a Dove Award without hitting a homosexual." One of the Old Testament insights we ought to be remembering is that ALL of the idolatrous religions spawned from Nimrod's Babylon were fertility cults. They worshipped the sun, the moon, the rivers, and the earth. They sacrificed infants to Molech and Chemosh, as do those who abort their babies do today. How sad that Hollywood and CCM performers have brought the music and morals of Babylon into our churches via Hillsong! - Ed)

<http://www.charismanews.com/us/41017-roc-megachurch-reveals-former-pastor-s-extramarital-affairs>  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yjVZGUWRJgA> Video of Jack Schaap and Geronimo Aguilar

#### ROC MEGACHURCH REVEALS FORMER PASTOR'S EXTRAMARITAL AFFAIRS - *by Gina Meeks*

Nearly four months after Virginia's Richmond Outreach Center (ROC) was rocked by the departure of senior pastor Geronimo Aguilar, who was charged with sexual assault, the church has clarified the reason for his resignation. "We have all been going through a time of grieving and hurt over the moral failings of our former senior pastor," [said the board of directors](#) at the church's weekly service, Six O'Clock ROC, Saturday. Aguilar, known as "Pastor G," was charged in Texas in May with seven felonies in two cases of sexual assault of two sisters under the age of 14. The alleged assaults—which were said to have taken place before Aguilar founded ROC in 2001—date back to 1996. Four of the felonies he faces carry potential life sentences. "After our former pastor was arrested related to charges in Texas, the board of directors became aware of his multiple extramarital affairs with members of our church and community," the statement said. "This biblically disqualified him from the office of pastor and leadership of the ROC in any capacity. The board of directors is committed to providing godly leadership at all levels of ministry." Several women came forward after Aguilar was charged with sexual assault, claiming they had sexual relations with him. [Amber Baker told 8News she had sex with Aguilar](#) when she was 18. She is the fourth woman to claim to the news station she had sex with the pastor as a teen. Baker was 5 years old when she started attending the church. She said Aguilar—who is married and has five children—took her, her 16-



**Geronimo Aguilar, founding former pastor of ROC, resigned after he was charged in Texas with seven felonies in two cases of sexual assault of two underaged sisters. ([www.theroc.com](http://www.theroc.com))**

year-old sister and two other young girls to a timeshare when his wife was out of town. "He brought us alcohol, we got drunk and the rest is history," Baker said. "I had just turned 18. It was wrong. Just because it is not illegal doesn't mean it is not wrong, and he was my pastor. I moved to Richmond to serve God." Baker also claimed Aguilar has been sexually involved with her mother and her aunt.

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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](http://www.fairhavensbaptist.net)

**CHALLENGING AND ENCOURAGING GOD'S REMNANT TO REMAIN FAITHFUL**

## THERAPY FOR THE FUNNY BONE -

One morning a father asked his teenaged son, "What time did you get in last night?"

"Not too late." he replied nervously.

"Then I will have to talk to our paper boy about putting the newspaper under the front wheel of the car." he said.



Did you hear about the preacher who had such high self esteem that he signed his own Bible?



A Catholic, a Protestant, a Muslim and a Jew were discussing their businesses over dinner.

The Catholic said "I made so much money last year that I am going to buy Citibank!"

The Protestant said, "My investments paid off so well that I will buy General Motors!"

The Muslim said, "My oil empire is so successful that next month I will purchase Microsoft!"

They then all waited for the Jew to speak. He stirs his coffee, places the spoon neatly on the table, takes a sip of his coffee, looks at them and casually replies, "I am sorry, gentlemen, but I am not selling!"

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## POSTER-ITY -



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## DOG CASUISTRY -



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"<sup>15</sup> Lay not wait, O wicked man, against the dwelling of the righteous; spoil not his resting place: <sup>16</sup> For a just man falleth seven times, and riseth up again: but the wicked shall fall into mischief."  
*Proverbs 24:15-16*

"<sup>17</sup> Rejoice not when thine enemy falleth, and let not thine heart be glad when he stumbleth: <sup>18</sup> Lest the LORD see it, and it displease him, and he turn away his wrath from him."  
*Proverbs 24:17-18*





(Christians do not often consider the prevalence of favouritism in our churches. The Lord calls it "respect of persons" in **James 2:1-9**, *"My brethren, have not the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with respect of persons. For if there come unto your assembly a man with a gold ring, in goodly apparel, and there come in also a poor man in vile raiment; And ye have respect to him that weareth the gay clothing, and say unto him, Sit thou here in a good place; and say to the poor, Stand thou there, or sit here under my footstool: Are ye not then partial in yourselves, and are become judges of evil thoughts? Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him? But ye have despised the poor. Do not rich men oppress you, and draw you before the judgment seats? Do not they blaspheme that worthy name by the which ye are called? If ye fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well: But if ye have respect to persons, ye commit sin, and are convinced of the law as transgressors."*

We cannot help wondering if modern Christians should paraphrase the text to read, *"For if there come into your church a preacher with a degree from Louisville seminary and a large following, with many evangelistic crusades, and large crowds to his credit, and there come in also a simple Bible preacher who never attended Bible college, but who loves the Lord and His Word, and the deacon board shows respect to Dr. \_\_\_\_\_ and invite him to the platform to speak, even though he denies that Jesus Christ alone can save, the church ignores the simple Bible preacher, telling him he is not welcome, are you not then partial in yourselves, and are become judges of evil thoughts? Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the unlettered brethren rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which He has promised to them that love Him? But ye have despised the poor in spirit. Do not the modern scholars and the intellectually elite oppress your faith, and excommunicate you from their fellowship? Do not they blaspheme the name of Christ and honour themselves above God?....."*

We ponder what would happen if the names of the pastors of our churches were to be inserted in the blanks below? How long would we tolerate them in our pulpits? Would we not rise up in righteous indignation and thrust them out of our churches?

The sad fact is that Rob Bell, C.S. Lewis, and other well known evangelicals have publicly stated that there are other ways to be saved than through faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. This is called universalism.

What a contrast to the apostle Peter's word in **Acts 4:12**, *"Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." He had grasped quite clearly what his Lord meant when he said,*

*"I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." John 14:6*

#### **AN EXAMPLE OF UNIVERSALISM AMONG EVANGELICALS: WHO SAID THIS?**

"For decades he has been saying that it is possible for someone to be saved without personal faith in Jesus Christ, but there has been no outcry from evangelicalism, including from \_\_\_\_\_'s own denomination, the Southern Baptist Convention.

1. In an interview with McCall's magazine, January 1978, entitled "I Can't Play God Any More," \_\_\_\_\_ said: "I used to believe that pagans in far-off countries were lost-were going to hell-if they did not have the Gospel of Jesus Christ preached to them. I no longer believe that. ... I believe that there are other ways of recognizing the existence of God-through nature, for instance-and plenty of other opportunities, therefore, of saying 'yes' to God."
2. In 1985, \_\_\_\_\_ affirmed his belief that those outside of Christ might be saved. Los Angeles reporter David Colker asked \_\_\_\_\_: "What about people of

other faiths who live good lives but don't profess a belief in Christ?" \_\_\_\_\_ replied, "I'm going to leave that to the Lord. He'll decide that" (Los Angeles Herald Examiner , July 22, 1985).

3. In 1993, \_\_\_\_\_ repeated this doctrine in an interview with David Frost. "And I think there is that hunger for God and people are living as best they know how according to the light that they have. Well, I think they're in a separate category than people like Hitler and people who have just defied God, and shaken their fists at God. ... I would say that God, being a God of mercy, we have to rest it right there, and say that God is a God of mercy and love, and how it happens, we don't know" (The Charlotte Observer , Feb. 16, 1993).
4. In an interview with Robert Schuller in May 1997, \_\_\_\_\_ again said that he believes people in other religions can be saved without consciously believing in Jesus Christ. "[God's] calling people out of the world for His name, whether WHETHER THEY COME FROM THE MUSLIM WORLD, OR THE

BUDDHIST WORLD, OR THE CHRISTIAN WORLD OR THE NON-BELIEVING WORLD, THEY ARE MEMBERS OF THE BODY OF CHRIST BECAUSE THEY'VE BEEN CALLED BY GOD. THEY MAY NOT EVEN KNOW THE NAME OF JESUS but they know in their hearts that they need something that they don't have, and they turn to the only light that they have, and I think that they are saved, and that they're going to be with us in heaven" (television interview of \_\_\_\_\_ by Robert Schuller, broadcast in southern California, Saturday, May 31, 1997)."

(Excerpted from *Evangelicals Promoting Universalism* - [http://www.wayoflife.org/index\\_files/evangelicals\\_promoting\\_universalism.html](http://www.wayoflife.org/index_files/evangelicals_promoting_universalism.html))

So who said these things? None other than **evangelist Billy Graham**.

Can anyone explain to us why he should be treated any differently than your pastor? – Ed

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#### ASSEMBLIES OF GOD AND MORMONS? - AOG CEO FORMS TIES OF FAITH WITH CHURCH OF LDS [EXCERPTS]



"God is playing a role in all religions and that Christians are more united than they sometimes think." ~ George O. Wood

The question is, united around what? Around which God? The eternal Christ that Christians worship, or the created being whose brother is Lucifer?

Yes, some strange things have been happening with the Assemblies' top leadership these past few months. [In August] at the Assemblies of God "Believe" Conference, leadership brought in New Age Contemplative key player Ruth Haley Barton.

And now it appears [Wood] and his leadership team are joining hands to find common ground with top Mormon leaders at BYU. According to the campus newsletter...George O. Wood, addressed hundreds of BYU students and Elder Jeffrey R. Holland of "the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles..." The paper reports that the Quorum of the Twelve sponsored the lecture for its Faith, Family, and Society series: Wood shared his lifelong spiritual journey and ministry as a member of the Assembly of God. He gave a brief history of the Assembly of God's origin in the early 1900s, including the receiving of the gift of tongues. He spent time drawing parallel's between Latter-day Saints and the Assembly of God. "Like

the LDS we were a very marginalized minority, and even persecuted," Wood said. "We had preachers that were tarred and feathered and driven out of town because we had this experience that others didn't understand."

Elder Holland sat on the stage, listening intently and laughing at the humorous and touching experiences Wood shared.

Wood spoke of an experience he had two years earlier with Elder Holland at a conference in Utah. In response to a question from Wood, Elder Holland expressed that his greatest worry about the young generation was that they would grow coarse to the values and principles taught by Jesus Christ. "His response immediately bonded my heart to him," Wood said. "Any Assembly of God preacher could say the same thing. We just absolutely share that in common."

Wood expressed that the Assembly of God's 66 million members test out their faith just like Latter-day Saints do. He urged the audience to seek a strong faith through diligent study of the scriptures. "The question for me in college became, 'Is experience enough to carry me through?'" Wood said. "I had to have a stronger, intellectual foundation for my faith." Wood showed that God is playing a role in all religions and that Christians are more united than they sometimes think.

"The whole aspect of the Christian faith, and my personal faith, rests upon whether or not Jesus Christ rose again from the dead," Wood said.

<http://standupforthetruth.com/2013/09/assembly-of-god-ceo-forms-ties-of-faith-with-church-of-lds/>

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## VULGAR TALK, VILE LIVING, AND VISUAL IMMORALITY! - Don Boys, Ph.D.



In 1904 the Dean of Women at Northwestern University told women **not** to permit a man to touch her or hold her hand! Today universities are telling females how to be sexually promiscuous but be safe in doing so and how to inflict pain on themselves and others for sexual pleasure! In fact, most feminine studies teach a woman to swear, strut, swagger, smoke, and spit just like a man. Fact is, that's also uncivil, unseemly, uncouth, and unchristian for a man! Yes, the times are a changing. But not me.

In the past 25 years I have been shocked by the looseness among Christian youth. They are very free with their

hands in handling the opposite sex. They seem to hug **everyone** including the mailman. Their speech is suggestive and offensive, but then they are only repeating what they see and hear on television, movies, and recordings. Most of their pastors and parents are silent.

I decided very early in my ministry that I would never be alone with a woman, kiss, touch, or hug a woman who was not a member of my family. So I am not a hugger of females—or trees. Admittedly, my position **may** be a little extreme; however, I took the command of the Apostle Paul literally when he said in **I Cor. 7:1**: "*It is good for a man not to touch a woman.*"

Yes, he was speaking of people getting married during the distressing political circumstances that would come to Christians in the Roman Empire; however, I took it literally as a young man and I would do the same thing again! One thing is sure, if you don't hug them, you won't sleep with them.

The Orthodox Jews teach that youth should not touch each other until marriage. I think the Jews can teach modern Christians something. Of course, inappropriate touching is always preceded by evil thinking. Evil thinking is often prompted by what is seen. We should follow the example of the psalmist who wrote in **Psalms 101:3**, "*I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes.*" (Could that apply to television shows, movies, and computers?)



**II Tim. 2:22** warns us to *“Flee youthful lusts.”* Lust must be disassociated from attraction since attraction is a normal and God-given response to beauty. However, lustful men objectify the female until they assume “ownership” and do whatever they want with her, at least mentally. Many men assume the right to conquer her and touch, even take her body. To blame his vileness on the woman as many attempt to do, no matter how she is dressed, is stupid, silly, and strange. Blaming the woman is unreasonable, unfair, and unscriptural.

In Matthew 5, Christ revealed a new thought for mankind: if a man lusts in his heart, the sin of adultery has been committed. However, He does not place the blame on the woman but goes on to tell a man to (hyperbolically) pluck out his eye if it causes him an offense, meaning if he is caused to stumble. While that does not give permission for a woman to dress like a harlot (after all, if you dress like one, you cannot complain if some think you to be as you dress), it clearly removes the woman as justification for the man’s sin. Consequently, flee youthful lusts and be careful what you look at.

**Job 31:1** suggests what men should do: *“I made a covenant with mine eyes; why then should I think upon a maid?”* With that thought is the understanding that if you don’t see the maid, you won’t be tempted to lie with the maid.

The extension of this thought is obvious: we must be careful what we see. Christians or even lost people who care about morality should not read salacious literature. Students should refuse to read books filled with obscenity and immorality that is presented as normal and acceptable. Porn on the Internet should be repulsed, modern movies filled with vulgarity and nudity should be refused, and most television shows should be rejected.

One of the most surprising, shocking, and stunning things to me is the cavalier way modern Christians react to the culture: books, movies, television, recordings, etc. A deacon friend defended his watching filthy movies on cable television. He said that the nudity and vulgarity didn’t bother him. I did not believe him, nor do I believe

Christians can watch Internet porn, modern movies, and television without being corrupted. As the first and second century Christian leaders preached about the theater of their day, “You watch adultery and learn how to commit it.” To say that filthy talk and immoral plots do not affect you is to gainsay the very philosophy of education.

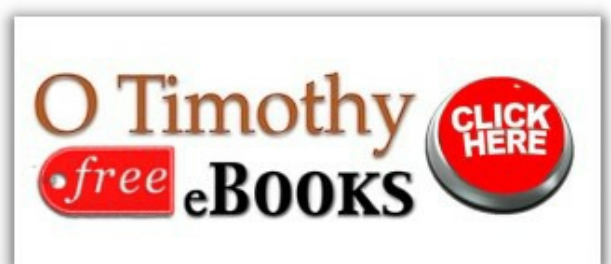
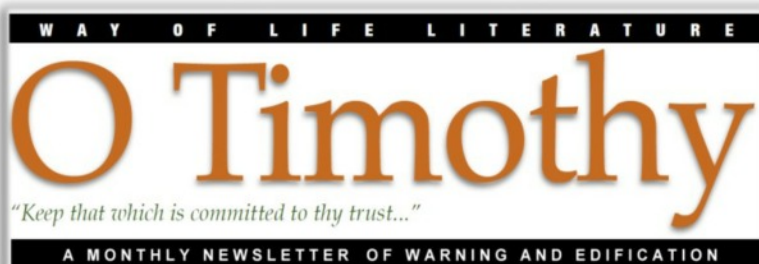
The human mind has a capacity to slowly accept, approve, and act out what is observed. Of course, at first you are appalled at evil but you get over it. You no longer feel uncomfortable when you see a nude scene or a couple climbing into bed or same-sex immorality. Moreover, after hearing the dirty, four-letter words for a while, they nestle in your mine and come rather easily to your lips. In your innocent days, you would have been horrified but now, it is acceptable. After all, everyone you know has adjusted. First you find the vileness appalling then acceptable, then approving. Then comes anger when someone confronts you for that sin.

Recently we were with some folks when something traumatic happened that momentarily shocked all of us and a lady responded with a loud expletive. It seemed so natural. For a second after we realized that we were not in any danger, she embarrassingly said she was sorry for her vulgarity. I said that it was probably because of watching movies and raunchy television shows. Her reply was interesting and telling: “Well, that happens when you are around people who talk that way.” But my response is, “Why would they be around people who express themselves by cursing?” I thought about sending her a bar of soap. That worked in my generation.

It is not good for a man to touch a woman and I don’t want to be insensitive to where I think I have a right to handle the opposite (or the same!) sex. I’d rather be too narrow than too broad.

<http://donboys.cstnews.com/vulgar-talk-vile-living-and-visual-immorality>

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Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu finished addressing the United Nations General Assembly in New York City just before 1:00pm eastern time. "Israel will not allow Iran to get nuclear weapons," the PM said in what was one of the most important lines of the speech. "If Israel is forced to stand alone, Israel will stand alone. Yet in standing alone Israel will know that we are defending many, many others."

Several times in his remarks, Netanyahu cited the Scriptures.

"The Jewish people's odyssey through time has taught us two things: Never give up hope, always remain vigilant. Hope charts the future. Vigilance protects it," Netanyahu told the gathered world leaders. "Today our hope for the future is challenged by a nuclear-armed Iran that seeks our destruction. But I want you to know, that wasn't always the case. Some 2,500 years ago the great Persian king Cyrus ended the Babylonian exile of the Jewish people. He issued a famous edict in which he proclaimed the right of the Jews to return to the land of Israel and rebuild the Jewish temple in Jerusalem. That's a Persian decree. And thus began an historic friendship between the Jews and the Persians that lasted until modern times."

The Prime Minister closed by citing the Hebrew prophet Amos.

"In our time the Biblical prophecies are being realized," Netanyahu noted. "As the prophet Amos said, they shall rebuild ruined cities and inhabit them. They shall plant vineyards and drink their wine. They shall till gardens and eat their fruit. And I will plant them upon their soil never to be uprooted again. Ladies and gentlemen, the people of Israel have come home never to be uprooted again."

### EXCERPTS FROM THE SPEECH (VIA FOX NEWS):

"Rouhani didn't sound like Ahmadinejad, but when it comes to Iran's nuclear weapons program, the only difference between them is this: Ahmadinejad was the wolf in wolf's clothing. Rouhani is a wolf in sheep's clothing," Netanyahu said. "A wolf who thinks he can pull the wool over the eyes of the international community."

"I wish I could believe Rouhani, but I don't — because facts are stubborn things," Netanyahu said, adding Iran's "savage record" contradicts Rouhani's "soothing rhetoric."

### EXCERPTS FROM THE SPEECH (VIA NEW YORK TIMES):

"They've all served that same unforgiving creed, that same unforgiving regime," said Mr. Netanyahu, who regards Iran as Israel's most potent enemy and its development of a nuclear weapon as an "existential threat." He said "President Rouhani, like the presidents who came before him, is a loyal servant of the regime."

He said the international response to Iran's entreaties for sanctions relief should be "distrust, dismantle and verify," and he repeated his warnings that Israel reserved the right to

preemptively strike Iran's nuclear facilities if it deemed the Iranians were close to producing nuclear weapons

### EXCERPTS FROM THE SPEECH (VIA HAARETZ):

If you want to cease Iran's nuclear program, don't let up the pressure. The greater the pressure, the greater the change. ... Distrust, dismantle and verify. Rouhani promises constructive engagement with other countries, yet two years ago Iranian agents tried to assassinate Saudi Arabia's ambassador in Washington D.C. and just two weeks ago an Iranian agent was arrested in Israel for trying to plot an attack against the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv. Iran participates in Assad's murder and massacre of civilians.

Jewish history has taught us two things: Never give up hope, always remain vigilant.

<http://flashtrafficblog.wordpress.com/2013/10/01/live-blog-netanyahu-to-un-israel-will-not-allow-iran-to-get-nuclear-weapons-if-israel-is-forced-to-stand-alone-israel-will-stand-alone-full-text-to-be-posted-soon/>

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## WHY THE PROBLEM PEOPLE IN THE CHURCH?

(One of the most perplexing puzzles of the ministry is the perpetual presence of problem people in the church. Not all the members who attend, but some are a great trial, and wear the pastor (and pastor's wife!) down week by week. Pastors wonder why and offer up their prayers with groanings which cannot but be uttered. FWB's books, almost without fail, provide insights into the meaning of pastoring between the Upper and Nether Millstones. Just today I stumbled across the following poem, a window into the pastorate FWB borrowed from the Methodist Review, Jan - May, 1919. Now I begin to see why the sleepless nights and teary pillows over the one "child". - Ed)

*God sent six children to the Manse,  
And one was crooked and strange.  
And often through the hushed, sad house  
Half-frenziedly would range.*

*And none in such dark time had skill  
To calm that spirit wild -  
None but the grave, strong minister,  
Who fondly loved the child.*

*And so through many a weary night  
He sat and talked and sang,  
And soothed the lad the while his heart  
Was torn with many a pang.*

*Then when, with calm face vigil-pale,  
He stood before his flock,  
And great truths from his struck heart poured  
Like streams from Moses' rock.*

*And every hearer owned his grace,  
And tears wet every cheek.  
From pew to pew the whisper went -  
"His lad's been bad this week."*

Frank W. Boreham

## ONE DOES NOT HAVE TO BE A KING TO KEEP A JESTER!

Here's another gem from FWB -

'Yesterday afternoon I was lying on a grassy cliff overlooking the sea. To my left, down the slope, was a cluster of picturesque old fisher-huts. Far below me the waves were playing over an enormous reef. As I looked down I could see a score of people, shoeless and stockingless, clambering over the rocks in search of such mysterious treasure as the sea had deposited among the cracks and crevices. But I had the laugh of all of them.

For I lay still upon the grass and found treasure that put their shells and seaweed to shame. I was reading "The Poet at the Breakfast Table" when I came upon this gem.

"One does not have to be a king," says the Poet, "to know what it is to keep a king's jester."

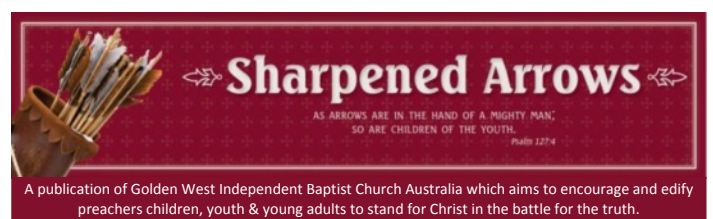
What does he mean? It is a case of "Sez I to myself, says I!"

The Old Master is thinking of that inner voice that sometimes speaks in the depths of a man's soul; and he has been telling of some of the brutally candid criticisms that this second self occasionally addresses to the primary self.

"I never got such abuse from any blackguard in my life as I get from that Number Two of me! One does not have to be a king to know what it is to keep a king's jester."

The point clearly is that, both amidst the dazzling splendours of the court and amidst the awful solitudes of the soul, the king's jester is the one man who can laugh at the king. And it is a fine thing for the king to have one man who will look into his face and laugh at him. It is a fine thing for us all to be laughed at at times.' ~ *Frank W. Boreham*

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That is a question I hear asked occasionally by my brethren.

The dumbing down of western nations (and churches) has resulted in the shrinkage and even the loss of much of our English vocabulary. Multiplication has been replaced by addition. Increase is now called growth, and large is shortened to "big". In most circles, "BIG" is good, "BIGGER" is gooder, and 'BIGGEST' is goodest. It has become almost an impossibility for a pastor to attend a fellowship meeting or Bible conference without having to sit through a sales pitch from the denominational super-salesman hawking the latest you-beaut gimmick, gadget, or gimme that is guaranteed to make your church BIG and him RICH!

#### THE SIZE OF THE CHURCH IS NOT THE SIZE OF THE CIRCLE!

Sooner or later somebody will have to stick his neck out and become the 401st prophet (like Micaiah did in I Kings 22) and tell the delegates at the solemn assembly that Jesus never commanded us to build large **churches**. He commanded us instead to go out and cover a large **area** in preaching the gospel. It was never the size of the congregation that was His focus. It was the size of the outreach of the gospel. That's what He meant when he commanded His disciples to *"go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature."* (Mark 16:15)

Most times the churches they planted were small, like most are today. Sometimes they grew quite large, like has happened a few times in history. (It is a sad indictment that modern preachers are so undiscerning that they can't tell the difference between strength and obesity.) And of course, there are times when the churches grew and then shrank and then grew again, just like the church at Jerusalem did when it came under persecution.

The Question, **"How Did the Circle Grow So Large?"** has to do with the size of one's outreach, not the size of their church. I hear a few pastors, and a few missionaries, and a few evangelists asking in amazement, "How.....?" Interestingly enough, they are not the same people who glory in the size of their church or of their mailing list. They are often the insignificant "little people", the unknown and unsung saints who marvel that God has seen fit to increase the outreach of their lives far beyond what they ever dreamed.



My Sweetheart wifey dear, Susan, and I are amazed at the breadth of our lives, at what they now encompass. We were telling friends just yesterday about the tiny compass of our lives in childhood, when we never went anywhere or knew anyone outside family and neighbours and the few folks at church. (Vance Havner once said that he was so countrified that he not only didn't know anything, he didn't know that he didn't know anything!) And now we look at the overwhelming enormity of the ministry the Lord has given us. Every day we fellowship with, minister to, and counsel with brethren from all over the world. This morning I awoke to find mail from four continents. Before the day is out I will order Chinese Bibles from Hong Kong for a missionary in Tonga in the South Pacific, and arrange for the duplication of DVD's depicting another missionary's youth camp in Papua New Guinea. Next week we will fly to the Northern Territory (here in Australia) to visit our daughter Jillian and her family in Katherine where they are helping a missionary start a new church. Later this month our little country church here will host a missions conference with Bro. Jerry Wilhite, who serves in South Africa with his family. Today I will finish editing the Heads Up! that is sent out fortnightly to several hundred pastors, missionaries, and evangelists all over the world. One day this week Bro. Floyd Risser and I will videotape a couple of hours of lessons on the Ten Commandments for the teachers training session of the local Christian school. And then I hope to Skype a dear missionary brother in Lithuania and talk about a possible visit there, maybe next year. I am planning on a trip to Papua New Guinea next year to teach a week in Bible college with our missionary Dave Crowe.

How did our circle of service for Christ ever grow to this point? We had no intention of living and serving overseas or of being involved with so many people. What happened to bring all this about?

I think I know the answer.

It has to do with the **Law of the Center and Circumference of Life**. Simply stated it is this: **WHEN THE LORD JESUS CHRIST IS THE CENTER OF MY LIFE, HE WILL ENLARGE THE CIRCUMFERENCE MORE AND MORE AS LONG AS I LIVE!** It was true for the apostles. It was true for all the saints of old. And it is true for us. It is one of the golden laws of God, unbreakable, inevitable, irrevocable, and inescapable. Let a man, any man, recognize the worthiness of the Lord Jesus Christ to own the center of his life and rule it, and the circumference will begin to grow. And who knows where it will stop? Paul stated it well in two verses. *"For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain."* (Phil 1:21). That's the Center. And *"To preach the gospel in the regions beyond you, and not to boast in another man's line of things made ready to our hand."* (2 Corinthians 10:16) That's the Circumference.

Every man in history who ever accomplished anything worth doing had God at the center of his life. Abraham, Moses, Noah, Daniel, shared this one great fact, GOD WAS AT THE CENTER OF THEIR LIVES. Muller and Moody and Carey and men we never heard of knew the secret of a Christ centered life. As I write this I think of men who are alive today who belong in the same category as Livingstone and Judson, but are unknown. There are still spiritual giants in the land. They just don't get the press the celebrities get, but then they didn't want it to begin with. Their secret? Christ is at the center of their lives!

There are dangers, of course.

There is the danger of becoming so enamoured with the expanding circumference of our lives that we forget Who is at the center. Men who begin well and are committed to

Christ being the Center of their life, are often dazzled by the expanding opportunities God gives them and they forget their Center.

#### THE SECRET TO AN EXPANDING CIRCUMFERENCE OF SERVICE FOR CHRIST –

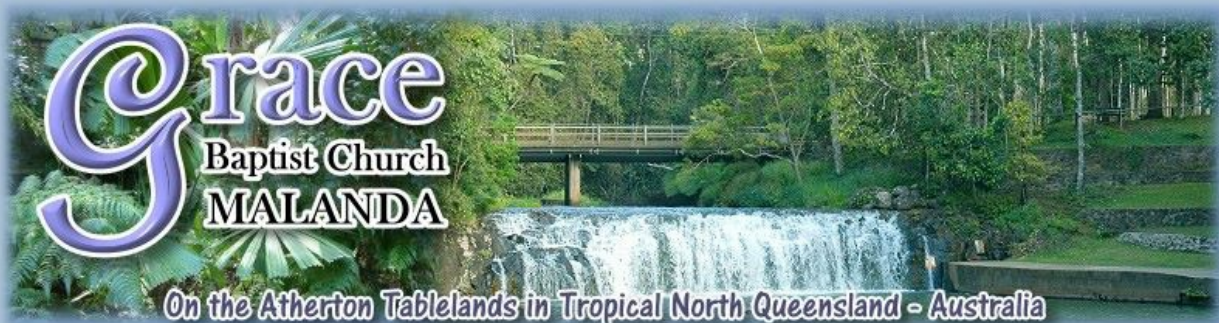
I wonder if the apostle Paul ever had opportunity to return down the road to Damascus? Did he ever stand at the spot where the Lord Jesus Christ smote him to the ground and saved him? There is one verse that makes me think that he did. He mentions the occasion in Galatians 1:17c "... I went into Arabia, and returned again unto Damascus." If he did, it was likely to have been, not at his return from Arabia, but when he fled from Damascus (Acts 9:23-26). What do you think, did he pause in his flight when he came to that blessed place and give thanks to God? Did he renew his commitment to his Saviour, the Messiah of God, the Center of his life? In my mind's eye I see the rejected proto-apostle on his knees again, his face lifted to the heavens as he pours out his prayer of gratitude for the forgiveness of his sins.

So do we need those times of renewing the Center if we would have an expanding circumference of service for Christ.

I often think of the night in April of 1963 when I came to Christ at Castleberry Baptist Church in Ft. Worth, Texas. I wish now that I could go back and sit where I sat when the Lord showed me my sin and could walk that old aisle again and could kneel again at the altar where Woody Stewart pointed me to my Saviour. The old building is probably gone by now. But halfway around the world I can renew the Center by giving thanks to my Lord and Saviour,

.....and watch the Circle grow larger.....

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### Heads Up!

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