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Heads Up!

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FEATURE ARTICLE - THE VANISHING ETHICS OF THE MINISTRY



(One of the greatest influences on churches is the new evangelical/charismatic/pro-emergent/openly ecumenical megachurch in Sydney called Hillsong. Where Bible believing Baptist churches once separated themselves from everything that savoured of compromise, they are now rushing to align themselves with Brian Houston, with Hillsong, its Contemporary "Christian" Music, and unknowingly, with its theology and morality. As Jehoshaphat rationalized his affinity with Ahab, so do men like Pastors Robert Bakss and Eric Capaci revel in their infatuation with Hillsong. Pastor Bakss occasionally asks the question, "What's wrong with Hillsong?" and some pastors give discerning answers, but we perceive that he is not listening.

It may be that his question is a rhetorical question, asked for effect, asked to influence, not for information. We give thanks that rhetorical questions give us opportunity to supply real answers, and though neo-fundamentalists smile and shrug off the answers we give, there is yet a remnant who love truth and cherish it above euphoric experience. Hillsong is the mystical narcotic of this moment in history, providing for the undiscerning an ALTERED STATE OF CONSCIOUSNESS, the carnal mindset of pliable babes in Christ. Hillsong is a gateway drug for the hearts and minds of many in our churches. It will lead to harder and harder drugs, and deeper and deeper addictions to error. The mystery of iniquity doth already work. - Ed)

WHAT IS WRONG WITH HILLSONG? ~ By Hughie Seaborn

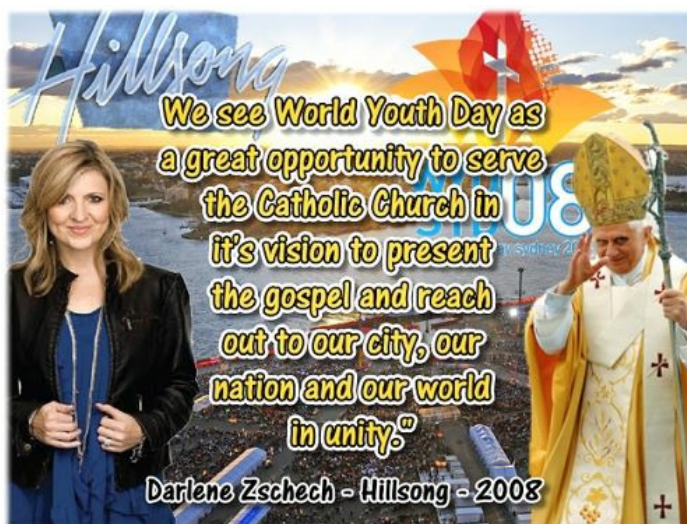
WHO ARE THE PEOPLE? WHAT DO THEY BELIEVE?

Hillsong had its beginnings in 1986 and was the inspiration of Mark and Darlene Zschech and Geoff Bullock. Bullock was a leader in the “music ministry” of Brian and Bobbie Houston’s Hills Christian Life Centre at Castle Hill, Sydney. Along with Pat Mesiti who eventually founded Youth Alive, the Zschech’s were formerly part of a band that outreached to high school kids.

Pat Mesiti eventually rose to the exalted position of National Director of Australian Christian Churches.

The Zschech's were introduced to Hills CLC by Mesiti and were soon thrust into the “music ministry” alongside Bullock. When Geoff Bullock “resigned” from Hillsong, Darlene Zschech stepped into his position and became “worship pastor” of Brian and Bobbie Houston’s growing Hillsong Church.

Brian is the son of Frank Houston, an ex-General Superintendent of the AOG in New Zealand. Frank Houston moved to Australia from NZ in 1977, in controversial circumstances of a sexual nature, and established Sydney Christian Life Centre. Despite the covered-up sexual offences committed in NZ, Frank Houston rose to a position of eminence and great respect in the Pentecostal churches, as well as to the most senior position in the AOG in NSW. In 2000, Frank Houston was exposed as a repeat paedophile offender, both in NZ and Australia.



When questioned by a Sydney Morning Herald news reporter (27/03/2002) about the prevalence of sexual misconduct in high places in the AOG, Brian Houston, speaking as General Superintendent of the movement, informed the reporter that, of the AOG’s 2000 Australian ministers, no more than five in any year were exposed and disciplined for sexual misconduct.



He went on to defend the former AOG New Zealand General Superintendent, Jim Williams, who served as an AOG pastor in Brisbane but whose licence in New Zealand was permanently revoked for his involvement in “adulterous offences and other indiscretions involving different women over an extended period of years.”

If you are like me and the SMH reporter, by this time you will probably be asking also, “Why is there so much sexual misconduct among the leaders of these highly popular and famous organisations, which confidently profess to be Australia’s representatives, with a clear mandate from God Himself, to lead the nations into His presence in holy worship?”

WORSHIP OF THE WORLD

The Bible clearly teaches, in 1 John 2:15-16, that people who profess to be Christians are to be separate and distinct from the things of the world. The seriousness of what Scripture says on this subject seems to be totally lost upon the leadership of Hillsong Church, and upon the Hillsong band members and musicians.

“Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world” (1 John 2:15-16).

Further, we read in James 4:4, *“Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.”*

IS HILLSONG WORLDLY?

Spiritual adultery is the sin of preferring the world’s fashions and amusements to the things of the Lord. Whether knowingly or unknowingly, Hillsong, by their actions, are promoting just that. Despite whether their



motives are good or otherwise, and despite whether they are nice people or otherwise, the simple fact is that they are using the worldly and ungodly medium of rock music, which they naively describe as worship, in their attempts to bring believers and unbelievers alike, into a relationship with a holy God.

Worship should not be offered to God, nor should the Gospel be presented in such a way that they are coupled with the standards of the world, for God says, *"Be not conformed to this world..."* (Romans 12.2). Attempting to use the things that belong to the "god of this world" in order to bring people into the presence of the holy God of the Scriptures is unacceptable to Him.

As well, lost sinners can not be called out of the wickedness of the world by a church that has adopted its lifestyle and entertainment values. It is understood by virtually every serious Christian that to employ in worship something that is historically associated with, or has arisen from an alternative culture of free sex, godlessness, drunkenness, drugs, and emotional orgies, is worse than inappropriate - it is sinful and demonstrates deception.

"Rock & Roll" Music And Sex - Two Peas In A Pod

Being confused about what is appropriate to offer to God in worship is not the only area where Hillsong leadership is being misled. Their conformity to the world and preoccupation with fleshly things is demonstrated elsewhere in their "ministry". "Pastor" Bobbie Houston (wife of Brian Houston) had a series of taped messages extolling the virtues of "Kingdom Women." One of the messages in the series, which was formerly advertised on the Hillsong website, had the sensual title *"Kingdom Women Love Sex."*

You could be forgiven for asking the question, "What type of message does this title and subject send to Christians, particularly to Hillsong's target audience of teens and young adults?" Does the title of this series sound to you like Hillsong leadership is concerned about mortifying the deeds of the flesh?

But why should we expect anything different from the leadership of Hillsong? Using worldly and fleshly methods to attract members will simply guarantee worldly and fleshly results - their track record demonstrates this truth. Even the un-saved know that Rock music, rebellion and sensuality are all peas in the same pod.

EVIL COMPANIONS DEFILE GODLINESS

"Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners. Awake to righteousness, and sin not; for some have not the knowledge of God...(1 Cor. 15:33-34)."

What do you know about the theological beliefs of Hillsong and their companions? Are you aware that they are supporters and promoters of Word of Faith teachers and their erroneous doctrines?

The Word of God counsels Christians to separate from and expose false teachers. Do Hillsong leaders warn their congregations of the heresies promoted by Word of Faith teachers? Or do they allow them to spread their diabolical heresies from Hillsong's pulpit?

The following are all friends of Hillsong, despite them teaching heretical doctrines!

- **C. Peter Wagner**, "The Lord is establishing the foundations of the Church for the new millennium.



This foundation is built upon apostles and prophets.” Wagner is speaking here of a new foundation based upon latter-day apostles and prophets, with himself as the chief apostle. However, the Bible teaches that the foundation for the Church was laid 2000 years ago with Christ as the Chief Corner Stone.

- **George Otis Jr.**, of Transformations Video fame, “Christ has not redeemed us by giving His life as a ransom for our sins in order that He might release us. God never kept man captive in sin. The truth is Christ paid no man’s debt.”
- **Kenneth Copeland**, “I was shocked when I found out who the biggest failure in the bible actually is. The biggest one in the whole Bible is God.”
- **Kenneth Hagin, Kenneth Copeland, Joyce Meyer, et al.**, teach that Christ did not complete the Work of Redemption upon the Cross of Calvary, but in Hell. He was defeated upon the Cross, died spiritually, and was taken to Hell by Satan and tortured and tormented for three days and three nights. After enduring this additional suffering, Christ was reborn as the first born-again man. They teach that it was not only the physical death upon the Cross that paid for man’s sins.

These teachings will not lead anyone to eternal life, but to certain damnation. Perhaps someone should ask Hillsong why they don’t warn God’s people of this certainty.

RHYTHM – INDULGING AND ENTERTAINING THE FLESH

“Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord” (Ephesians 5:19).



“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord” (Colossians 3:16).

These Scriptures teach many things about music in the church. Christians do not evangelise unbelievers, or entertain other Christians, with worldly Rock music.

The Gospel is the power of God to save all who will believe, not worldly Rock music. Psalms, hymns and spiritual songs, not Contemporary Christian Rock, are for the purpose of teaching and admonishing Christians the Word of God. Singing and making melody comes from the heart and is directed to the Lord, not the unsaved.

Christians are to make melody in their hearts to the Lord. True spiritual music is based upon melody which feeds the spirit. The world’s music is based upon rhythm, predominantly drums and bass guitars, which feeds the flesh.

The contemporary Christian music scene mimics the world in method, dress and sound. This is not true worship, as Hillsong will try to convince you that it is. Hillsong is a business selling worldly entertainment (and making millions) which they promote to young and unlearned Christians as worship to the Lord.

ECUMENISM AND THE SOON-COMING ONE-WORLD CHURCH

Sensual rock music, accompanied by lyrics containing much false teaching is being used by the Devil to build





bridges between professing Christian churches, and other religious groups of unlike faith and practice, and Hillsong has been at the forefront of leading a multitude of young, scripturally ignorant, professing Christians from Pentecostal and Charismatic churches into accepting gross Roman Catholic errors.

More lately, Hillsong's music, and CCM music generally, is becoming more accepted in conservative churches, like the Independent Baptists. However, instead of warning Christians about the damnable heresies of the Roman Catholic Church, the leaders and musicians of Hillsong Church sing aloud the praises of the Pope, holding him up as a great "Christian" leader, and even join with him in ecumenical evangelistic outreach programs.

For example, Pope Benedict was praised and entertained at the 2008 Roman Catholic World Youth Day in Sydney by Hillsong's "worship leader" Darlene Zschech, who even went so far as to publicly make the following dangerous statement: "We see World Youth Day as a great opportunity to serve the Catholic Church in it's vision to present the gospel and reach out to our city, our nation and our world in unity."

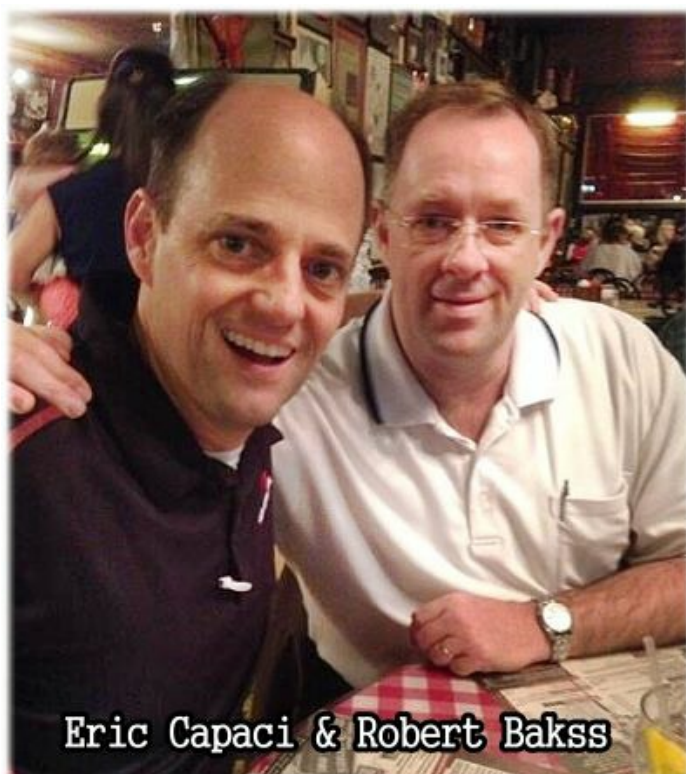
When asked by a Sydney Morning Herald reporter why Hillsong church is so successful, Brian Houston replied, "We are scratching people where they are itching" ("The Lord's Profits," Sydney Morning Herald, January 30, 2003).

2 Timothy 4:3 describes a time in Church history when people will lust for an unbiblical version of Christianity that endorses their fleshly and worldly lifestyles. They will seek out false teachers who are willing to preach messages that soothe the conscience rather than convict the conscience of sin - preachers who scratch where mediocre, luke-warm Christians itch. *"For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears"* (2 Timothy 4:3).

"Once upon a time Baptists believed and preached Amos 3:3, 'Can two walk together except they be agreed?'"

Someone should ask, 'If Hillsong walks with those who deny the saving efficacy of the death of Christ, with those who promote the worst excesses of the Charismatic Movement, with those who promote the latest form of modernism (in the emergent "church"), and with New Age prophets, and with Buddhist priests, then what is their true theology?' The answer? It is the ecumenical, syncretistic theology of a one world religion, the deadly amalgam of heresies of every stripe, the doctrines of the Antichrist and the False Prophet as described in Revelation 13, 17, & 18." (Pastor Buddy Smith – *Heads Up!* July 20, 2013).

We live in days of great spiritual deception and apostasy, and central to promoting that apostasy, through their music, is Hillsong. The Bible warns us in Romans 16:17 to "mark and avoid them."



Resources:

Some valuable free downloadable teaching resources from [Way of Life Website](#) which will help to protect you from being ensnared by the rampant CCM that is flooding into the churches in our day:

- [Contemporary Christian Music Articles Database](#)
- [Independent Baptist Music Wars](#)
- [Directory of Contemporary Worship Musicians](#)
- [Transformational Power of Contemporary Praise Music](#)
- [Rock & Roll's War Against God](#)
- [Free Teaching Videos re CCM](#)

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"Grace be to you and peace from God the Father, and from our Lord Jesus Christ, *Who gave himself for our sins*, that he might *deliver us from this present evil world...*" (Galatians 1:3-4).



Virtue? What is this thing called virtue?

Like so many Bible words, "virtue" has had its savour leached out by a godless and profane world. Originally it meant, "moral life and conduct, moral excellence." It came from Anglo-French, and from Latin and meant "moral strength, manliness, valor, excellence, worth." It is related to the Latin word for man, which is "vir".

The Spirit of God chose the word "arete" to mean:

1. Power (dunamis) as in [Mark 5:27-30](#) *"When she had heard of Jesus, came in the press behind, and touched his garment. For she said, If I may touch but his clothes, I shall be whole. And straightway the fountain of her blood was dried up; and she felt in her body that she was healed of that plague. And Jesus, immediately knowing in himself that virtue had gone out of him...."* Godly virtue is a moral power that moves and changes lives. So it was with Christ. His morality, His holiness and godliness was dynamic. It was virtuous and he knew when it touched and changed someone, like the woman with the issue of blood.

2. Again, the word for virtue is rendered "praises" in [1 Pet. 2:9](#) *"But ye a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:"* Here it is the disciples' responsibility to show forth the virtues, the praises, the moral excellencies of Christ.

3. In [II Pet. 1:3](#) we read *"According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:"* God calls us to be virtuous, to be morally excellent, to be all that He can make us to be. That's our calling. We are not called to be handsome, wealthy, or famous, but are called to be virtuous!

4. In [Phil. 4:8](#) we are taught to focus our thoughts on virtue (as on the other aspects of godliness.) *"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." It is to be ever in our thoughts.

5. And in [II Pet. 1:5](#) we read, *"And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;"* We are to diligently add virtue to faith. It is no Deeper Life doctrine (the laid back attitude of "no sweat or effort on our part"), but we are to diligently add virtue to faith! Virtue is here given priority over knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness, and charity. It is here that the great difference appears between the rock ribbed fundamentalists of yesteryear who stand head and shoulders above the permed and perfumed "evangelically" of today. When we were converted, the first thing our preachers ingrained in us was the "rights and wrongs" of the faith once delivered to the saints. They left (Bible college) knowledge until we had a grasp of moral excellence, of right and wrong, and then they imparted knowledge to us. After all, what use is a walking-Bible-encyclopedia if he has no idea of right and wrong.

Dwight. L. Moody once witnessed to a conductor on a train. The man made light of Moody preaching Christ to him and said he thought all that is needed is for sinners to be more highly educated. He said that would solve all their problems. So Moody asked him, "If a man who worked for the railroad was a thief and stole nuts and bolts, and we gave him a college degree, what difference would that make?" The conductor thought for a moment, and then replied, "I guess he would steal locomotives."

The New Agenda and Its Effect on Virtue -

There is one aspect of ethics especially that has been mishandled by fundamentalists over the past generation. It is the priority of virtue in a Christian's spiritual growth. God says we are to add virtue to our faith. Where does "virtue" come in the list? Immediately after faith. And immediately before knowledge. Virtue has been bumped out of its place. Christian ethics, or virtue, the "moral life and conduct, and moral excellence" has lost its place in the list. Now it is knowledge that is given second place in the list. Old fashioned preaching and teaching that

emphasizes right and wrong, that works at building in new converts real, deep, biblical convictions about what pleases God and what displeases God, that kind of preaching has all but disappeared. The preacher who dares to preach that there are clear right's and wrong's is now called a "legalist," and will find himself shunned by his own church members and other pastors.

God always has His remnant, and it is still possible to find a few embers, a tiny wisp of smoke here and there, but for the most part the religious scene at present is a frozen landscape, neck deep in frost, ice, snow and sleet. What we see instead of snow and ice is blizzards of diplomas and degrees. We have been frozen into immobility by snowdrifts and blizzards of proud intellectualism, and are snowed under with paperwork. Oh, we think we know a lot but virtue has somehow disappeared in the rush to gain intellectual respectability in the information age. Maybe the truth is that virtue has been buried under a mountain of diplomas. Knowledge puffs us up, freezing us out of blessing.

What would happen if pastors were to disciple the new converts by adding one grace to another, adding to faith virtue, and then to virtue, knowledge, and to knowledge, temperance, and to temperance, patience, to patience, godliness, and to godliness, brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness, and finally charity? There is a progression there, and a divinely ordained progression. I can't help wondering what would happen if we were to gather up all the learned gnomes' learned tomes and threw them out. What would happen if pastors decided

to go back to the Bible for all our methods? I know, I know, all the celebrities and gurus would be out of work, but they could go out and get an honest job for a change.

We pastors ought to follow the Lord Jesus' example in training new disciples. Our dear Saviour imparted to them by His own example the virtue that has precedence and priority above knowledge in God's discipleship program. He laboured to add virtue to faith, or rather, He laboured to show them in the way He lived how to add virtue to their faith. The focus was not initially on knowledge. It was on virtue.

It was just at this point I suddenly realised that most Bible training for new Christians is not done according to this pattern. In Sunday School, in church, in discipleship classes, Bible colleges, or seminaries, most Bible training deletes virtue from the list of stages of growth and exalts knowledge to sit upon the throne in its place. And this is not some new book that Rick Warren wrote. (40 Reasons Why Virtue Has No Place in the Twenty First Century Christian's Training!?!?) This is, I believe, another of the poisonous fruits of Pragmatism, that says "Whatever method and message it takes to draw the crowds is obviously of God." I hear the Serpent's whisper in all this, "Don't worry if your people don't know right from wrong. Just as long as they can recite all twelve points of the latest "how to" program, ... and if they have a Bible college diploma hanging on the wall, so much the better."

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The timid men who occupy our pulpits at present are afraid to reprove false doctrine. So twisted is their interpretation of Matthew 7: 1, "*Judge not that ye be not judged.*" that they skip entirely over verse 6, "*Give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast ye your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet and turn again and rend you.*" There is some pretty perceptive judging commanded by Christ in verse 6. Judging who is a dog or a pig, and what biblical truths are holy things and pearls. And verses 15 to 20? "*Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. Ye shall know them by*

their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them." In order to beware of false prophets, we must judge (discern, perceive) the lies they preach.

Pastors who are coming of full age... "*by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil*"

(Heb. 5:14). That's why the epistles of the New Testament, written by the apostles, the Master's men, men of discernment, men who knew how "...to judge righteous judgment." (John 7:24), they wrote and spoke so boldly against false doctrine. Almost every letter openly exposes and opposes false doctrine.

Isn't it interesting that we find no proof texts for new evangelicals to lean on, saying to Paul, Peter, John, Jude, or James, "You didn't follow Matthew 18. You didn't go to Benny Hinn and speak to him about his heretical view that there are three "Fathers" and three "Sons" and three "Holy Ghosts" (a trinity of trinities!?!?). You didn't fly to California to meekly inquire of Rick Warren why he is happy with the doctrines of Rome or why he holds hands with Pope Francis, or promotes New Age authors, or says that Muslims worship the same God as we do. You didn't smooch up to Brian Houston before condemning Hillscreach's rock concerts."

Bro. Softy, could you please dig up a verse for me that says Elijah conferred with the priests of Baal before he mocked their idolatry and slew them? Or maybe one that teaches that Paul was walking in the flesh when he called down a curse on Bar-Jesus in Acts 13:10,11?

Of course, if you are using the ESV or the PCB, you might find a verse to suit. My old Bible reads "Saul, filled with the Holy Ghost," smote him blind for a season.

"False doctrine is not the subject of Matthew 18 but something else entirely, and, therefore, does not come under the instructions Christ gives in that passage. False doctrine is never a private matter and is always to be dealt with publicly. In fact, much of the New Testament was written to publicly correct false teaching ... Paul withstood Peter to his face publicly for his false interpretation of the law that caused him not to associate with Gentile believers (Gal. 2:11-14). In a day of mass media, particularly when denied access to so-called Christian television and radio, the only method of public correction of false teaching is to write books and to speak publicly, in order to call the attention of the Body to errors that affect the whole Body....Furthermore, what teachers say in books and on television, etc., is part of a public domain, subject to review, analysis, and critique of any kind. Anyone who makes public declarations intended to influence large audiences through books, radio, television, etc., ought to know that he is responsible for what he says and will be held accountable. No one need ask anyone for permission to critique anything that has been espoused in a public forum. It is not necessary to first talk with a writer or speaker in order to be accurate and fair in critiquing him....If members of the Body have erred, then if we love them, we will correct them.
~ Dave Hunt (*Newsletter*, February 1986)"

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DEACON TRUE SEZ -

Grandma told me last night that there are two kinds of people.

Some people have something to say. And some people have to say something.

When she told me that I said, "Oops!"

Now I'm trying to figure out whether I was being the first kind or the second kind when I said "Oops!".

Hmmmmmm.

Maybe I shouldn't say, "Oops!"

"Hmmmmmm"

Maybe I shouldn't say, "Hmmmmmm"

Maybe I shouldn't say, "Maybe I shouldn't say, 'Hmmmmmm'"

Maybe I shouldn't say, "Maybe I shouldn't say, 'Maybe I shouldn't say.....'"

Uh-oh.

Grandpa

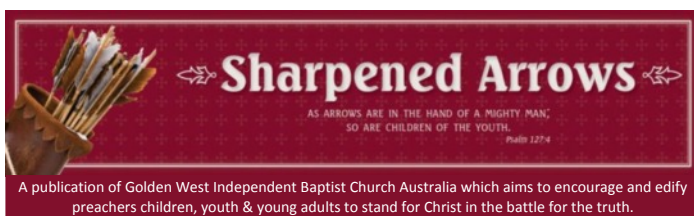


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NOTABLE QUOTES AND QUOTABLE NOTES -

- Someone once asked the noted [now deceased] Baptist preacher Dr. Vance Havner how he became a Baptist and he reportedly replied: "Someone just happened to carelessly leave a copy of the N.T. around, and I just happened to carefully read it!"
- Forget the "Movement"! - We have no scriptural grounds whatsoever for a "movement". Calling it a "fundamental movement" does not change that fact. Calling it a "fundamental, independent Baptist movement" does not change that fact either. With every movement comes politics. There is enough politics in our fundamental Laodicean movement to choke a horse. We are living in an age when leaders in our movement are more concerned about what other people think than what God thinks. ~ *Pastor Bob Kirkland*
- God uses men who are weak and feeble enough to lean on Him. ~ *Hudson Taylor*
- Wherever we find a Christian who has experienced sorrow, suffering and sacrifice, accompanied by prayer, we will generally find good soil for spiritual growth. ~ *T. J. Bach*
- Jesus is a greater Saviour than you think Him to be when your thoughts are at the greatest. ~ *Charles Spurgeon*
- The reason some folks don't believe in missions is that the brand of religion they have isn't worth propagating.
- The Devil will let a preacher prepare a sermon if it will keep him from preparing himself. ~ *Vance Havner*
- Men do not reject the Bible because it contradicts itself but because it contradicts them. ~ *E. Paul Hovey*
- F.C. Jennings: "People do not love unpalatable truths, and when they have the alternative of listening to soothing assurance, moving eloquence, pleasing illustrations, and entertaining anecdotes, they not unnaturally avoid and withdraw as far as they can from the scathing rebukes of the prophet" (Jennings, *Studies in Isaiah*).
- R.A. Torrey: "It is clear that there must be difficulties for us in a revelation such as the Bible. If someone were to hand me a book that was as simple to me as the multiplication table, and say, 'This is the Word of God; in it He has revealed His whole will and wisdom,' I would shake my head and say, 'I cannot believe it; that is too easy to be a perfect revelation of infinite wisdom.' There must be, in any complete revelation of God's mind and will and character and being, things hard for the beginner to understand; and the wisest and best of us are but beginners" (Torrey, *Difficulties in the Bible*).

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A SERIES OF ARTICLES ON THE EMERGENT CHURCH

At Whose Feet Do Its Leaders Sit?

If a history of the Emergent Church movement is ever written from a biblical viewpoint, the footnotes will overflow with the names of evangelical pastors who sat at the feet of men who did not know the Lord Jesus Christ.

Is it all that important who we learn from, or at whose feet we sit? It is vitally important. At the end of his life Moses blest the people with these words, **“The LORD came from Sinai, and rose up from Seir unto them; he shined forth from mount Paran, and he came with ten thousands of saints: from his right hand went a fiery law for them. Yea, he loved the people; all his saints are in thy hand: and they sat down at thy feet; every one shall receive of thy words”** (Deut. 33:2,3). The people sat at God's feet to receive of His words at the base of Mt. Sinai.

The Nail Scarred Feet Are the Feet We Need -

The list of those who sat at Jesus' feet is endless. Great multitudes competed for the privilege of kneeling at His feet. The sick and afflicted were cast there at his feet to find healing. Jairus found his way there, the Syro-Phoenician woman, the woman who was a sinner not only knelt at His feet, but she washed them with her tears, and dried them with her hair, the converted Gadarene sat there, the Samaritan leper who returned to worship fell at his feet. Mary of Bethany is never mentioned in the gospels without it being recorded that she sat at Jesus' feet.

An Emergent Allergy to Worshipping and Learning From Christ Alone -

It is no longer true that most evangelical pastors sit at Jesus' feet. The drift from sound doctrine which began centuries ago is now a full fledged flight from truth to error. New Evangelicals opened the flood gates to false

teachings in 1948 when they made peace with modernism and began to treat apostate theologians as brethren in Christ. It was recently reported by one church historian that new evangelicals, in essence, said to liberals, “We will call you 'Brothers' if you will call us 'Scholars'.” When I asked a retired pastor friend, who had led a mainline evangelical church, how it was that his denomination ever plunged into modernism, he replied with one word, “INTELLECTUALISM!”. He went on to explain that their seminary not only required the students to swallow large doses of heresy from their textbooks, but also hired infidels to be their professors. Does it make any difference whose feet we sit at? Oh yes! As much difference as the distance between Heaven and Hell!

The Influence of Unconverted Men on the Emergent Church -

Peter Drucker has exerted a powerful influence on evangelical churches over the last twenty five years of the 20th century. In the previous issue of Herald of Hope we examined the impact of the writings of Soren Kierkegaard upon Peter Drucker. Kierkegaard is considered to be the “Father of Existentialism” from which Postmodernism arose.

The best known “Emergent” church leaders all sit at Peter Drucker's feet. His philosophy was that “megachurches” could become the key to social renewal. He did not believe this because he found it in the Bible, but because he followed Kierkegaard's teachings. He taught that “religious experiences” alone can not restore society, but that megachurches could produce a paradigm shift in society by catering to people's felt needs. He believed that megachurches, regardless of the doctrine they preach, are the key to influencing society for the better.

In order to spread his new postmodern religion, the Emergent Church Movement, Peter Drucker “hand picked” three talented young Evangelical church leaders to disciple on how to apply his business theories to church

management. These New Evangelical leaders were the first “Duckerites”. Their names are Rick Warren, Bill Hybels, and Bob Buford. You may recognize two of the names, but not the third, Bob Buford. He is actually the multi-millionaire cable TV network owner who founded and paid the bills for the Leadership Network, which identifies and promotes leaders in the seeker-sensitive and emerging church movements. Pastor Rick Warren is senior pastor of Saddleback Community Church in Lake Forest, California, and author of numerous books. Bill Hybels is senior pastor of Willow Creek Community Church in Chicago.

Peter Drucker's Confession of Faith -

Though Rick Warren calls Peter Drucker a Christian, in a video interview Drucker replied to the question, “Are you a born again Christian?” with these words, “No, I am not a born again Christian. I have been going to church and tithing all my life, but I do not claim to be a born again Christian.”

Direct Quotes from Peter Drucker -

- “I am curious about megachurches, not from a personal religion point of view, but as a social phenomenon, i.e. creating community.”
- “Megachurches are the most effective agents for change...”
- “Christianity is too individualistic!”
- “An individual's Christian faith cannot give a new society/community so we need a new paradigm, a new religious movement, postmodern churches. We must pragmatically meet felt needs.”

Quotes from Emergent Church Leaders Who Sat at Peter Drucker's Feet -

Rick Warren's admiration for Peter Drucker borders on worship. He boasts of being mentored by him for over twenty years, and smilingly says, “I love Peter Drucker.” “He is the Renaissance Man!”

Bill Hybels said, “Peter Drucker is one of the two men who shaped my thinking, The other is Jesus Christ.” (How strange that a mere man's influence could be compared to that of our Lord Jesus Christ!)

Bob Buford's comments are very revealing, “I was nominated (for the honour of being) the first “Drucker Fellow”. “I am a 'carrier'.” “(Peter Drucker) is the brains, I am the legs.” “The Leadership Network is his child.” (see the Emergent-cy chart in last month's Herald of Hope)

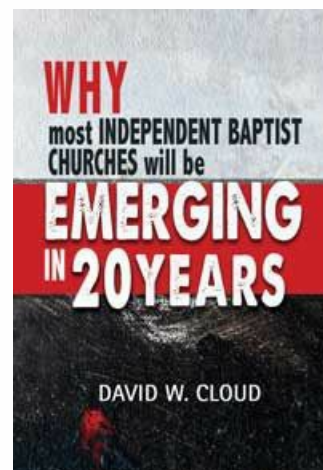
“The Emergent Church Movement is the latest development of the Seeker Sensitive method. Everything is 'cool'. Nothing said or done can be

allowed to be a stumbling block to the hearers. All offensive material is taken out so they can draw people who have never been converted to Christ. They have never repented or believed. It is increasingly apparent that the disciples of Peter Drucker have turned God's house into a marketplace.” ~ *Phil Johnson*

We must always remember that the apostles never preached according to the felt needs of people.

But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness; But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God. Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men. For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: That no flesh should glory in his presence. But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption: That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord. 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 1:23 – 2:5

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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.

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Gold From Ophir

ORANGE OVERALLS

By Jerry Wilhite - South Africa



"...For the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart" (1Sam 16:7). Many years ago while serving in a local church in Wisconsin, a small Spanish deacon used this verse to indicate to me WHY we should dress modestly. Man CANNOT read our heart, but he CAN read our life and our looks. Indeed man does look on the outward appearance.

In dealing with souls who come to Christ, invariably the issue of attire will come up. It isn't any different in Africa, although I will be quick to admit that, percentage wise, more ladies wear dresses in Africa than in the West. Over the years, though, more and more young ladies are adopting Western dress styles. This was readily observed by me in trips to Zimbabwe.

When our first trip was taken there in 2002 there was hardly a girl or woman to be seen in slacks, but just the opposite is the case today. In fact, around twenty-five years ago a missionary to Kenya told me that in his country, at the time, if a woman was seen in slacks, she was considered a prostitute. Interesting.

The way we dress speaks volumes. This was illustrated to me back in 2001 while we were on deputation raising support to go to Africa. At the time my wife and nine children (eventually 11) were travelling in a converted Eagle coach and had been for the previous eight months. The back bedroom for our four girls was right over the diesel engine and the cream coloured walls and ceiling had become a bit discoloured due to the diesel and dust from the many miles travelled.

Some time earlier my mother had picked up a pair of orange overalls at a garage sale and given them to me which I thought would make great work clothes, so I had stuffed them in a small, green suitcase and placed them in the service bay underneath the bus to be used for such a time as this...or so I thought. I donned these bright coloured clothes for the painting project, got out the paint, and then remembered that I didn't have a paint brush. "That's no problem," I thought, "I'll just take the church's van and run down to the local dollar store quickly and get the brush I need."

With big bold lettering—MARANATHA BAPTIST CHURCH—on the side of the church's van everyone in this small Midwestern town knew the church, yet were shocked to see a strange guy in an orange jump suit driving around town. The local dollar store didn't have what I needed, so I went to a small grocery store, but they didn't have what I needed either. I would ask folks about where I could get a paint brush, but they would just stare at me and mumble an answer before scurrying away. Finally, at the third store, I found what I needed, but not until several others gawked and avoided me like the plague.

You see, what I didn't realize is, the county jail was in that town and the prisoners were sometimes used for work detail around the town and county under the watchful guard of an armed police officer. Their work "uniforms" were bright, orange overalls EXACTLY like the ones I was wearing!! In their mind here was a PRISONER driving a church van UNSUPERVISED, ALL OVER TOWN, GOING FROM STORE TO STORE ASKING PEOPLE QUESTIONS!!

When I got back to the bus after being gone for over an hour, I said to my wife, "NEVER, EVER, let me out of this bus with these orange overalls on AGAIN!" In fact, I was so humiliated I just threw away that outfit so as never to be caught dead in it!

Man does indeed look on the outward appearance AND makes judgment calls on who we are and what we do. Our clothes do speak volumes. What does your attire say to those around you?

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The Tiny Thing That Predicts the Success of any Relationship

Natalie Reilly dailylife.com.au

Psychologist John Gottman, the renowned relationship expert who became famous because he could discern in less than an hour if newlyweds would make it, has recently published another study – this time, with his wife, psychologist Julie Gottman. And, it contains the answer to the question of the ages: what makes love last?

Well, gather 'round all you romancers because all it takes is a particular show of kindness and I'm not talking about the show you might receive via text from that guy you swiped on Tinder.

It goes like this. Say you look out your window one evening and see a huge full moon bobbing just above the horizon. Flushed with wonder, you turn to your partner and say "hey sweet cheeks! Isn't the moon beautiful tonight?" This, according to Gottman, is a "bid" – a request for a response that will hopefully lead to a small connection between the two of you – an understanding that, on this particular topic, you share the same worldview.

Your partner now has a choice to make – they can look up and say "wow! It is beautiful!" or something similarly agreeable. The Gottmans call this a "turning toward".

Or, they can keep eye contact with their computer device and mutter "mm hmm", or worse, remain silent. That would be called "turning away". It seems mundane and insignificant, right? I mean, it's just a moon! But according to an article examining the study, the consequences are far-reaching.

"Couples who had divorced after a six-year follow up had 'turn-toward bids' 33 per cent of the time. The couples who were still together after six years had 'turn-toward bids' 87 per cent of the time."

You don't have to be Dr Phil to understand that when your bids for connection go consistently unmet, you stop trying. The article put it this way: "People who give their partner the cold shoulder – deliberately ignoring the partner or responding minimally... not only kill the love in the relationship, but they also kill their partner's ability to fight off viruses and cancers."

Yeah. Death.

The Gottmans go on to explain that the hardest time to turn toward a bid is when you're stressed or fighting. But it's during these times that it's especially important to do

exactly that. By extending yourself, you're flexing the muscle of kindness – and kindness is the major predictor of a long-lasting relationship.

But that's not all. The other predictor of a long lasting union? Sharing joy. No, not laughing over a *Parks and Recreation* marathon or high fiving after a challenging hike, but the joy you share over each other's triumphs. Like a new job. A promotion. A compliment. 50 per cent off that dress. In fact, it's more important to be supportive during the good times than the bad.

But there are other interesting conclusions to take from this. The first is that women are – in the main – often told not to expect too much in these areas from their male partners. A book called *The Five Love Languages*, written by a conservative Minister and championed by other well-meaning conservatives and marriage prep courses, posits that men often communicate their love in different (non-verbal) ways – they'll mow the lawn, fix your computer, or pay for dinner to express their ardour. As long as you don't take it personally and don't draw them into an intimate conversation, you should be able to enjoy marriage. Because men are inherently bad at listening; they're not as good as women at multi-tasking. And, look, while focusing on a spouse's intentions goes a long way toward sustaining a relationship, according to the Gottmans if ordinary kindness – in the form of direct communication – is not built in, those other gestures can fall on fallow ground.

The second conclusion, dear Love Birds, can be extrapolated from the first. Ladies everywhere don't just believe these baseless myths – they actively relate to the idea that the only thing ruining their relationship is asking for too much intimacy from that guy who likes fixing stuff, not talking about it – geeze! The message is clear – expect less and do more.

But the Gottmans don't talk about gender – they don't need to. The Gottmans based their findings on over four decades of scientific research. They have found that those small things that, traditionally, girlfriends and wives get upset about, are not a manifestation of pettiness or high maintenance or "nagging". But, rather, a set of mandatory skills required for not just a long-lasting marriage, but for every other relationship, (including friendship and parenthood) to be successful too.

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IN LOVE WITH ROCK & ROLL ~ David Cloud

(Friday Church News Notes, September 18, 2015,
www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

The Contemporary Christian Music crowd loves rock & roll, and there is no biblical principle or godly argument that will pry it from their ears. CCM artists listen to secular rock in their private lives; they perform it in their concerts and record it for their albums. They don't care who they offend. In fact, they seem as eager to offend the "old-fashioned Christian" as I was in my unsaved hippie-rebel days. They become so drunk on rock and so spiritually stupid that they even use secular rock in the worship of God. Consider some examples from the past few years.

- Granger Community Church in Granger, Indiana, featured Beatles Music as their 2007 Christmas theme. They advertised it as "Let it Be...Christmas--A Story Told by Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Paul, George and Ringo."
- NewSpring Church in Florence, South Carolina, performed "Highway to Hell" by the vile rock band AC/DC for Easter service 2009.
- NewSpring performed Ozzy Osbourne's "Crazy Train" in November 2011.
- Northpoint Church of Springfield, Missouri, performed "Sympathy for the Devil" by the Rolling Stones for Easter service 2011 and Michael Jackson's "Thriller" in November 2011.
- The Church by the Glades in Miramar, Florida, performed "Calling All the Monsters" in October 2011. The theme of the song is "magic and fantasy" and the sensual dance moves were inspired by Michael Jackson's "Thriller."

(For many more examples, see the book *Baptist Music Wars*, available from Way of Life in print and free eBook editions.)

COOL! THEY ALL SAID IT! ~ David Cloud

(One of the contributing factors to the indifference and apathy in fundamental churches is the lawlessness that

pervades the movies and music that is welcomed into our homes. The Lord Jesus exposed the peril of opening our minds and hearts to the world when he said, "*Because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.*" (Matthew 24:12)

I asked Bro. Cloud recently who it was among ungodly rock musicians who boasted that they could do anything they wanted to, which is an open expression of an iniquitous heart or lawlessness. He replied, "They all said it!" So, have a look and see if the rock stars you admire are on the list? And then ask yourself the question, "How much has the iniquity of my music refrigerated my love for Christ and cooled my ardour for the things of God?"

And does this have anything to do with why we hear so many things called "cool"? - Ed)

- **"I'm free to do what I want any old time"** (Rolling Stones, 1965).
- **"It's my life and I'll do what I want/ It's my mind, and I'll think what I want"** (The Animals, 1965).
- **"You got to go where you want to go/ do what you want to do"** (Mamas and Papas, 1966).
- **"It's your thing/ do what you want to do"** (Isley Brothers, 1969).
- **"We don't need no thought control"** (Pink Floyd, "Another Brick in the Wall," 1979).
- **"I'm gonna do it my way. ... I want to make my own decision ... I want to be the one in control..."** (Janet Jackson, "Control," 1986).
- **"Nothing's forbidden and nothing's taboo when two are in love"** (Prince, "When Two Are in Love," 1988).
- **"... the only rules you should live by [are] rules made up by you"** (Pennywise, "Rules," 1991).
- **"So what we get drunk/ So what we smoke weed ... Living young and wild and free"** ("Young, Wild and Free," Snoop Dog and Wiz Khalifa, 2011).
- **"We can do what we want; we can live as we choose"** (Paul McCartney, "New," 2013).
- **"The whole Beatles idea was to do what you want"** (John Lennon, cited by David Sheff)



KIRK FRANKLIN SUMMARIZES THE CCM PHILOSOPHY

http://www.wayoflife.org/index_files/kirk_franklin_summarizes_ccm.html

Kirk Franklin, one of the biggest names in Contemporary Christian Music, recently summarized the CCM philosophy in a radio interview with DJ Sway Calloway. To the question “How do you feel about same sex marriage?” Franklin replied:

“Whatever my lens is, it’s always going to be trying my best to see something through what I believe is going to be God’s word, and not God’s word in the essence of dogma or in the essence of religion, or to be right and to make other people wrong. I first would probably always want to say I’m very sorry for all of the ugly and all of the painful things that people have even heard from church people, because things can come from a very homophobic lens. ... I always want to stand on in the Book of Romans. It says (in chapter three), ‘For there is none righteous, (no) not one.’ ... God sees us all as broken people that need His love and His grace. ... Jesus died for our sins. So if we’re all sinners, that means everybody’s in the pot together needing the same love, the same grace and the same forgiveness” (Kirk Franklin, “Sway in the Morning,” cited from *Christian Post*, June 4, 2013).

By analyzing this statement in light of Scripture we will learn a lot about the CCM philosophy, and it is the CCM philosophy that is destroying the Biblical character of individuals, families, and churches that are unwisely building bridges to it by messing around with contemporary worship.

First, Franklin’s view of “God’s word” is that it is not dogmatic and doesn’t present one right way, which means He has a grossly heretical view of Holy Scripture.

In contrast to Franklin’s view, Jesus continually cited Scripture as dogma, including on the marriage issue.

“The Pharisees also came unto him, tempting him, and saying unto him, Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause? And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female, And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh? Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder” (Matthew 19:3-6).

Jesus said that marriage is for one man and one woman. Period. That means it isn’t for one man and two women, or two men and one woman, or a woman and a woman, or a man and a man, etc. Jesus was dogmatic on everything and cited Scripture as absolute authority, but large numbers of people within the CCM crowd don’t know this Jesus. They worship the cool, non-dogmatic Jesus of “*The Shack*.”

Second, instead of criticizing the sin of homosexuality, Franklin criticized those who cite God’s Word against homosexuality. This, too, represents the CCM philosophy. The main “sin” that they make an issue of is the supposed sin of “judgmentalism” and “criticism.” This flies in the face of Holy Scripture, which is filled with the plainest, strongest preaching against sin and error and which demands that God’s people *“have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them” (Ephesians 5:11)*. Compare the milk-toast, “beat around the bush” CCM approach with that of any preacher in the Bible, and it will be clear that we are talking about two different spirits and philosophies. For an example in a nutshell, consider Enoch’s bold sermon against last-days sinners:

“And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints, To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him” (Jude 1:14-15).

Good luck trying to find a preacher at a contemporary rock concert who preaches like that!

Third, Franklin’s “grace” is not the grace defined in the New Testament epistles. Franklin’s grace ignores the necessity of repentance and holiness, which are both emphasized in God’s Word.

Franklin ignores the Bible's command that *"all men everywhere repent"* (Acts 17:30).

Franklin says he wants to stand on the book of Romans, but he skips over most of Romans. He ignores the part in Romans 1 which says homosexuality is an abomination before God. He ignores the entire section of Romans 6-8 which is summarized in this way: *"What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?"* (Romans 6:1-2).

In Titus 2 the apostle Paul taught that the grace of Christ does not lead to moral license and spiritual carelessness; rather it teaches us to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts and to live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world (Titus 2:12).

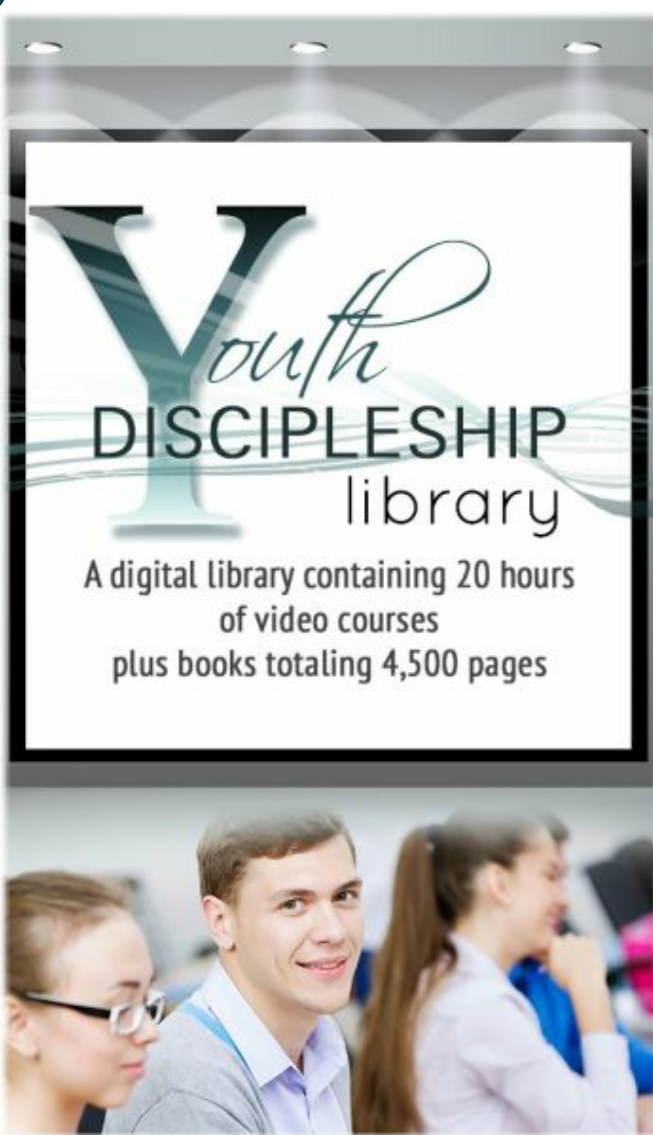
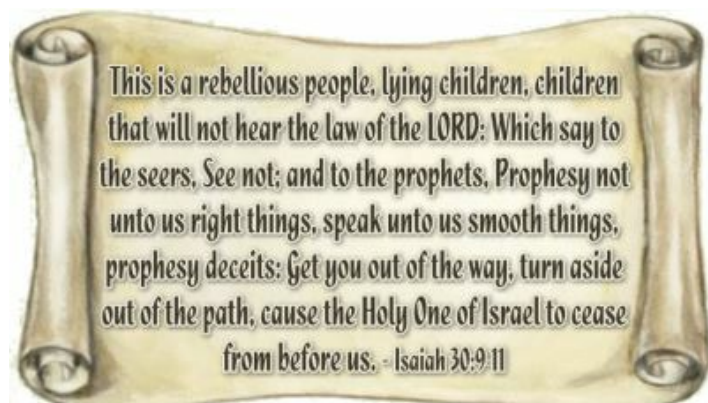
If Franklin were speaking biblically, he would have said:

"I am happy to answer that question and to give a witness for the thrice holy Creator God and His holy Word in this evil and adulterous generation. My answer is that God loves homosexuals as much as any "other" type of sinners, and that Jesus died for the sin of homosexuality as for other types of sin, and that God commands all sinners everywhere to repent, and that is exactly what homosexuals must do if they want to be saved and if they want to be church members and if they want to serve as disciples of Jesus Christ. Next question."

The heresy-spouting Kirk Franklin is a good representative of Contemporary Christian Music. His foundational philosophy contains the building blocks of the apostate one-world "church," and those who are messing around with contemporary worship music are building bridges to this "church."

In his 1998 autobiography Franklin said that "homosexuality ... is a problem today in gospel music--a major concern--and everybody knows it" (*Church Boy*, pp. 49, 50).

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by David W. Cloud

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Please Pardon My EMOTIONS

Dwight Smith



Please Pardon my emotions, at least for a moment. I try, much of the time, to keep them in check, but just now, would you allow me some latitude as they spill over? You ask the reason for this excess? It is those who compromise the truth.

During the many years I have known the Lord and have studied His Word, I have observed different ones, both old and young, both close friends and distant acquaintances, hold to a position of truth and then depart. They have campaigned for the truth. They have supported the truth. They have given verbal assent to the truth. Then for one reason or another they have abandoned their position of truth. Their previous convictions have been clearly supported from Scripture. They have been passed from one generation to the next. They have been vital to the health and well-being of God's people. They have been the key to the necessary spread of the gospel. Yet for whatever reason, they have been discarded by those who, at one time, held to them, stood for them, and championed them.

When I see this kind of departure, be it whole-sale sellout or subtle in nature, I have three emotions that rise to the surface and bubble over. Please pardon the outburst.

FIRST, I LAUGH INCREDULOUSLY. "Is this a joke?" I ask. "Seriously?" I say. "Not him? Not really? Not now?" I query. But, alas, too often it is true. Those who once took a Bible stand; those who once stood for God's holiness and Scriptural principle; those who once carried the baton of truth from one generation to the next; those who refused to give in to the winds of detrimental change, suddenly or slowly caved. They may yield because of family pressure. It may be because of their private worldly choices. It may be due to the current of society. Whatever the case, I laugh, not in joy, but in disbelief.

At a time of such consequence, this is not the moment to follow the example of the twelve at Christ's crucifixion. *"Then all the disciples forsook him and fled"* (Matthew 26:56). In a day when Biblical doctrine and Scriptural principle must be upheld, we certainly should not be allowing the world's current to sweep us away as did

Demas (II Timothy 4:10). It may be a joke, but it is not a funny one. The truth is, I'm not the only one laughing. The world laughs whenever compromise seduces another of God's servants. Can you hear them laughing at Samson as they cut off his hair, bind his hands, gouge out his eyes, and replace the donkey with this former heavyweight champion? Can you hear them mock him, his people, his principles, and his Maker as they lead his blind frame into their feast? *"Then the lords of the Philistines gathered them together for to offer a great sacrifice unto Dagon their god, and to rejoice: for they said, Our god hath delivered Samson our enemy into our hand. And when the people saw him, they praised their god: for they said, Our god hath delivered into our hands our enemy, and the destroyer of our country, which slew many of us. And it came to pass, when their hearts were merry, that they said, Call for Samson that he may make us sport"* (Judges 16:23-25). What a shame! What a tragedy! May it never be said that those reading these words, who know the Lord and are growing in Christ, choose to compromise the Truth of the Scripture and besmirch the name of Jesus. If you do, and I hear of it, my laughter may spill out, but know this: it is incredulous. Please pardon my emotions.

SECONDLY, I AM STIRRED WITH RIGHTEOUS INDIGNATION.

We were on the same team. We worked for the same goal. We sought the same end result, and now, it no longer matters? How can this be? We sought the Lord together. We were following the same guiding and Biblical principles. Now they can be discarded like one changes their socks? How does this honor God? After the laugh of disbelief, there wells within me a good bit of anger, properly placed I might say. This anger stems from a sense of betrayal. It is rooted in righteousness. It follows the examples of the heroes of faith and the Savior Himself. Consider the indignation of Moses against idolatry and Aaron's compromise in *Exodus 32:19*. His *"anger waxed hot."* I don't suppose Samuel was anything but fuming at compromise and its by-product when he *"hewed Agag in pieces before the Lord in Gilgal"* (I Samuel 15:33). Have you thought of the anger of Elijah against the worship of Baal? After the Lord's victory on the top of Mt. Carmel, Elijah brought the prophets of Baal *"down to the brook and slew them there"* (I Kings 18:40). I don't imagine Paul had a Pollyanna smile on his face when, in

Galatians 2:11, he *"withstood Peter to the face, because he was to be blamed."* And what of our matchless Savior who provided an example of *righteous indignation by overthrowing "the tables of the moneychangers and the seats of them that sold doves"* (Matthew 21:12)? There certainly is Biblical precedent for godly anger against compromise of the truth, weakness of character, and a lack of integrity. If you should give way to the enemy or give your OK to error, you can expect an explosion against your sin from this corner of the world. Just consider it a *good trait* coming from one who is trying to follow the example of his Master and please, if you will, pardon my emotions.

THE LAST EVIDENCE OF SHOCK I display may be a bit harder to see. Usually it doesn't show itself in public. It is a bit more personal than the others. When I see the compromise of the truth by ones I know and love, somewhere, after the controversy dies down, I slip away into a quiet place and **weep genuine tears!** My heart is grieved when someone departs from the Truth they once claimed to love. Isn't this the emotional response we ought all have?

In I Samuel 15:10, when the Lord told Samuel that Saul's disobedience had ended his ministry, *"it grieved Samuel; and he cried unto the Lord all night."* It was David who grieved when those with whom he once worshipped God had betrayed him. He said, *"My heart is sore pained within me"* (Psalm 55:4). What about Jeremiah whose tears had become a river? He declared, *"Oh that my head were waters, and mine eyes a fountain of tears, that I might weep day and night for the slain of the daughter of my people"* (Jeremiah 9:1)! Can you hear the tears in his voice, when Paul said, *"No man stood with me, but all men forsook me"* (II Timothy 4:16)?

I weep over compromise because it violates God's Word. I weep because it jeopardizes the mission of the Lord's church and every Christian. I weep for souls who will perish, because the truth was compromised and the gospel was lost. I weep because, instead of spreading the truth, it is sold for a mess of pottage and 30 pieces of silver. Then the next generation fails to see its import and heed its warning and, before long, they are headed to hell without any concern over their own plight!

I have seen family members compromise the truth of the Bible. I have watched friends sell out to an easier way. I have observed fellow preachers yield to the world, the flesh, and the Devil. I have seen churches, I once was a member of, depart from their moorings, and they remain adrift. I have seen men of great influence kick out of the trenches and seek a short cut from the high road. Sometimes the compromise is public and shameless.

Sometimes it is personal and later revealed. Sometimes the weakness happens gradually over time. Sometimes someone suddenly disavows a Scriptural position. No matter how it happens, it is always tragic! It always brings tears to my eyes. It always grieves the heart of God.

For the sake of the Truth of Scripture, for the sake of the name of Christ, for the sake of the sound proclamation of the gospel, for the sake of future generations, for the sake of your family, and for the sake of everything that is good and decent and right, don't compromise! Don't yield to the enemy! Don't give in to Satan's devices. If you do, you should know, that somewhere there will be a preacher who, after an incredulous laugh and after an indignant outburst, will be hiding away in the corner of somewhere weeping. Please pardon my emotions.

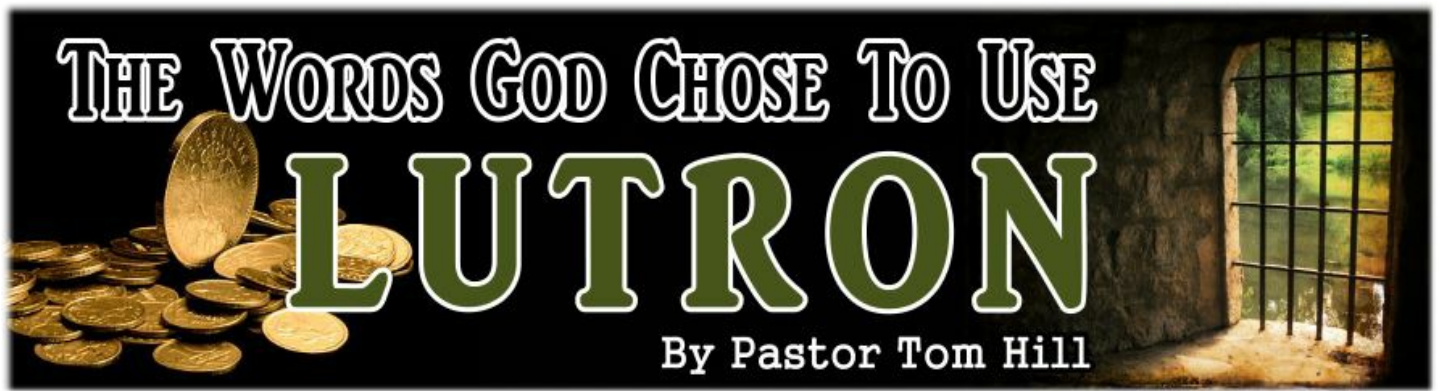
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THERAPY FOR THE FUNNY BONE -

- A woman called up a pet store and said, "Send me ten-thousand cockroaches at once."
"What in the world do you want with ten-thousand cockroaches?" asked the clerk.
"Well," replied the woman, "I am moving today and my lease says I must leave the place in the same condition I found it."
- After arriving back in the States recently, my wife found her wedding dress from 34+ years ago and tried it on, thrilled that she could still fit in it. I, too, was thrilled that I could still fit in the tie I wore at our wedding. - Jerry Wilhite



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There are a lot of believers that have the false notion that once we have been born again, we are allowed to live any old way we want to live. Just this past week, I talked to a young man who was telling me about his plans for college and that he and his girlfriend were going to live together in Texas. I asked him what about marriage, to which he replied, "We are not ready to make that commitment." I told him that was wrong for a believer to do. He said nothing. Neither one of them are members of the church I pastor, but at least he at one time told me that he had repented of sin and had trusted Christ as Savior.

The lack of integrity among believers is growing almost as fast as evil is growing among those who are lost. Do those who know the Lord know what they have in Jesus Christ? Do they know the cost? Do they not know that we as God's children are to live holy lives? God tells us in **1 Peter 1:15, 16**, *"But as He which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation [meaning your manner of living, your conduct]. 16 Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy."* He goes on to declare that we are to *"pass the time of (y)our sojourning here in fear (v. 17)."*

Why? Why is our pilgrimage to be lived in fear, in reverential awe of the Lord Himself? The answer is found in the next two verses, v.18,19 *"Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot."* The key word to understanding "why" is in the word REDEEMED.

Redeemed is the Greek word LUTRON, or LUTROO. LUTRON is actually one word from a family of words that all have the same basic meaning. The other words in the family are: LUTROUN and APOLUTROSIS. Essentially LUTROO and LUTRON are the same word. LUTRON is a compound word made up of the word LUO which is a very common word that means "to loose." The other word is the word TRON, which means "payment." The literal meaning of LUTRON means "to loose through a payment." The common secular usage of the word came from two places, from the slave market and from a

captive of war. A slave could be bought from the slave market and given his or her freedom. A prisoner of war could be bought from the enemy and given his freedom.

The act of redeeming has roots deep in the Old Testament. For instance, redemption is seen in Exodus 21:30 in reference to an ox goring a person to death. If the owner knew that it was dangerous and it was not penned up, then the life of both the oxen and the owner were to be taken by being stoned to death. But according to v. 30, *"If there be laid on him a sum of money, then he shall give for the ransom of his life whatsoever is laid upon him."*

The word RANSOM is the price that would be paid by the owner. It was thought of as "blood money." Leviticus 25:47-51 speaks of an Israelite who was poor and sold himself to a wealthy pilgrim, a wealthy relative could purchase him and the price was called the lutron.

When lutron was used in the New Testament, it took the meaning of "to release upon the receipt of a ransom, to liberate by ransom, to be delivered." It was the payment that released a man from an obligation which otherwise he was bound to fulfil.

We are slaves to sin. The price paid for a slave in the secular world was from 500 denarii to 875,000 denarii. A denarii was usually a day's pay. Depending upon skill and appearance, slaves could be quite expensive to purchase.

So, what about our redemption? Peter declares that we were not redeemed with corruptible things. Those things are perishable, and are subject to decay and destruction. Two of the most valuable of the precious metals are mentioned as examples of how our redemption was not purchased. Silver and gold were often used in payment for slaves or for securing the release of a POW. But money counts for nothing in our procurement in salvation.

In v. 19, Peter used a very strong conjunction to say BUT RATHER. But rather, Peter is saying, the true means of your redemption is the precious blood of Christ. Precious

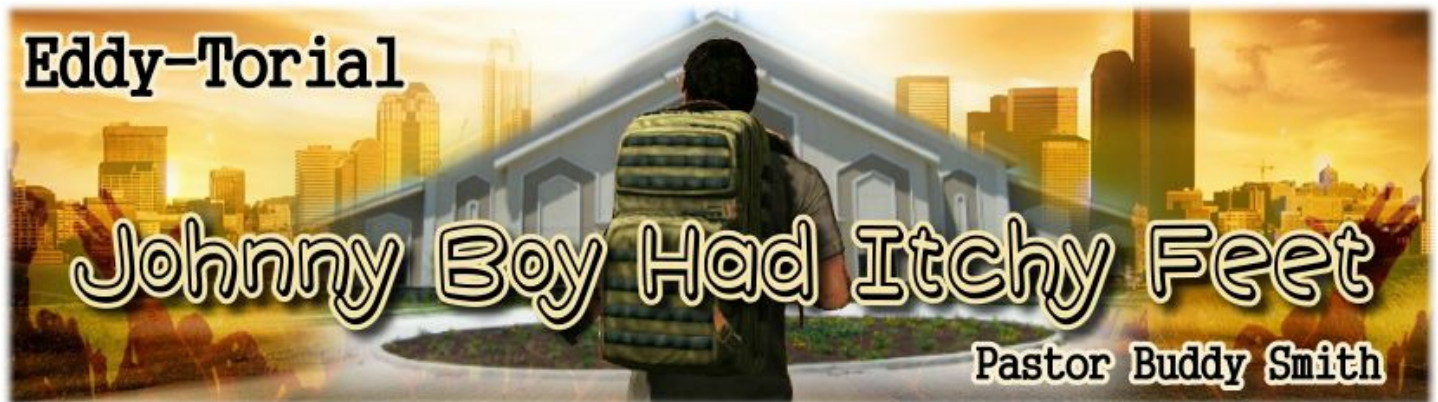
speaks of that which is of great price. It is that which is highly valued to the highest order. That is what the blood of Christ is called, because it is that which pays the ransom price to release the slaves of sin from their sin. His blood alone paid the price in full for our redemption. That is why the addition of baptism, membership to a church, or any other work or ritual to faith alone nullifies the price.

In other words, if religion says that baptism or anything else must be part of the price of our redemption so as to be forgiven of sin, that religion is false and ultimately that person is saying that Christ did not do enough and His blood did not pay the full price for redemption in full. God will not save a person that chooses to add to God's chosen price, the precious blood of Christ.

When we repent of sin and place our faith in Christ alone, it is then that we are redeemed, we are bought out from the slave market of sin, and we are no longer prisoners of sin. We are then given a new Master and that Master is none other than Jesus Christ. He paid the price in full. We have been redeemed, beloved. The cost of our redemption was greater than we can humanly understand in what Christ paid.

Since we have been redeemed, it stands to reason that we are to obey our Master. We do not have a license to sin all we want or to live any old way that we want to live. We do have the empowerment from God to live as God wants us to live and live holy lives that reverence the Lord in an unholy non-reverencing world. May we do just that!

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Johnny was a preacher boy with itchy feet. He grew up in a good town. It was a country town, wheat and barley and sheep, fed a lot of people, they did. Not a bad place to live. Some great men lived there, then and later.

From birth Johnny was surrounded by men who served God in one form of ministry or another.

But Johnny had itchy feet.

He was always looking for bigger, better things. Not for him, the old fashioned religion. If that was the best God had, he wasn't interested.

So he hit the road. Sort of strange that he walked right through the big city just down the road, and never settled there. It had lots to offer, but it would be hard for a country boy to get a start there if he was going to be rich, successful, and famous.

Johnny could have headed for the Tab. They were always looking for help. It was only a day's hike from home. For some reason he turned left at the crossroads and headed for the Mountain. Maybe he'd heard that money and life were easy there. Maybe he didn't like the strictness of

the regulations at the Tab. Word gets around, you know. Maybe he had greater ambitions than just chopping wood and emptying ashes.

Maybe he just had itchy feet.

It was a rich man named Mike that offered him his first real opportunity. Johnny had that hungry look about him and he was footloose and fancy free.

So Mike asked him, "Where are you from?"

Johnny told him where home was, what his family background was, and that he was "on the wallaby", just traveling through.

Mike said, "Hey, if you're not tied down, stay and be our preacher boy. I'll pay you to preach. Of course, you'd have to preach the right kind of sermons, none of that old fire and brimstone stuff. I'll feed you, supply you with a suit, put you up, and give you some pocket money if you're willing to be our minister. What do you say? We've got our own place of worship with all the paraphernalia. There's even a congregation, made up of our neighbours. I'll take good care of you."

Well, Johnny took the bait, hook, line, and sinker. This was just what he wanted, to be in leadership, to have his own crowd to preach to, food and clothes laid on, and money in his pocket! What could be better than that?

Mike was so happy! "God will certainly bless me now! My own preacher! With that ancestry! And from that town! We'll even have our own worship and liturgy!"

Well, things seemed to go along pretty well for a while. The crowds grew. Mike and Johnny devised a modern liturgy that was very ecumenical, sort of postmodern, mixed with ecstasy, "back to the future", with maybe a touch of sensory overload. Mike was content. He was even thinking about a pay rise for "Dr. John".

Johnny suffered a few twinges of conscience about Mike ordaining him and awarding him a doctorate, but they soon passed. He read an author who said, "You've got to live on the cutting edge." and that sounded good to him. With Mike's money and Johnny's looks and speaking ability, and the new style of worship, they'd left the old fogies behind and were pioneering a new reformation. There was no one around to hold him accountable, so why not?



What a surprise he got one day when some friends from back home stuck their heads in the door. "We heard your voice and couldn't believe our ears. What are YOU doing way up here? We thought you were still back home raising sheep and growing barley."

Johnny filled them in and showed them around the "worship center". He even had a word of prophecy for them, "You want to know if your survey trip will be successful? Sure! Go for it! God is guiding you!"

Johnny was learning how to tickle men's ears with pleasant words. His old friends lapped it up.

Mike told him after they left, "John, son, you've got a great future here. Just look how God is blessing your preaching. The crowds are growing week by week. Your preaching just gets better and better! That smile of yours really draws them in! Who would ever guess that your outreach would grow like it has? Even people back home will know about you now. We ought to fine tune the liturgy, maybe, and probably add a drum kit, a drama team, possibly even a veiled dancer or two. If you keep on preaching these "Life is Good" sermons, we'll soon need to enlarge the worship center."



A month or two went by and Johnny's big chance came. You remember those lads from back home? Well, they passed by again, only this time they brought a crowd with them, six hundred strong. And they came with a job offer Johnny couldn't refuse.

"Come with us! We're a bigger congregation! Why preach to a little crowd when you can preach to a big crowd? We are on our way to set up a new kingdom, and you can get in on the ground floor if you come now."

Immediately, Johnny had a vision, complete with dollar signs and his name up in lights. He smelled success, fame, and wealth and it smelled good. Surely God was in this! So of course he said yes.

Remember, Johnny had itchy feet.

Oh, there were some bad feelings among the locals when he waved goodbye, and angry words when he resigned suddenly. Especially when he took all of Mike's paraphernalia, his robes, his candlesticks, his incense, his images, he took it all, thousands of dollars worth.

Having a "Sugar Daddy" had been exciting, but how much more exciting to have a few hundred "Sugar Daddies"!



The new setup seemed to work for Johnny. He married one of his parishioners, and was blest with several sons who followed their father into the ministry. It looked good for Johnny, lots of money, big crowds, popularity, renowned as a trend setter, invited to speak in the big conferences, peaceful conditions, posh house, everything laid on in abundance.

You'd have to say Dr. John had it made, that is, if you are a pragmatist. He had it made, if the end justifies the means. He had it made, if outward success and fame, and popularity, and gaining a larger and larger following is what the service of God is all about.



But what was Dr. John's message? (Did I hear him use the name "Baal" in last week's sermon? And what was that reference to Babel?)

And what religious practices did he lead his congregation into? (Was that a midnight mass he held for a wealthy parishioner? Did somebody say that he's been asked to be the head of the minister's fraternal and lead the ecumenical evangelistic crusade next month?)

And how did it end? (One of the elders resigned over Johnny's grandson being passed through the fire by his dad? Is that true?)

Did I just hear a pragmatIBst say, "Sssshhhhhhhhhhh!"

Did my inbox just receive a hot missive from a modern Dr. John, with a rebuke (ever so stern) for hindering the progress of "The Movement"?

Have you noticed how seldom pragmatIBsts practice discernment?

Here's a little test for you,

1. What theology did Mike and John and John's friends hold to?
2. How can you tell?
3. Where did their theology originate?
4. How did their theology relate to the first and second commandments?

5. What do we know about the liturgy of the molten and graven images Dr. John served?

6. And what eventually happened to Dr. John's priesthood?

PragmatIBsts would do well to read Johnny Boy's story from God's history book of Israel in the time of the Judges, Chapters 17 and 18.

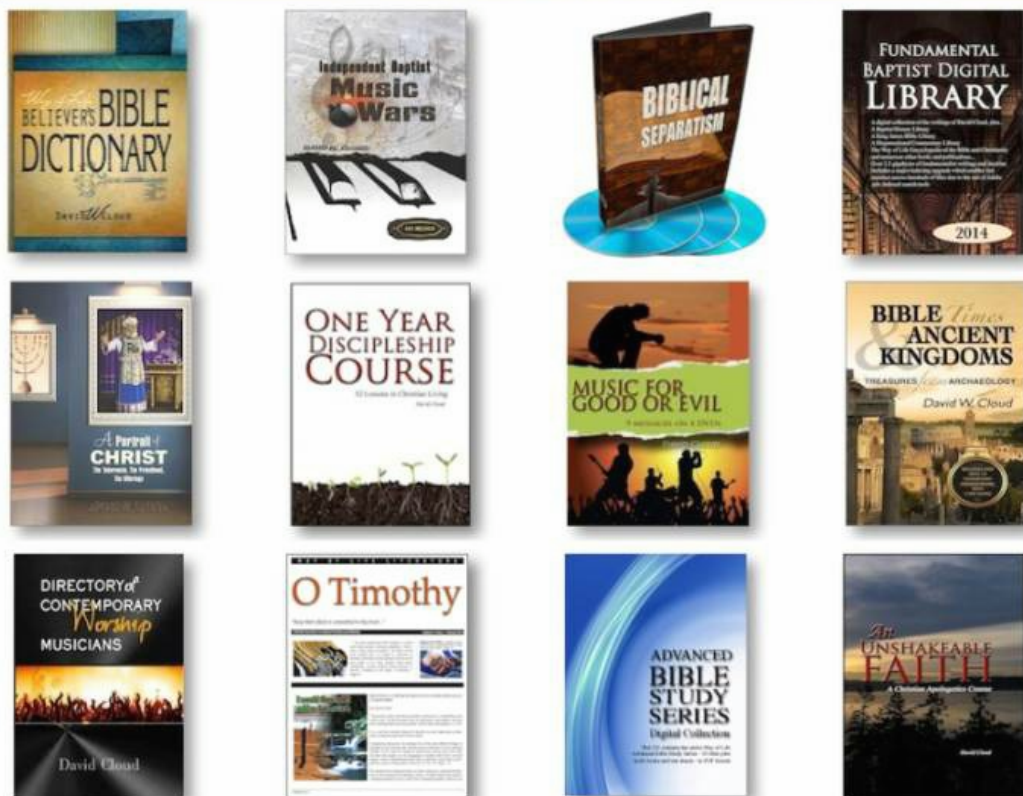
I've noticed something interesting about PragmatIBsts. They are never satisfied with what God has given them. Their feet are just itching to climb the ladder to success.

No matter what it costs in the long run.

Johnny had itchy feet.

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Youth Discipleship Meetings

Building a wall of spiritual protection



Who: Youth, Parents, Church Leaders and Teachers, Anyone Who is Concerned about Discipling Young People!

When: 5-7 July, 2016

Where: Southwest Sydney,
Bethel Bible Baptist Church
3/13 Stennett Road (corner Moorlands Road)
Ingleburn NSW 2565

Dress: smart casual



Speaker: Brother David Cloud
Independent Baptist missionary in Nepal &
author of numerous books on this subject.

Many Christian homes and churches are losing a frightful percentage of their young people to the world. The purpose of these meetings is to help youth become fruitful Christian adults. Brother Cloud has developed a practical and far-reaching youth discipleship course that deals with the parent's part, the church's part, and the youth's part in winning and discipling young people. The course covers salvation, child discipline, the Christian home environment that produces disciples, reaching the child's heart, Bible study techniques, how to protect young people from dangers associated with the Internet and smartphones, and many other things.

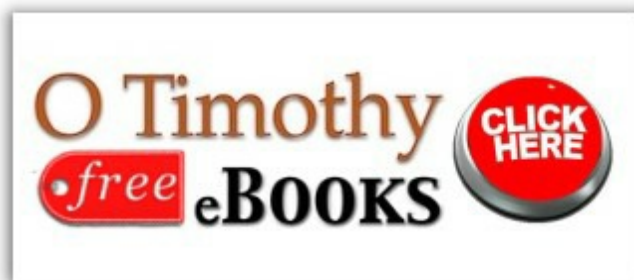
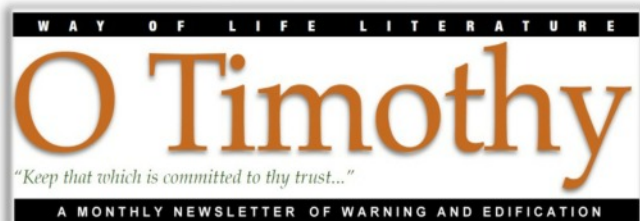
Afternoon sessions are being planned for both young men and young ladies.

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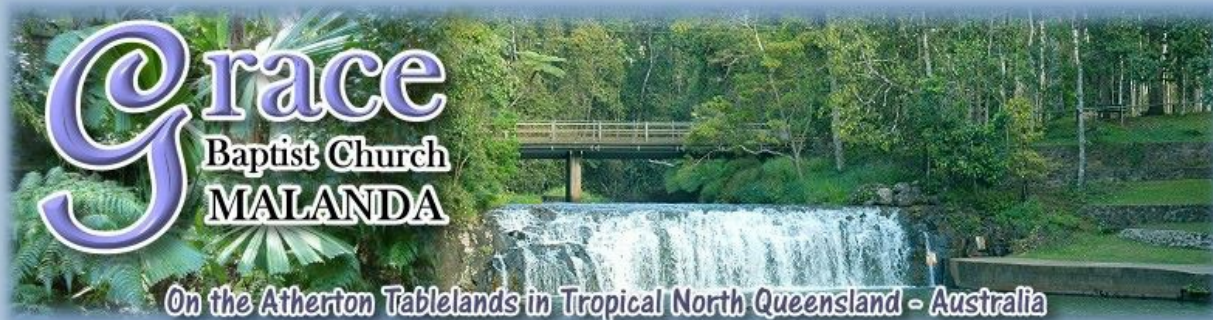
"WHEN THE ENEMY SHALL COME IN LIKE A FLOOD, THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD SHALL LIFT UP A STANDARD AGAINST HIM" (ISAIAH 59:19).

An Outreach Ministry of FairHavens Baptist Church
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CHALLENGING AND ENCOURAGING GOD'S REMNANT TO REMAIN FAITHFUL



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Heads Up!

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