

TAKE TWO: GIVE ONE TO A FRIEND

— KANSAS — FAITH AND FAMILY

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MEMBER



"BE DEVOTED TO ONE ANOTHER IN BROTHERLY LOVE. HONOR ONE ANOTHER ABOVE YOURSELVES." ROMANS 12:10

As World Cup arrives in North America, Southern Baptists gear up to share the Gospel



Every four years, the World Cup captures the attention of people from around the globe. This year, the Cup comes to North America, and Southern Baptists are working to share the gospel to the millions of people who will be traveling to watch the matches or be part of the festivities around the games.

By Brandon Elrod

As the world prepares for one of its largest sporting events, Southern Baptists have created opportunities to leverage the 2026 World Cup to share the Gospel.

Sixteen major cities throughout North America will host soccer matches

that are expected to draw crowds of 15-25 million people who will come from all over the world to watch the games or be part of the festivities surrounding the events. More than 5 billion are expected to watch broadcasts of the games.

"The World Cup pres-

ents a unique opportunity for our Southern Baptist family of churches to engage people from all over the world with the Gospel," said Tim Dowdy, vice president of evangelism at the North American Mission Board (NAMB). "Our hope is that churches in the

cities where these events will be held as well as people from churches around the North America who plan to attend an event will find the tools designed specifically for the World Cup helpful in pointing people to Jesus."

Soccer is one of the world's most popular sports, and every four years, hundreds of millions of people tune in from around the globe to watch World Cup matches. IMB photo

The International Mission Board (IMB), NAMB and several Southern Baptist state conventions are encouraging churches and Christians to engage their communities with the good news. NAMB has created a web page that captures several of these efforts in one place.

IMB has established an engagement strategy that it has utilized during the last three Olympic cycles to make an impact on the global audience that will

be paying attention to the games and events surrounding the World Cup.

"IMB's digital engagement team has been on the cutting edge of strategies to advance the Gospel across language barriers and to people groups who would not otherwise have access the good news of Jesus Christ," said IMB President Paul Chitwood.

A key aspect of the approach directs individuals to a website IMB created that asks and answers the question: "Who am I?" Visitors to the site will see the page and all its resources in their own language. They will be able to hear a virtual Gospel translation and download a copy of God's Word.

NAMB is offering soccer-themed resources – stickers, patches, lanyards and wristbands – that direct people to the "Who Am I?" site through QR codes. Whether hosting watch parties, attending the fan fests or doing street evan-

gelism, these resources can help believers initiate Gospel conversations.

"Now, a sporting event taking place in Canada, Mexico and the United States brings IMB and NAMB together to focus on how we can serve each other and the nations," said Chitwood. "This is another way Southern Baptists are uniting around our Great Commission work."

Major cities throughout the continent will be hosting these games, and Southern Baptist state conventions in California, Texas, Missouri and Georgia all have established plans to share the Gospel with the global crowds who will be visiting their states.

As the World Cup comes to North America this year, Southern Baptists have been organizing ways to use the game of soccer to make connections with people and open doors for gospel proclamation. IMB

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The Danger of Ignoring False Teaching

By Faith BroKar

Throughout Scripture, believers are repeatedly warned to guard themselves against false teaching. While many Christians today focus on messages of encouragement, grace, and unity, the Bible also makes clear that truth matters deeply. Ignoring false doctrine may seem harmless at first, but Scripture teaches that error can slowly pull individuals, families, and even entire churches away from the Gospel.

Jesus Himself warned about deception. In Matthew 7:15, He said, “Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep’s clothing, but in-

wardly they are ravening wolves.” False teachers are not always obvious. Many sound sincere, compassionate, or even biblical on the surface. That is what makes deception dangerous.

The Apostle Paul also warned the early church that false doctrine spreads much like a disease. In 2 Timothy 4:3-4, Paul wrote, “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.” In other words, people often begin choosing teachers based on what feels good or sounds appealing rather

than what is true.

One of the greatest dangers of false teaching is that it often mixes truth with error. Satan rarely works through complete and obvious lies. Instead, deception commonly comes through subtle distortions of Scripture. A teacher may quote Bible verses while twisting their meaning or removing them from context. This is why Christians are instructed to know the Word of God for themselves rather than blindly following personalities or popular movements.

The issue becomes even more serious when churches remain silent about false teaching in

the name of avoiding conflict. While Christians are called to show love and humility, the Bible never teaches believers to ignore doctrinal error. Titus 1:9 instructs church leaders to “exhort and to convince the gainsayers” by holding firmly to sound doctrine.

Ignoring false teaching can also create confusion for younger believers. New Christians often assume that if a preacher is popular, wealthy, charismatic, or widely followed, they must be trustworthy. Yet throughout history, many influential teachers have led people away from biblical truth while

appearing outwardly successful.

At the same time, Christians must approach these matters carefully and prayerfully. Not every disagreement is heresy, and believers should avoid a spirit of pride or constant division. The goal is not to attack people, but to protect truth and encourage discernment.

Acts 17:11 praises the Bereans because they searched the Scriptures daily to verify what they were being taught. That

example remains important today. Christians are called not only to hear teaching, but to examine it against God’s Word.

In a culture filled with countless voices, podcasts, livestreams, influencers, and online ministries, discernment may be more important now than ever. Scripture consistently reminds believers that truth matters — and that protecting sound doctrine is an act of love for both the church and the next generation.



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Press releases are welcome and encouraged from all local, regional and national Christian organizations as well as non-Christian organizations with founding beliefs in the value of the family. The Publisher reserves the right to edit or reject any submitted item that is questionable when viewed from the Christian/family perspective.

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A Word
From
The
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Kansas Faith & Family is inviting local writers, pastors, and community members to contribute articles for upcoming issues.

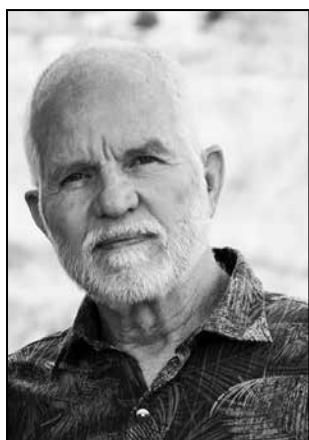
If you have a message, testimony, or faith-based topic you would like to share, we would love to hear from you.

Please submit inquiries or articles to: editor@kansasfaithandfamily.org

Faith BroKar

KANSAS FAITH AND FAMILY

An Alternative Bachelorette and Bachelor Party



By Carl D. Everhart

Christians do not conform to the patterns of the world; they dare to be different!

This article offers serious and impactful discussion topics as an alternative to the infamous “parties at the bars” that are often not “God honoring.” There’s still a party ... one for the Bride and one for the Groom. Each follows Biblical concepts like “iron sharpens iron” and “with many advisors they succeed.” Psalm 127:1 (CEV) says, “Without the help of the LORD it is useless to

build a home or to guard a city.”

Both parties open and close with prayer, and they include celebration, food, and fun. Each has about seven Christians that offer valuable “solicited” advice. Trusted friends and (maybe) selected family members gather to discuss meaningful advice concerning marriage and family. Their counsel includes both “do’s” and “do not’s.” Proverbs 25:12 (TEV) says, “A warning given by an experienced person to someone willing to listen is more valuable than gold rings or jewelry.”

Satan wants the large amount of information offered herein to overwhelm you, don’t let it! While topics should be tailored to the couple (and include anything), the following is offered only as a starting point. Choose the topics you want to discuss and leave the rest.

Albert Einstein wrote, “A man marries a woman

hoping she will not change and a woman marries a man hoping that he will change. Both are disappointed.” My unsolicited advice is that you never get married until you are convinced the other person has already made (and proven) the permanent changes necessary for a “Godly” marriage.

Know the enemy! Satan doesn’t want you to be “equally yoked.” He comes to steal your finances (discuss tithing, spending habits, savings, gambling, and who manages this often-volatile necessity); he will steal even your talents (anything you’re doing that brings glory to God!). He comes to kill (your physical body, and your health), and he will use drugs, alcohol, and even food, to do so. He comes to destroy every Christian marriage (his crown jewel of conquest), and relationships with other God-fearing people. If allowed, Satan will use your unbelieving friends to pull you away from Jesus

and destroy your marriage. Your closest friend must be your spouse, right after Jesus.

Any idol that pulls your focus away from Jesus, or your family, is kryptonite to marriages. This includes the following: Adultery (lust will normally die after about two years and the marriage will also die without true love). Absence (misplaced priorities like work, hobbies, social media/technology, or any sports event that separates the family). Abuse (of any kind - from either side). God is not pleased with prejudice, pride, and especially misguided religion (He cannot be bribed with good works or rituals). He hates pornography; it will destroy even a “God-honoring” marriage.

Other important topics include praying together, daily. Unconditional love (like God has for you). Forgiving others (the only task given to us in the Lord’s Prayer). Spiritual leadership of the family (responsibilities). Getting

intentionally and actively involved with a Bible based church (if not already), and other Bible study activities. You’ll get as much of Jesus in your marriage, and your life, as you seek. Simply the topic of politics has become very divisive, and while it may not be an issue now, it can cause much friction later. Expectations concerning important topics such as conflict resolution (marriage is not easy, establish realistic and healthy boundaries for the in-laws and even friends), sexual relations (never use sex as a weapon), effective communication, and daily chores (take turns changing the baby’s diapers). Learn the other’s “Love Language” and feed into it routinely. Remember, the grass really is always greener where it’s fed and watered. Don’t expect your spouse to be perfect or even to complete you (only Jesus can do that!). By the way ... also remember that God gave Adam a job before He gave him a wife. Acknowledging there’s

so much more, discuss Ecclesiastes 3 and 4:12, Matthew 5:1-12 and 6:33, Mark 11:26, Luke 6:31, Romans 12:9-21, 1 Corinthians 7:4, Ephesians 5:21-33, Philippians 2:3-4, Colossians 3:18-25, and 1 Peter 3:1-7.

Discuss the following: “Marriage takes three to be complete; it’s not enough for two to meet, they must be united in Love by Love’s Creator, God Above. A marriage that follows God’s plan takes more than a woman and a man. It needs a oneness that can be only from Christ. Marriage takes three” (Terra Sancta Scrolls).

Dear Heavenly Father, may this proposal spread and ultimately help marriages survive in a world where they are under attack from many directions. Amen.

To read more from this grateful Prodigal son, lay pastor, voice, apologist, and sinner (saved by grace), search: everhardtandsoul.com (then select “Blog”).

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A Prayer to Remember the Rewards of Waiting

By Lia Girard

Bible Reading:

We can make our own plans, but the LORD gives the right answer. - Proverbs 16:1 (NLT)

Have you ever had a season that you thought would break you? Or are you currently in that season? Maybe you're going through something that feels unfamiliar... as though the world has pressed the pause button on your plans or completely derailed your hopes?

As believers, we know that life is a roller coaster of joys and pains, ups and downs, wins and losses. God didn't promise zero struggle. But he did promise that if you give your struggles to him, he will, in the end, make all things new. His final answer will always be the right one.

The Bible demonstrates that imperfect people are loved and saved by a power beyond comprehension. And even now, in your life, God is still the supplier of a peace that surpasses understanding. Even in the longest waiting or the hardest

storms.

If right now you're waiting, praying, hoping, or crying out for an outcome you feel would fix everything, allow me to gently remind you: when God answers, it will always be what's best for you. There is no greater love, and he sees every moment of your anguish. However, just like when seeds buried in darkness eventually grow toward God's light, waiting is the rich soil where transformation occurs.

It's often in long stretches of wondering and waiting that we learn the freedom of patience. We develop the strength of endurance. And we deepen our reliance on God. These are just a few of the rewards of waiting. In fact, if you've already been through to the other side of an empty place where you thought all your prayers were unanswered, I'm betting you can look back now and see the fruits of that season.

I remember sitting in a soft chair alone, staring out at a beautiful cherry tree that blossomed each

spring. It soothed me during a three-year stretch when my life was wrecked by lost love, and what appeared at the time to be a desperate lack of resources.

My Christian counselor, through this painful period, asked where I found any moments of peace. And I explained how gazing at this tree was a special one for me. Hearing this, she reassured me that God desires what is best for me. Also, that what I had broken out of was not his desire for me. Then she said something I've never forgotten. She said, "I promise you, in God's perfect timing, you won't be sitting there looking out the window at that tree. You will be the tree."

She tucked that beautiful image into my heart as I waited, and prayed, and cried... and waited, and prayed some more. It took time and hard work, but I did, in fact, give it all to God. All of it. And the rewards of hope and patience have never left me. The life I have found now is filled with joy and honesty. And

it's a gift far greater than I could have ever imagined.

When I close my eyes and recall those waiting years, I can confidently say they were the best years of my life. Even with the pain. Because waiting rewarded me with the conviction that all the trappings of a successful life are not always what God desires for me. What God desires for you and me is Himself. His path. His presence. His good, patient, and perfect loving plan.

Yes, I do believe he wants you to participate. Which also means staying in prayer, and asking him to guide and speak to you in ways you will recognize and understand.

Waiting for life to make

sense, and for a heart full of hurts to heal, ended up planting a garden of strength in my soul. Because I now know... that when nothing makes sense, God sees the outcome. And his words to the Israelites in Isaiah 41:10, who were suffering captivity then, still apply to you, too:

"So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

He has you in his loving embrace. And even though you may be waiting, his plan for you is always good.

Let's Pray:

Dear God, I don't like

waiting. I want to be on a mission, making things right, achieving success. But right now, I feel stuck in a time of hard unknowns. Show me that you are here with me. Fill me with your presence. Help me to let go of wanting and to be patient and prayerful in the waiting.

I know you see me, and I know you love me more than I can even imagine. Will you give me the peace to truly believe that when your answer does come, it will be what's right and best for me? Thank you for your daily gifts that sustain me in the waiting. And thank you that I have you, above all.

In your mighty name, Amen.

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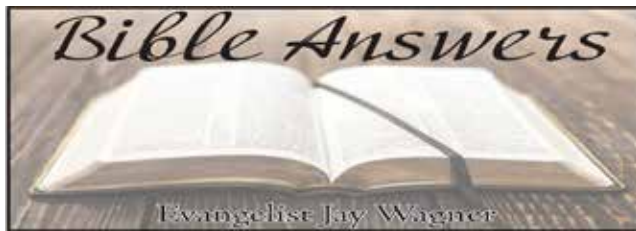
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Q: I have been Catholic all of my life, but lately I have had a couple of questions about our practices. First, is it right to refer to Mary as the mother of God? Also, is having crucifixes throughout our homes a form of idolatry?

A: Jesus, as He was born to Mary, was the Son of God (Matthew 3:17 and others). While He was both fully man and fully God, sharing in both natures, this wouldn't technically make Mary the mother of God. I am the son of Hank Wagner and share in many of my father's traits, but this would also not make my mother the mother of Hank Wagner. While I won't denigrate the Catholic understanding of Mary as having given birth to a member of the triune Godhead and, therefore, possibly being considered the mother of God and worthy of honor in the same way anyone chosen of God for any office or task is worthy of honor, it is important to see to it that we don't let that honor become worship because we are to worship God only (Luke 4:8).

Similarly, having crucifixes, pictures of Jesus, or other symbols of our Christian faith in our homes, cars, wallets, or wherever we care to have them is not necessarily a bad thing. I look up at the wall above my desk as I write this and find pictures of my wife, my grandchildren, horses, cats, and antique tractors. All of those have added joy to my life and the pictures bring back fond memories for me, but I don't treat any of the pictures as an object of worship. When God said not to make any graven image, it was tied to the commandment, "Thou shalt have no other gods before me." The issue isn't the image itself, it is worshipping the image ahead of or instead of God. I loved my wife with all that is in me, and nearly four years after her homegoing I still do, and I'll even admit that on occasion I talk to her picture, but I do not now nor have I ever worshipped either her or her picture.

One other small issue with the crucifixes is that the ones my aunt and uncle (who were Catholic) had in their home always depicted Jesus still on the cross, which in my mind focuses on His death, while the ones I see in most Protestant homes are empty crosses, more of an allusion to His resurrection. To borrow from our Catholic friends, "Dying He destroyed our death, rising He restored our life," so both are clearly important, but neither stands alone. That makes me personally prefer empty crosses, showing all of Christ's work completed, but I refuse to dictate anyone else's conscience for them. That is the job of the Holy Spirit, and I am about as far removed from that office as it is possible to be.

If you feel that it is the Spirit dealing with you about these issues, take it to God in prayer and He will provide the ultimate clarification. However, sometimes Satan will also find things like this to use to our confusion and loss of faith, so don't change your whole life and practices without that clarification. Pray as Mary prayed – that is, to God through Jesus – and receive absolute wisdom in the matter. Our eternal lives can depend on developing this habit.

I welcome reader questions. E-mail your question to answer67547@gmail.com.

Real or Fake Election? Part 3: Redistricting Wars

Dr. Rodney Crowell

Since they're meant to represent "we the people," the U.S. House of Representatives is required to adjust the boundaries of congressional districts in each state using the national census taken every 10 years as a guide. The process has several good goals:

(1) to give each district a roughly equal population size, which is tough when residents are fleeing states like California and New York. Then, (2) contiguity and compactness, meaning that districts should be composed of a single, SENSIBLY connected geographical area and should not look like

they came from a salad shooter. Finally, (3) respect for political subdivisions and race, which avoids wherever possible splitting counties, cities or neighborhoods in order to maintain community cohesion. National coherence, not division, is the goal as the district boundaries are adjusted to reflect demographic data. Most states use their legislatures to redraw the district maps, while a few others use independent commissions.

Naturally, any political party obsessed with hating the other will misuse their freedom to attack rather than cooperate with their opponent. Can you guess which party? Yeah, our friends the Democrats. As each state haggles through re-

districting, the Dems and their friends in the ACLU are apoplectic in light of the April 29 Supreme Court ruling in "Louisiana v. Callais" which ended their weaponizing of the Voting Rights Act to create EXTRA, grotesquely shaped districts where pro-Democrat minorities formed the majority. It's like playing darts on a cork wall where you can first throw the dart, then walk up to paint a bull's eye around wherever it lands. Win every time! It's worked until now: Ballotpedia, using U.S. Census 2024 data, estimates that such "racially gerrymandered" districts accounted for 148 House seats, about

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World Cup

Continued from page 1

photo

With Atlanta being one of the host cities, Georgia Baptists have put together an outreach toolkit that can be used by church leaders and volunteers in churches of any and every size throughout the state. California has two of the World Cup's host cities, San Francisco and Los Angeles, and launched the Yellow Card Initiative to use the global language of soccer to raise awareness about sin and the need for the Savior.

The Southern Baptists of Texas Convention (SBTC), also a state with two World Cup sites in Dallas and Houston, has similarly put together a web page with instructions for min-

istering to people through events and other forms of outreach. Missouri Baptists are working with their churches to spread the Gospel among those traveling to St. Louis as they host World Cup matches.

"Fulfilling the Great Commission is what we're all about as Southern Baptists," said NAMB President Kevin Ezell. "My prayer is that God opens doors for the World Cup to be an avenue where Christians connect with unbelievers who then connect to Christ."

NAMB's World Cup page highlights each of these efforts and encourages churches and individuals throughout North America to leverage one of the world's major global events to spread the good news of Jesus Christ.

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Noah’s ARK-E-OLGY

Dr. Rodney Crowell
Will you forgive the horrible pun in the title if this armchair archaeologist helps you understand the search for Noah’s Ark and reference an exciting article about it? Emiliano Ruiz just wrote a little gem for Discern TV, reposted in J.D. Rucker’s Blessed Report, which is titled “What the Tunnels Beneath Mr. Ararat Reveal – and What They Don’t.”

As every Sunday School teacher knows, Genesis 8:4 states that Noah’s Ark “came to rest on the mountains of Ararat.” Despite Ararat’s volatile location – it’s a volcano which last erupted in 1840, plus it’s located in extreme eastern Turkey near the politically intense borders of Iran and Christian Armenia – a very unique geological formation near the valley at its base 18 miles south has captured much inter-

est since it was discovered in 1959 by a Turkish Army Captain during a post-earthquake aerial survey. Called the “Düziçi Formation” -- the Turkish Captain modestly named it after himself -- it consists of a mound 157 meters long whose outer ridge resembles the shape of a boat’s hull, only a few feet longer than the 137 meters (=450 feet) of Noah’s vessel. Recent ground-penetrating radar (GPR, ERT and LiDAR) revealed interior corridors below, angular subterrestrial structures and a central tunnel large enough to walk through, all buried about 4 meters below the surface! These intriguing features prompt us to ask, “Could this be the fossilized imprint left by the decomposing Ark itself?” For if so, the wood would have long deteriorated to nothing, leaving the imprint of its final shape on the sur-

rounding soil.
Oddly, since the Muslim Qur’an mentions Noah in 16 places, only giving him more than a passing mention once (in Surah 71), enough interest in him remains so that multiple Turkish Universities have planned a formal excavation in the near future. (If they have a lick of sense or honesty, they will study the DETAILED history of Genesis chapters 6-9 very closely. But will they?) Other noteworthy features discovered by modern methods – infrared thermography, electrical resistivity, tomography and soil analysis – show traces of clay-like materials, marine sediments and shellfish remnants, quite odd for a land form tucked into a mountain range, unless you happen to believe in a worldwide Flood!
The ceramic fragments and perhaps even the

shellfish remnants suggest a human presence from 3-5,000 years ago. The width of the formation as well as its length (mentioned above) match those of the Ark, allowing for some outward collapse of the wooden structure over millennia.
Naturalistic objections to the Biblical account of Noah’s Ark are handily addressed by The “Ark Encounter” theme park in Williamstown, KY constructed by Ken Ham and the folks at “Answers in Genesis.” In its exhibits there you will notice, for example, that the question “How could Noah fit all the animals on the Ark?” (Genesis 6:19) is answered by realizing that at most, 16,000 air-breathing, land-dwelling younger animals, creeping things and birds – and only the parent “kinds” of their species! – required shelter on the boat. Only two dogs were needed, not two of each particular breed. Aquatic life could have survived the Flood in sufficient numbers outside the Ark. Despite all appearances, Noah was a minimalist!
Yet now we must ask, “Has Noah’s Ark been found?” As Bible believers, we would LOVE to say, “Yes!” immediately but we must also allow the archaeological evidence to speak for itself. God’s Word is true no matter what. (“Your word is truth,” Jesus said in

John 17:17, and He being God’s Son should know!) However, the very human and fallible archaeologist who finds an ancient structure, bone fragment, stone inscription, manuscript fragment or other relic must ask “This is evidence of WHAT, exactly?” Patience is required of us as the experts present their conclusions, debate each other, and reach a consensus – because this incredibly diverse academic field blends together scientific, cultural, historical and linguistic data like no other! But if we wait, some astonishing discoveries are proven, such as the Ossuary (or Bone Box) of James, the brother of Jesus – a container holding bones after a corpse has thoroughly decomposed which is stored typically in a small family tomb, the box making room for more bodies to be housed in an orderly fashion nearby. On the outside of this box is inscribed in first-century Aramaic, “James son of Joseph brother of Jesus.” Normally only the father’s name was added to identify lineage, but James had no ordinary brother! As I explain in my 2011 Power Point series on archaeology, the highly skeptical Israeli Antiquities Authority charged the owner of the box, a Jewish citizen named Oded Golan, with forgery – yet the Israeli courts them-

selves, paying meticulous attention to the scientific analysis of the box’s surface and inscription, found Golan INNOCENT of any crime and thus indirectly declared the bone box with the mention of Jesus’ name AUTHENTIC! How cool is that? Renowned Christian archaeologist Titus Kennedy agreed with their assessment in his easy-to-read popular book UNEARTHING THE BIBLE (2020), which I highly recommend.
Sadly, we must await further study on Noah’s Ark. Geophysical surveys always require careful interpretation, leaving no stone unturned (sorry, another pun!). A Turkish geologist, Murat Avci, suggests the formation is a large block of Miocene limestone that ancient glacial activity pushed down the mountainside. Maybe so, maybe no! But to encourage our patience and faith, let me quote at length Ruiz’s conclusion to his article: “In an age where secular historians work tirelessly to strip the Biblical narrative of historic standing, the very fact that a serious, multi-university, multi-technology investigation is being mounted at a site consistent with the scriptural account is worth acknowledging. The culture may have moved on from the Bible. The earth, it seems, has not forgotten.”
Amen and Amen!

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Who Was David?

By C.J. Williams, Ligonier Ministries

Israel’s most famous king was from a little-known place called Bethlehem. As a shepherd boy and the youngest of eight brothers, it would have seemed almost certain that he was destined to obscurity. But God delights to use the weak things of the world to do His will (1 Cor. 1:27), and so to everyone’s surprise, the prophet Samuel arrived one day and anointed David to be king. Henceforth, the Spirit of the Lord was upon him (1 Sam. 16:13), which he quickly proved by defeating the Philistine champion Goliath with no more than a sling (1 Sam. 17).

Instead of receiving acclaim, David endured the harshest persecution by his

predecessor, the jealous and vengeful King Saul. Hiding in caves and living on the run, David found himself never more than a step away from death (1 Sam. 20:3). But as Saul and his kingship began to spiral down into ruin, God blessed and established David and eventually seated him on the throne of Israel.

David’s experience—humility and persecution leading to triumph and exaltation—was meant as a prophetic picture of a greater King to come. “The sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories” that would follow (1 Peter 1:11) are portrayed in David’s life and reflected in David’s psalms. David’s inspired songs are quoted dozens of times by the New Testament authors

as being ultimately fulfilled in the humiliation and exaltation of Christ. This makes David a type of Christ, which is to say, his life and his words were designed to foreshadow the life and the work of our Savior. The prophets knew this and often referred to the coming Savior under the image and even the name of David (Ezek. 34:23; Hos. 3:5).

God made a covenant with David, promising that the Christ would come through his lineage and reign over an eternal kingdom (2 Sam. 7:12–16). This is why Matthew begins his gospel by saying, “The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David” (Matt. 1:1). It is also why many who acknowledged Christ as the Savior called him “Son of

David” (Matt. 15:22; 20:30). The resurrection of Christ was the fulfillment of “the sure mercies of David” (Isa. 55:3; Acts 13:34).

David’s greatest legacy is that he foresaw and foreshadowed the Lord Jesus Christ.

The risen Christ now eternally occupies and perfectly fulfills the three offices of prophet, priest, and king. As a prophet, He reveals God to man. As a priest, He represents His people before God. As a king, He rules over all things in righteousness. As a type of Christ, David uniquely foreshadowed the convergence of these offices in one individual. David was obviously a king, but we also catch glimpses of him in a priestly role, whether wearing an ephod (2 Sam. 6:14)

or making a sacrifice (2 Sam. 24:18–25). David is also called a prophet (Acts 2:30), and in his last words he testified that “the Spirit of the Lord speaks by me” (2 Sam. 23:2). The fulfillment and perfection of these three offices by his greater Son was thus reflected in David’s life.

Yet even while David reflected the life of Christ, he (like all of us) was a sinner in need of Christ. His adultery with Bathsheba and his subsequent murder of her husband Uriah (2 Sam. 11) remind us that even a man after God’s own heart (1 Sam. 13:14) is not immune to falling into great sin. David’s house was troubled with conflict and rebellion from that time forward, but the “sweet psalmist of Israel” (2 Sam. 23:1) left us with

a genuine example of the heart of true repentance (Ps. 51) and the assurance that God is gracious and forgiving toward all those who call upon Him in faith (Ps. 145).

David’s love and longing for God are captured in some of the most beautiful images of Scripture that continue to guide and strengthen our faith today. It would be impossible to quantify how much comfort God’s people have derived over the centuries from Psalm 23 as each believer has made his journey through the valley of the shadow of death to dwell in the house of the Lord forever. But David’s greatest legacy is that he foresaw and foreshadowed the Lord Jesus Christ. David’s life and his psalms continue to point us to his greater Son.

THE TRUE GOSPEL

The good news of God’s grace, through His Son, for the glory of His grace.

1 GOD’S SOVEREIGN GRACE



Salvation begins with God. He chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world.

Ephesians 1:4-5

“Even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him.”

2 OUR TOTAL DEPRAVITY



We are sinners—spiritually dead in transgression and unable to save ourselves.

Ephesians 2:1

“And you were dead in the trespasses and sins.”

3 CHRIST’S ATONING WORK



Christ died for His people. His death was a sufficient sacrifice to save completely.

John 10:11

“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.”

4 IRRESISTIBLE GRACE



God’s grace effectively calls His chosen people, giving them new life and faith.

John 6:37

“All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out.”

5 PERSEVERANCE OF THE SAINTS



Those whom God saves, He keeps. His grace preserves His people to the end.

Philippians 1:6

“He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.”



THE GOSPEL IN ONE WORD: JESUS

We are not saved by our efforts, but by His. It is by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone, for the glory of God alone. (Ephesians 2:8-9)



Repent of sin



Trust in Christ alone



Rest in His finished work



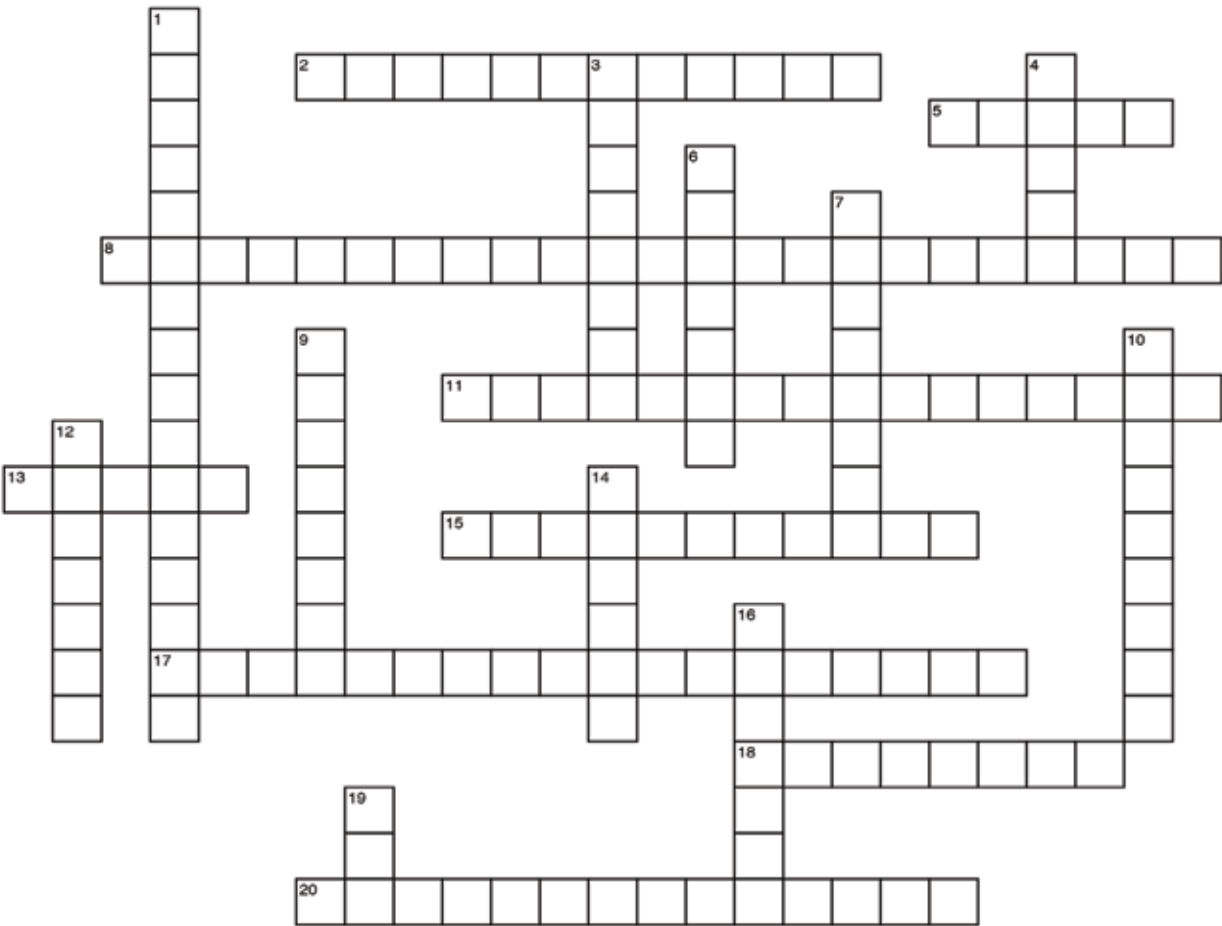
Follow Him in grateful obedience

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.” 2 Corinthians 5:17

A Little Bit of Laughter and Fun

Proverbs 17:22 – “Laughter is like taking a good medicine.”

ALABASTER JAR



From "The Bible Puzzle Book - A to Z Edition" by Mary Welsh

ACROSS

- 2 She brought it with her (2 wds)
- 5 It saved her
- 8 What Jesus told Simon (4 wds)
- 11 Who will love more?
- 13 The woman heard ____ was eating at the Pharisee's house
- 15 Where the woman stood (2 wds)
- 17 The greater debt (3 wds)
- 18 The woman's sins were ____
- 20 What the moneylender did (3 wds)

DOWN

- 1 The woman had done this (4 wds)
- 3 "If this man were a prophet, he would know who is ____ him"
- 4 He invited Jesus to have dinner with him
- 6 The problem for the debtors (2 wds)
- 7 The woman wet Jesus' feet with them (2 wds)
- 9 Simon was one
- 10 Simon judged ____
- 12 The woman wiped Jesus' feet with ____ (2 wds)
- 14 The woman ____ Jesus' feet and poured perfume on them
- 16 It was in the alabaster jar
- 19 Number of people owing money in the parable

Mikey's Funnies

A duck walks into a general store and asks the manager, "Got any fresh fruit?"
"No."
"Got any fresh vegetables?"
"No. We have only canned and dry goods."
The next day, the duck returns. "Got any fresh fruit?"
"No."
"Got any fresh vegetables?"
"No. I told you yesterday, we have only canned and dry goods. If you come back tomorrow and ask me the same question, I'll douse you in cream."
On the third day, the duck walks in and asks, "Got any cream?"
"No."
"Got any fresh fruit?"

It's hard to be nostalgic when you can't remember anything.

Doctor, "Describe your average night."
Patient, "They wear suits of armor."
Doctor, "No, I mean at bedtime."
Patient, "They probably take it off."



Answers in next month's issue

How Christian Radio Reached the Plains: The Story of KHYM and KJIL

For many Christians across western Kansas, Christian radio has become a familiar part of daily life — playing in homes, vehicles, farms, and workplaces from Dodge City to Liberal and beyond. But decades ago, that kind of radio ministry simply did not exist in southwest Kansas.

According to the ministry history published by Great Plains Christian Radio, the vision for what would eventually become KJIL and KHYM began in 1983 when Pastor Gene White moved

his family from Chicago to southwest Kansas. White had been accustomed to listening to Christian radio and was surprised to discover there were no Christian stations serving the region at the time.

An early temporary solution involved rebroadcasting Moody Broadcasting programming through local cable television systems. But local supporters soon began discussing the possibility of establishing a full-time Christian radio station for the High Plains.

On February 25, 1985, a group of 43 individuals gathered to discuss the idea, leading to the formation of the first board of directors for Great Plains Christian Radio. The organization said the effort included farmers, ranchers, pastors, and local business leaders who believed Christian radio could have a positive impact on the region.

The project faced significant financial hurdles. Great Plains Christian Radio stated that approximately \$750,000 would be needed to construct a 100,000-watt station and tower. Only about one-third of the funds were initially raised through fundraising efforts, and the organization eventually moved forward through a bond issue largely supported by residents of southwest Kansas. According to the ministry, the debt was paid off within three years after the station officially launched.

KJIL officially signed on the air Sept. 5, 1992, broadcasting Christian adult contemporary music and teaching programs

across southwest Kansas, including the Dodge City, Garden City, and Liberal areas.

Several years later, KHYM began broadcasting Dec. 23, 1997. The station expanded the ministry's reach with Christian music along with nationally known teaching programs such as "Focus on the Family," "Insight for Living," and "Turning Point."

Today, Great Plains
Christian Radio con-

tinues operating as a listener-supported nonprofit ministry. According to the organization, approximately 95% of its operating revenue comes from listeners, churches, and underwriters throughout the region.

In addition to music and teaching programs, KHYM and KJIL continue highlighting local ministries and outreach efforts through programs such as “From the

Heartland,” hosted by Delvin Kinser, which features churches, pregnancy centers, recovery ministries, and community faith initiatives across western Kansas.

More than 30 years after the original vision meeting in 1985, the ministry founded by southwest Kansans continues broadcasting messages of faith, encouragement, and Christian teaching throughout the plains.

Answers to last month's Crossword

ANGELS APPEARING

Solution:

The crossword puzzle solution is as follows:

- Across:**
 - 1-10: OPENED THE DOORS OF THE JAIL
 - 12-15: WILDERNESS
 - 17-21: WORSHIP ANGELS
 - 23-27: JOSEPH
 - 29-33: HEAVEN
 - 35-40: TAKE MARY AS HIS WIFE
- Down:**
 - 1-5: MEN
 - 6-11: JOHN THE BAPTIST
 - 13-18: RUTH
 - 19-22: ABRAHAM
 - 24-28: ISAC
 - 34-38: COB
 - 39-40: PL



Ten Commandments of Parenting

By Lance Quinn, Grace to You

One of the most common questions I get from Christian parents is about parenting. They want specific and practical advice for rearing their children in the very best way. Couples usually understand their general parental responsibility but will often speak of the need for help in specifically framing their biblical commitments to optimally shepherd and train their children.

Whether you are considering your parental responsibilities with a new child or even reaffirming these biblical principles with your older children (It's never too late!), or even as grandparents toward your grandchildren, the following "ten commandments" from God's Word are sure to benefit you, your family, and your church.

1. Pursue Righteousness in Your Marriage

Husbands, you need to show your children how a husband loves his wife, even as Christ loved the church (Ephesians 5:25). Do they see you giving yourself up for her? Are

they observing how you tenderly and patiently lead her, teach her, and protect her? Your example in the treatment of your wife will teach volumes about Christ's love for His beloved bride, the church.

Wives, to your children you need to model biblical submission as you subject yourself to your husband in everything (Ephesians 5:24). Do your children see how you work out your submission to Christ in respectful submission to your husband? Your marriage is a living, breathing example of the church's willing submission to her Head, the Lord Jesus Christ.

2. Confess Your Sins to One Another

You need to confess, when appropriate, your sins to your family (Proverbs 28:13), and seek their forgiveness when necessary (Matthew 6:14-15; Colossians 3:13). As you are quick to confess, you are demonstrating true humility and an ultimate desire to be pleasing to God in all your ways (2 Corinthians 5:9).

3. Pursue Sexual Purity

Be very careful to protect your home from the sexual immorality of the world we live in. That means you need to abstain from sexual immorality yourself (1 Thessalonians 4:3-8) and otherwise promote sexual purity in your home (Proverbs 5-7). The pursuit of sexual purity should govern your entertainment choices, season your speech, and guide you when you're in public or private, especially when you think no one else is looking or listening. Your own sexual purity will protect you and your children from the heartbreak known well among a depraved generation (Proverbs 5:7-14).

4. Manage Your Resources Wisely

Take great pains to manage the Lord's money and resources with which you are entrusted and do so with the utmost integrity (1 Timothy 6:5-10). Continually think of ways to be a better steward of all your time, talent, and treasure (Proverbs 31:10-31), always looking to God for His provision for all your basic life needs (Matthew 6:31-34; 1 Timothy 5:8).

5. Evangelize Your

Children and Others

Because of your great love for your children, endeavor to be a consistent witness to them of your own faith, as well as speaking often to them about the nature of their relationship to the Lord. Live in such a way around your kids that you are fulfilling the spirit of Paul's command to Timothy: "Do the work of an evangelist" (2 Timothy 4:5). In addition, as you have opportunity, proclaim the gospel to others with whom you come in contact, thus hopefully instilling in your children the same desire to share this eternal message (1 Corinthians 15:1-4).

6. Teach Your Children the Word of God

Regularly teach your children God's Word, both by your life (desiring to be models of Christlikeness to them; 1 John 2:6) and by your proactive and consistent commitment to family worship. Especially as fathers (as well as single mothers too), you have the responsibility to impart the truth of Scripture to your children for their great good (Deuteronomy 6:4-9).

7. Discipline Your Children

When your children need correction (which, when they are young, may seem to be "ever and always"), discipline them with what the Bible calls the "rod of reproof." Those parents who truly love their children will desire to do this in a caring, consistent, yet firm manner, attempting to avoid harshness and anger. Scripture says that when you do so, children will cease their foolishness and become wise (Proverbs 13:24; 19:18; 22:15; 23:13-14).

8. Watch Your Words Carefully

Words are very powerful tools for good or evil! They can either build up or

tear down. Speak to your spouse, your children, and others with godly wisdom so that you may edify and encourage (Proverbs 4:24; 6:12; 10:32; 19:1). Your children are watching you intently, and what you say (including how you say it), will have deep and lasting effects on them. Train your children not to speak unrighteously (Ephesians 4:29-31).

9. Show Your Children Your Own Love for God and Man

Love your God with all your heart, mind, soul, and strength, and love your neighbor as yourself (Mat-

Continued on page 11

Why should Christians never work out?

Answer:

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Parenting

Continued from page 10

thew 22:37-40). The greatest gift you can give your kids is to show them your all-consuming love for Jesus Christ! What should flow from this passion is also your love for your neighbors, which certainly includes your immediate family. Extending beyond this circle of influence is your desire to live a pure and undefiled spiritual life, which is demonstrated by visiting orphans and widows in their distress, and keeping yourself unstained by the world (James 1:27). Pray that your example of love will have great impact on your children.

10. Ask God for Grace and Strength in Your Child-Rearing

The Bible commands you to rear your children in the discipline and instruction of the Lord (Ephesians

6:4). Thus, child-rearing is not an option. Thus, the remaining question should be: How well are you doing as a parent? To whatever degree you perceive you are succeeding or failing in the task, and regardless of what will be the initial outcome and ultimate destiny of your children, ask God for much grace and strength to be a parent who glorifies Him.

If you'll follow these "ten commandments" of parenting, the Lord will sanctify you and bless you. Furthermore, your life and doctrine can be useful to the Holy Spirit in demonstrating the saving power of the gospel to your children. The rest we must leave in the hands of a sovereign God.

May God continually remind all of us of our solemn parental task to leave a legacy of godly faithfulness to the succeeding generations.

'Make the Gospel visible': Kansas church gives away \$4K in free gas cards to commuters

By Michael Gryboski, Editor of the Christian Post

A Kansas congregation is stepping beyond its walls to meet people where they are: at the gas pump.

University United Methodist Church of Wichita recently gave away 200 gas cards to commuters, each worth \$20, in an effort to help offset rising fuel costs and offer a tangible expression of care to the community.

The church hosted a "Love at the Pump" event on Saturday, handing out gas cards to 200 commuters, with additional support provided through later donations.

University UMC Pastor Yolanda White-Oliver told The Christian Post in an email Monday that the idea came in response to rising gas prices, but also from a deeper desire to recon-

nect with people who may feel disconnected from the Church.

White-Oliver also wanted "to reach those who may no longer believe that the church is a reliable resource" and "to spread love in our community and overshadow negative news, to remind people that God is still on the throne and that people still care."

In addition to distributing gas cards, volunteers also collected donations and provided families with \$20 to help ease the burden of filling their tanks.

Volunteers with University United Methodist Church of Wichita, Kansas, handing out gas cards to commuters as part of their "Love at the Pump" event on April 25, 2026.

Volunteers with University United Methodist Church of Wichita, Kansas, handing

out gas cards to commuters as part of their "Love at the Pump" event on April 25, 2026. | Jessica Seacat

But for White-Oliver and her team, the outreach was about more than financial assistance.

Volunteers first asked drivers "if there was anything we could pray with or for them about," she told CP.

"We also provided snacks and water, as well as doggy treats for the fur babies in the vehicle," she continued. "Please note we did not collect any information. There were no strings attached."

The University UMC pastor emphasized that the heart of the event was simply living out the mission of the Church in everyday spaces.

She described the outreach as "a means of just being the church and doing our best to ensure that 'no one ever has to do life alone.'"

White-Oliver said events like Love at the Pump "make the Gospel visible," and that, for many individuals, "the Gospel has been reduced to words or assumptions about the church."

"But when someone pulls up, receives help without being asked for anything in return, and is treated with dignity, they experience a

glimpse of what Jesus actually looks like in real life," she told CP.

"Jesus met people in ordinary places and responded to real needs. He fed people, healed people, and paid attention to those who were often overlooked. This kind of moment at the pump follows that same pattern. It says, 'God sees you. You matter. You are not alone.'"

White-Oliver also noted that "some people will never call a church or walk through its doors," so instead of her church "waiting" for people to show up, "we go to them."

"Not to pressure or persuade, but to love," she said. "When love shows up without conditions, it builds trust. And trust opens the door for deeper conversations about faith, hope and community."

"So, in that sense, events like this advance the Gospel by turning belief into action. They remind people that the church is not just a place, it is a people who show up. And sometimes, the first step toward faith is simply experiencing kindness when you didn't expect it. In short, we believe in planting seeds that the Holy Spirit waters to bring people closer to God."

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How Choosing Songs Disciplines the Congregation

By Rhon Carter

There has never been a time like this in the life of the church.

Every week, hundreds – maybe thousands – of new worship songs are released. With platforms like Apple Music and Spotify, songs are instantly available. Add in social media and independent artists, and the stream never really stops.

What used to be a trickle has become a flood.

Not long ago, most churches sang from a hymnal. Songs were curated, tested, and distributed through trusted channels. If you wanted a new song, it came from a publisher, and it often stayed in rotation for years.

Today, every worship leader has become a curator and gatekeeper.

And that's not a small responsibility.

Because the songs we choose don't just fill time in a service –

they form the theology and discipleship of our people.

One of the first things we have to wrestle with is something very practical:

Can our people actually sing the songs we choose?

It's easy to select songs in keys that feel great for a soloist or band, but don't sit well for a congregation. Rhythms can become so complex that people disengage. Melodies can stretch beyond what an average voice is comfortable singing.

And when that happens, participation drops.

If the congregation can't sing it, they won't own it.

And if they don't own it, it won't disciple them.

Another tension we navigate is familiarity.

We all love introducing new songs. There's energy in it. But if we move too quickly, we

lose our people. Repetition isn't boring, it's discipling.

When a song becomes familiar, something shifts. People lift their voices with confidence. Truth begins to settle deeper. The song moves from the stage, to the mind, and then to the heart.

That's where discipleship happens.

Then there's the question we cannot afford to ignore:

Is the song theologically sound?

Every lyric is teaching something.

That's why tools like The Berean Test can be so helpful, and why resources like The Song Cycle by Jon Nicol continue to remind us that we are not just selecting songs – we are shaping belief.

We're not just asking, "Is this song popular?"

We're asking, "Is this song true?"

And not every great song fits every church.

That's something we have to remember.

Your church has a unique voice, culture and level of musical ability. The goal isn't to replicate what another church is doing; it's to faithfully shepherd the people God has entrusted to you.

That requires discernment.

All of this leads to a bigger reality we're now living in:

We are constantly being invited to consume.

New songs.

New sounds.

New releases.

But leadership requires something different. It requires restraint.

Healthy worship ministries are not built on constant novelty. They are built on intentional song curation, thinking through a song bank that reflects the theology, voice and discipleship pathway of your church.

And now, we're step-

ping into an even newer layer.

AI is beginning to generate songs, lyrics and arrangements. In some ways, that can be helpful. It can assist creativity and organization. It also raises an important question. AI can help create songs, but it cannot shepherd people. That responsibility still belongs to you.

So the question becomes:

Will technology shape our song choices ... or will theology and discipleship guide them?

Years ago, the hymnal acted as a filter for the church.

Today, that filter is you. You are not just selecting songs. You are shaping what your people will sing, believe, and carry with them throughout the week. That's a high calling. And it's a sacred one.

If you're looking for helpful planning resources, download the FREE Song Evaluation Tool.

Rhon Carter is the worship and music catalyst for the Georgia Baptist Mission Board.

OPPOSING VIEWPOINTS

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From GRAPES to WRATH Part 1

By Chuck Kirk

In the spring of 2025, my wife and I booked another volunteer trip to Israel with the folks of HaYovel. There is something wonderful about being back in God's Promised Land with these Christian Zionists. Almost as if we were inserted into an episode of "The Waltons" times three. Their love for God, family, Israel and us volunteers, was so tangible you could almost reach out and touch it. Psalm 102:14 comes to mind...

"For your servants take pleasure in her stones and show favor to her dust."

This time we would primarily be harvesting grapes in the vineyards of Judea and Samaria. These wine making grapes are smaller than the table grapes grown up north in the Galilee. Pinot Noir, Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon were just some of the grapes harvested. I observed more than one vineyard owner proudly stating his wine was sold in exclusive wine bou-

tique shops worldwide.

(Say, just for laughs, if you abstain from drinking alcohol as my wife and I do. The next time you are at a restaurant and your 30 something server asks if you want wine with your meal, tell them you are a "teetotaler" and observe their reaction. It's priceless, but I digress).

Day one of harvest in the vineyard was not only a cornucopia of grapes clusters but of the senses. Blonde headed children playing with purple stained hands and faces as they sampled the product. Three sisters harvesting side by side singing old time gospel

songs. Different accented conversations laced with laughter between fellow harvesters gathered from all over the world. Much to my chagrin, I learned a painful lesson on the necessity of wearing a leather glove on the hand opposite the one holding the pruning shears. All in all, it was great fun and meaningful to be fulfilling scripture. Isaiah 61:5b states "And the sons of the foreigner, shall be your plowmen and your vinedressers."

After snipping off a cluster of grapes, we placed them into baskets which when full could be carried to a large crate. The crate was atop a pal-

let which could then be moved via a forklift. One could observe seepage of grape juice from beneath the pallet as the weight of the grapes being added to the crate would crush the bottom clusters. The mountains were literally dripping with "sweet wine" as Amos wrote prophetically, concerning the restoration of Israel.

Every day was not limited to just grape harvesting though. One day we performed restoration work to a building next to the highway of the Patriarchs on Route 60 near Bethlehem. The view from there, was spectacular as it overlooked the ancient pools of King

Solomon.

Jerusalem was the destination on another day where we started our morning atop the Mount of Olives which overlooked the Old City. Afterwards it was on to the site where the Temple had once stood. Israeli soldiers and police guarded our group's perimeter as we walked and read scripture aloud. Some in our group walked barefoot for we were indeed standing on Holy Ground. Stopping at one point, we were allowed to prostrate ourselves and pray which was somewhat unique

Continued on page 15





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Matthew 10:32



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 YEARS OF
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N.C. teen honors Christ after finding \$10K in cash



Jaydon Cintron was recognized by Abide Bible Church for demonstrating his character, honor and commitment to doing the right thing.

By Stephen Halley,
Baptist Press

On Good Friday, Chick-fil-A employee Jaydon Cintron was finishing up his break when he discovered something out of the ordinary — two envelopes lying on the restroom floor containing nearly \$10,000 between them.

While many might have felt the impulse

to keep the money, the 18-year-old Cintron chose to demonstrate his faith instead.

“Everyone else is saying they would have just taken the money, and I think that’s most people’s first instinct,” Cintron said “The second instinct is to just leave it there. But with God, there is only one instinct, to do the right thing.”

And that’s what Cintron did. Following his convictions, Cintron gave the envelopes to his supervisors, who then turned the money over to the Kinston Police Department. A few days later, the cash was returned to its rightful owner. Though he initially declined a reward, Cintron eventually accepted a gift from the grateful owner.

For the past two years, Cintron has been a member of Abide Bible Church, an N.C. Baptist church plant in Goldsboro, N.C. Lead Pastor Jamal Hyman has watched Cintron grow in his faith during that time and called his actions a perfect example of what it means to live like Christ.

Hyman, Cintron and another young church member participate in what they call “man school,” a weekly meeting where they study the Bible, discuss biblical and theological questions and also focus on biblical manhood.

“This year, we have focused on being a ‘warrior,’ learning how to fight to bless others rather than fight to curse others,” Hyman said. “He is

showing how he is learning discipline and how to be a warrior. He is a good example of being a warrior and how to fight to bless (others) through his discipline.”

News of Cintron’s honesty traveled fast through Abide’s congregation of about 20 members. Cintron was also featured in an interview with a local television station. On Sunday, April 12, the church held a celebration for Cintron.

“We’ve watched him grow, blossom and flourish into the man that now the whole world can see,” Hyman said. “We’ve been watching this for two years. It has drawn people to want to hear what is going on and what we are doing.”

Allen Chambers, pastor of care and coun-

seling at Abide Bible Church, gave remarks to the congregation during the celebration, which was to highlight the work Christ had done in Cintron’s life.

“(Jaydon) became kind of a media star,” Chambers chuckled, “simply for doing what’s right and obeying God.”

After the service, Abide held a lunch in Cintron’s honor to recognize him for demonstrating character, honor and commitment to doing the right thing.

Cintron’s message to his congregation was simple.

“If you remember anything from this, just remember to have good character ... and to make sure that you don’t just read the Bible but that you actually act it out,” he said.

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Grapes

Continued from page 13

compared to just a few short months ago. Before lunch, we made our way to the Western Wall and placed written prayers into the cracks between the stones. A number of people from my community took us up on the offer to place prayers into the wall for them. I found just the right spot where a large manilla envelope holding numerous written prayers, could be folded over and placed into an opening.

We concluded that day with the water walk in the dark and narrow Hezekiah's Tunnel. I was sure glad to be wearing my Teva sandals for the embedded stones in the floor. Now I know how one of our steers feels going through the working shoot.

My favorite day though was being invited by one

of the staff, due to my farmer -rancher status, to accompany a barbwire fencing team headed down south to the Jordan Valley. It seems a rancher was in desperate need of some new fencing. He recently lost some cattle when they penetrated the old, dilapidated fence which was 60 plus years old. This land has an overabundance of rocks in the area, which necessitated the use of a large electric hand drill to make holes for the steel posts to be set into. I helped with the rolling out of four wire strands at a time and pounding



metal T-posts through the holes in the rocks. Temperatures reach 113 degrees Fahrenheit making dehydration a constant concern with frequent water breaks mandated. While there, we also participated in a Swedish custom called



“Fika “(pronounced Fee ka.) Around mid-morning we all stopped for a short break to enjoy a treat. Usually, it’s a baked good but today it was chilled watermelon. I don’t think I have ever tasted a better one than on that day! There was an innate beauty in this area next to where the Jordan River flowed. The quiet stillness of this somewhat barren wilderness

unfettered from typical tourist sites spoke loudly to me. And no wonder, because in Hebrew the word “Midbar,” which means “wilderness” has the same root as “Dabar” which means “word.” Combining the two gives us “Medabber” which is the word for “speaking.” God told Moses to lead his people into the wilderness where he would speak to them. In the des-

ert there is nothing vying for your attention. No distractions. It’s just God and you!

The tour’s two weeks passed quickly. Too quickly if the truth be told. My wife and I promised ourselves a return trip one day, so we could “visit our hearts.” You see, we left them there on the Mount of Blessing in the care of HaYovel.



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FIRST-PERSON: Celebrating Psalm 139's 100th ultrasound placement

By Rachel Wiles

Editor's note: Rachel Wiles is director of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission's Psalm 139 Project.

What is the value of an image? What if that image showed what was previously unimaginable: human life growing inside the womb?

The advent of ultrasound technology and its advances over the years have changed the way the public views life. It's nearly impossible to contend that a pregnancy is just a clump of cells when confronted with a beating heart and images of fingers and toes.

This is precisely why the Psalm 139 Project began. Through Southern Baptist

support of this initiative over the last two decades, many families have experienced a window into the womb firsthand. Just this week, we are holding a dedication service in Elizabethtown, N.C., to celebrate God's faithfulness as we place the 100th ultrasound machine in the program's history. NC Baptists and ERLC staff, along with local staff and volunteers, will gather and pray for the ministry that occurs there. This type of ministry is happening all over the country as pregnancy centers minister to those in need.

The ERLC's Psalm 139 Project has been saving lives since the program started in the early 2000s,

with the first two placements occurring in 2004. Over the years, the program has since placed machines throughout the country for centers that needed support and ultrasound technology.

From the beginning, 100 percent of donations made to the Psalm 139 Project went to ultrasound machine placements and the training centers needed to operate the machines. The same is true today.

Prayers answered through cooperation

For the past few years, I have been honored to direct the Psalm 139 Project, and this work has been the joy of my career. I get to connect with the staff of pregnancy centers, who I quickly learned are the he-

roes of the pro-life movement. These clinic staff show up day in and day out to do ministry where life is messy. They boldly share about the physical life growing within the womb and the eternal life Christ offers. They often meet a woman in crisis afterhours to provide necessary material needs or to offer abortion-pill reversal, knowing that every moment matters.

In doing this work, there were days when I would find out about an urgent need from a center and then the next day, a donor would reach out saying they wanted to fund a machine in a specific location. The Lord saw and answered these specific needs and requests.

Many times, those prayers were answered through Southern Baptists, proving that we can do more together than individually. State conventions caught a vision for this work and stepped in to joyfully help fund placements in their own states and, later, beyond their own borders.

Some of my favorite placements may be those in smaller towns where the local hospital has shuttered labor and delivery and where there are no practicing OBGYNs. These centers are stepping into the gap.

Combating a culture of death

As I have traveled to pregnancy centers, some

individuals I spoke with said, "I'm Southern Baptist and I had no idea we placed ultrasound machines!" I started to joke that the Psalm 139 Project was the best-kept secret in Southern Baptist life, but that quickly changed between 2021-2023, when we set a huge goal: to place 50 ultrasound machines by the 50-year mark of the disastrous Roe v. Wade decision. Word got out as we placed more machines and invited local pastors, associations and state partners to join us when we dedicated these machines and prayed over the clinic staff.

What better way was there to combat a culture of

Continued on page 17

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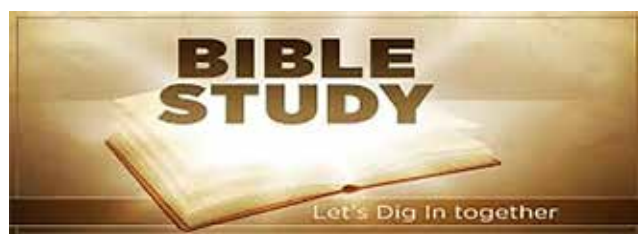
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Standing Firm in Truth

Key Scripture: Ephesians 6:14 — “Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth...”

Introduction

We live in a world filled with competing voices. Social media, television, podcasts, and even some churches often present ideas that sound spiritual but may not align with God’s Word. As Christians, we are called not only to believe the truth, but to stand firmly in it.

Truth is not determined by culture, popularity, or emotion. Jesus said in John 17:17, “Thy word is truth.” That means the Bible must remain our foundation, even when the world changes around us.

Teaching

The Apostle Paul warned believers many times about spiritual deception. In Ephesians 6, when describing the armor of God, Paul began with truth. Before the breastplate, shield, or sword, believers were told to “gird” themselves with truth. Why? Because without truth, the rest of the armor begins to fail.

False teaching often enters quietly. It may sound encouraging or loving at first, but if it contradicts Scripture, it can slowly pull believers away from Christ. This is why discernment matters. God never intended for Christians to blindly follow every preacher, trend, or viral message. Instead, Acts 17:11 praises the Bereans because they searched the Scriptures daily to test what they heard.

Standing in truth also requires courage. Sometimes truth is unpopular. Sometimes it challenges our feelings or confronts cultural ideas. But truth spoken in love is still truth. Christians are called to remain faithful to God’s Word, even when the world pressures them to compromise.

Application

This month, spend intentional time in Scripture. Ask yourself:

Am I testing what I hear against the Bible?

Do I know God’s Word well enough to recognize error?

Am I standing on truth, or simply following what feels good?

The stronger we become in Scripture, the less vulnerable we are to deception.

Closing Thought

In uncertain times, God’s truth remains unchanging. Cultures shift, opinions change, and popular teachings come and go — but the Word of God stands forever.

Prayer

Lord, help us to stand firmly in Your truth. Give us discernment to recognize error and wisdom to remain faithful to Your Word. Strengthen our hearts to follow You boldly, even when it is difficult. Let our lives reflect both truth and love. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Ultrasound

Continued from page 16

death than to place dozens of life-saving machines in the hands of trained staff who could show women the life they were carrying?

Two miraculous things happened in those two years. One, we placed more than 50 machines before the 50-year mark in January of 2023 and two, Roe went to the trash heap of history through the Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization decision.

Saving lives across state lines

But as we would soon find out, abortion remained, and numbers actually increased in some states. As we talked to centers across the country, we heard different realities from centers in pro-life states than those that served in pro-choice states. Both were meeting families where they were and providing incredible services as well as gospel hope, but those in pro-choice states were doing so under increasing restrictions and with less financial and church sup-

port.

Knowing that Southern Baptists are not just a pro-life people, but a missionally minded people, we launched Across State Lines, an emphasis of the Psalm 139 Project that specifically funds ultrasound machines in states where few, if any, protections exist for the vulnerable preborn and where many travel to receive abortions.

Looking back over the arc of the Psalm 139 Project, what’s the legacy of 100 machines? We will never truly know this side of heaven, but I am confident that, because of this project, there are people walking around today who would not have been born. Beyond that, families have come to Christ and generations beyond them will be forever changed through the power of the Gospel.

To God be the glory, great things He has done!

To learn more about the life-saving work of the Psalm 139 Project and partner with us to place more life-saving ultrasound machines, visit psalm139project.org.

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A Dehydrated Fish

By Van Yandell

Matthew 4: 18-20
“And Jesus, walking by the sea of Galilee, saw two brethren, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers. And he saith unto them, ‘Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.’ And they straightway left their nets and followed him.”

“He’s like a fish out of water!” That’s a saying we’ve heard describing a person that was out of place and at times, obviously so.

Fish need water but so do humans. The earth’s surface is seventy-one percent covered with water. That water makes us the blue planet which is a color at times associated with life. We are told to drink certain

amounts of water every day.

The National Academy of Science tells us to drink 3.7 liters of water per day for men; that’s about one gallon. Women are advised to drink about 2.7 liters. Margie said I should drink eight glasses of water each day. I said “Fine, what’s the smallest glass we have?”

A urologist once told

me to drink water with lemon every day for kidney health. I took that advice and have had no kidney problems since. I’m told kidney stone pain is equivalent to childbirth. If that were true, the world population would probably be much less than eight billion!

The plant life in the oceans produces over half of the earth’s oxygen. Some estimate that number may be as high as eighty percent. Definitions and descriptions vary as to exactly what seaweed includes. Phytoplankton, kelp, and algal plankton are usually included and produce tremendous amounts of our oxygen.

Scuba-diving off the Florida Keys, I noticed the tremendous amount of plant life under the surface. Coral appears as a rock-like material, but it is actually alive.

When shrimping on Mosquito Lagoon by the Kennedy Space Center, our underwater lights became constantly entangled with seaweed. Plant life under the seas, considering the salinity of the water, is surprising but is there in abundance.

We know the earth’s atmospheric movements circulate the produced oxygen, making it possible for us to breathe anywhere on the earth (Ecclesiastes 1: 6).

God had the essential components for the production of life at creation (Genesis 1: 1-3). A combining of carbon-based matter (the earth), light and water result in the production of chlorophyll from which a by-product is oxygen.

God not only is the first and greatest recycler (Ecclesiastes 1: 7), He is also the Great Reciprocator. Humans and

other animals breathe in oxygen and exhale carbon dioxide. Plant life uses the carbon to produce more oxygen.

Any way we carve this up, water is essential for life on earth. A “fish out of water” is a cliché referring to someone feeling awkward, uncomfortable or struggling. Eventually that fish will succumb to its lack of oxygen. Gills were not designed to function out of water.

Anyone that has ever wet a line (fished), has seen a fish out of water. They flop around, struggling to survive. Life becomes unbearable with their inability to breathe and swim. Eventually, death overcomes them.

A dehydrated fish and a spiritually dehydrated Christian are somewhat similar. Jesus gave us (by one source) over

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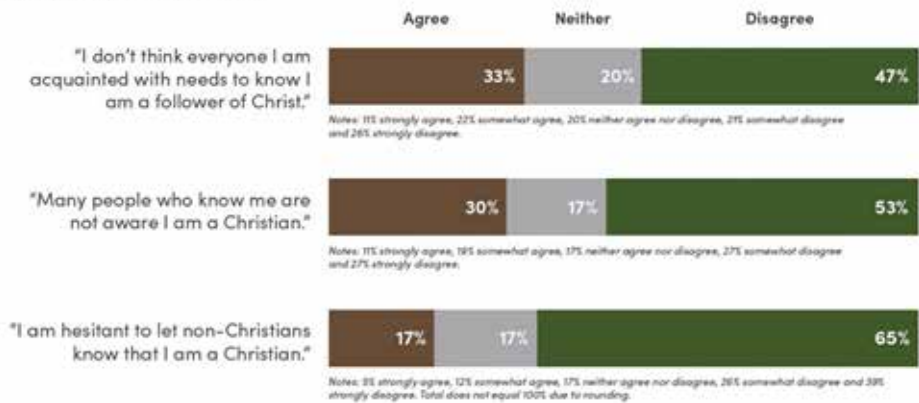
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Spiritual matters missing from many churchgoers’ conversations

Many churchgoers seemingly aren’t open about their faith with those around them

Among U.S. Protestant churchgoers



Lifeway research
LifewayResearch.com

STATE of DISCIPLESHIP

By Aaron Earls

While some Americans show up to church on Sunday morning, those in their lives Monday through Saturday may never hear about it.

Lifeway Research’s State of Discipleship revealed many U.S. Protestant churchgoers don’t see their faith as pervasive throughout their lives and aren’t concerned if others know about it.

Living unashamed is the last of eight signposts that measure characteristics evident in believers who are progressing in spiritual maturity. The average churchgoer scored one of the lowest scores in this category, 61.0, ranking it seventh.

“Ideally, a Christian would be talking about their relationship with Jesus Christ, not as something they have to say, but as an overflow of their love for Him and His impact on their lives. The honesty of churchgoers about gaps in living unashamed reveals large numbers have room

for growth in this important aspect of discipleship,” said Scott McConnell, executive director of Lifeway Research.

Letting others know

Around 1 in 6 U.S. Protestant churchgoers (17 percent) say they are hesitant to let non-Christians know they are a Christian, including 5 percent who strongly agree. Two in 3 (65 percent) disagree, including 39 percent who strongly disagree, while 17 percent neither agree nor disagree.

Even more say many people in their lives don’t know about their beliefs, and the number is growing. Today, 30 percent agree many people who know them are not aware they’re a Christian. Around half (53 percent) say that’s not the case, including 27 percent who strongly say so, and 17 percent aren’t sure.

In a 2013 Lifeway Research study, 14 percent of churchgoers said many people who knew them weren’t aware they were a Christian. That climbed to

20 percent in a 2019 Lifeway Research study, before reaching 30 percent today.

People may not be aware of the churchgoers’ faith because many churchgoers don’t think it’s necessary for others to know. A third (33 percent) say they don’t think everyone they are acquainted with needs to know they are a follower of Jesus, including 11 percent who strongly agree. Less than half (47 percent) disagree, including 26 percent who do so strongly, and 20 percent aren’t sure.

“It can be very easy to compartmentalize our lives. We have work friends, neighborhood friends, church friends and friends we meet up with for fun who may not overlap,” said McConnell. “The discipleship question is whether Jesus Christ is in all of these parts of our lives as part of our core identity as a follower of Christ.”

Many churchgoers aren’t even regularly talking about their faith with fellow

believers. More than 2 in 5 (42 percent) say spiritual matters don’t tend to come up as a normal part of their daily conversations with other Christians, including 1 in 7 (14 percent) who strongly agree. Around a third (35 percent) disagree, and almost a quarter (23 percent) aren’t sure.

Just as some churchgoers are becoming less open about their faith with non-Christians, some are also growing less likely to talk about their faith with other Christians. In 2013, 29 percent said spiritual matters don’t tend to come up as a normal part of their daily conversations with other Christians. By 2019, the percentage had increased to 35 percent and now 42 percent in the most recent study.

Impact of faith

While some churchgoers aren’t talking about their faith, they may also not be allowing their faith to shape them privately and publicly.

Almost a third of U.S. Protestant churchgoers say

they are generally a different person in public than they are in private, including 1 in 10 (11 percent) who strongly agree. Half (51 percent) disagree, including 29 percent who strongly do so, and 17 percent neither agree nor disagree.

Additionally, 1 in 5 (21 percent) say many aspects of who they are have nothing to do with God, including 7 percent who strongly agree. Three in 5 (61 percent) disagree, including more than 1 in 3 (36 percent) who strongly disagree, while 18 percent aren’t sure.

Compared to a few years ago, churchgoers today are more likely to see some areas of their identity as divorced from their faith (21 percent vs. 16 percent in 2019).

“Living unashamed is an indication of spiritual integrity. What you think about your relationship with God should be evident in the substance of your relationships with other churchgoers and be present

in your interactions with non-Christians,” McConnell said.

For more information, view the complete report and visit LifewayResearch.com/Discipleship.

Methodology

The online survey of 2,130 Protestant churchgoers was conducted March 19-26, 2025, using a national pre-recruited panel. Respondents were screened to include those who identified as Protestant/non-denominational and attend religious services at least once a month. Respondents could complete the survey in English or Spanish. Quotas and slight weights were used to balance gender, age, region, ethnicity, education and denominational affiliation. The completed sample is 2,130 surveys. The sample provides 95 percent confidence that the sampling error from the panel does not exceed plus or minus 2.21 percent. This margin of error accounts for the effect of weighting. Margins of error are higher in sub-groups.

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Fish

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1000 commandments. We are New Testament Christians yet we at times place more emphasis on the Old Testament Ten Commandments (Exodus 20).

Christians are promoting the reinstatement of the Ten Commandments in classrooms, public buildings and in park areas. While this is well and good, let's not forget about the other mandates Jesus gave us.

Matthew 22: 36-38 "Master, which is the great commandment in the law? Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment."

This is directly tied to the first Commandment in the Old Testa-

ment (Exodus 20: 3-5). How many of us have priorities in our lives other than studying our Bibles or spending time with God in prayer and meditation?

Yes, we are those dehydrated fish! Is it time to re-evaluate our lives and more specifically, our priorities? The church is obviously failing to evangelize, and the world is suffering because of that failure.

If the Apostle Paul were alive today, the American church would receive a letter! If John were writing Revelation chapters two and three today there would be eight churches of the Revelation rather than seven.

We are facing a situation in our world in which the negligence of the church has become apparent and shows on a monumental scale. Without the teachings/commandments of God

in the Old and New Testaments, our world will continue to degrade into a state of danger, fear and chaos.

When the world does not understand and value the differences in right and wrong, humanity deteriorates into a state of inhumanity.

Mao Zedong said, "A guerrilla must move amongst the people as a fish swims in the sea." A guerrilla is a fighter. We cannot become soldiers for the cross by remaining in our comfort zones with the attitude "Let someone else tell the world about Jesus."

The last words spoken by Jesus before He ascended were Acts 1: 8 "Ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."

We have no excuse! The uttermost part is no longer the other side of the world; it is here. We have the financial resources, the technology and the people. This societal condition has reached a state of urgency. We are seeing and reading in the news every day of man's evil tendencies. How long can this last?

The Bible teaches there is only one eternal salvation. That is by a faith-based belief (Ephesians 2: 8) that Christ Jesus was crucified (Matthew 27: 35) for the remission of sin (Romans 4: 25), resurrected (Matthew 28: 6) and ascended alive into Heaven (Acts 1: 9).

Van Yandell is a retired Industrial Arts teacher, an ordained gospel evangelist and missionary, from Fredonia, Kentucky. His email is vmy3451@gmail.com

Bible Trivia

Q: What were men trying to do at the Tower of Babel?

Answer

A: Built a tower to reach to Heaven.

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FIRST-PERSON: Jesus' most difficult command

By Adam Dooley

A shocking act on a dark New York highway once left a nation demanding justice, but what followed told a far deeper story about the power of love and forgiveness. In 2004, Victoria Ruvolo drove through freezing rain when a group of teenagers hurled a frozen turkey through her windshield. The impact shattered her face and nearly ended her life, leading to hours of surgery and a long, painful recovery. Yet what happened in the courtroom months later stunned far more people than the crime itself.

When the young man responsible, Ryan Cushing, stood before her, the world expected anger and vengeance. Instead, Ruvolo asked the court for leniency. She embraced her attacker, whispered forgiveness, and expressed hope for his future. Observers sat in

silence, witnessing what many called a “moment of grace.” The entire scene powerfully echoed the words of Jesus: “Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you” (Matthew 5:44).

Such love feels unnatural because it runs counter to how most people choose to live. We tend to love those who love us, support those who support us, and avoid or even resent those who hurt us. Though these patterns seem logical, even fair, Jesus challenged them directly. “If you love those who love you,” He insisted, “what reward do you have?” (Matthew 5:46). His words expose how self-serving expressions of love can sometimes be.

Stepping outside of what is comfortable and convenient, however, is where the greatest acts of compassion reside. Loving your enemies – those who oppose, offend, or

wound you – requires something deeper than human nature or instinct allows. Only by deliberately choosing to act against our impulses can we heed our Savior’s instructions to do good to those who hate us (Luke 6:27). Doing so does not excuse wrongdoing, though it often feels otherwise. Yet, mature believers must refuse to let hatred determine our responses to others.

How does this play out in real life? It means extending kindness to a co-worker who undermined you or showing patience toward a neighbor who treated you with contempt. Scripture repeatedly reinforces practical kindness with no strings attached. The Apostle Paul instructed, “If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink” (Romans 12:20). Actions like these move love be-

yond the theoretical into reality.

Living with radical devotion to others does not come easy. Thankfully, God graciously embodies and empowers every principle of faith He establishes. Stated differently, the Lord faithfully and compassionately shows love to His enemies before challenging us to do the same. Need proof? He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good while also sending rain for both the righteous and unrighteous (Matthew 5:45).

Even more powerful, though, is the fact that God demonstrates His love toward us in that while we were yet sinners, Christ Jesus died for us (Romans 5:8). Long before we sought the Lord in any way, He chose to love us. In fact, we only love Him, because He first loved us (1 John 4:19).

These truths revolutionize how followers of Jesus understand godly love. When we grasp the depth of God’s grace toward us despite our failures, it changes how we see others. For the sanctified, love becomes less about evaluating worthiness and more about reflecting God’s character. Loving others well is our greatest opportunity to display the family resemblance of those who belong to Him.

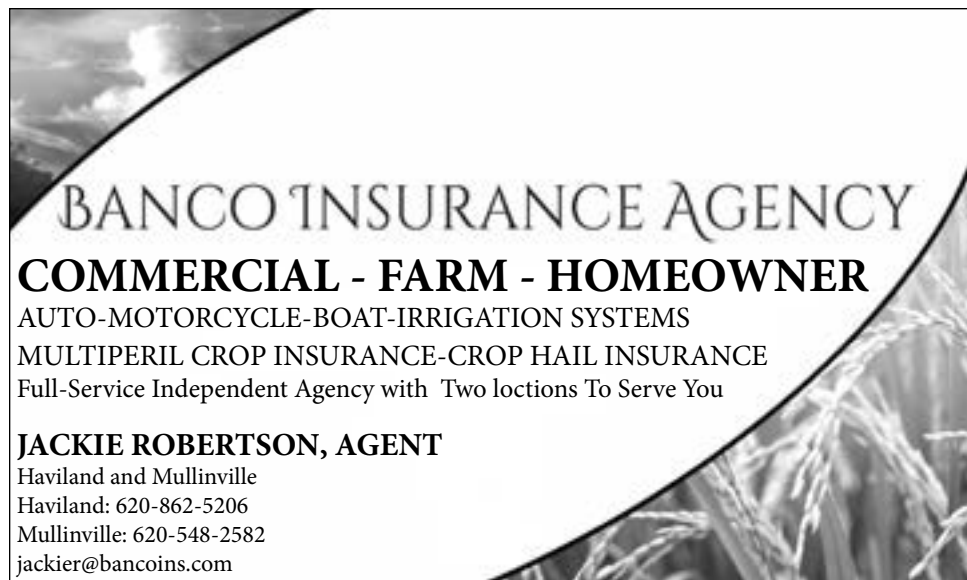
Still, ideas that are easy to understand are not always simple when it comes to living. Emotions often refuse to cooperate, especially when wounds run deep. Yet, in this context, the key is increasing our commitment in order to break free from the bondage of our feelings. Prayer must be foundational to our efforts (Matthew 5:44b). The goal is overcoming evil with good, rather

than vice versa (Romans 12:21). Like a muscle that grows stronger with exercise, small efforts will increase our capacity to love well over time. Slowly, our hearts can change.

Ultimately, godly love proves its substance through action. It seeks good for others, even when they have done harm. It prays, forgives, and moves toward reconciliation whenever possible. Jesus summarized this calling with a challenging command to be perfect, or holy, even as our Father in heaven is perfect (Matthew 5:48). Despite our tendency to fall short, God’s desire is that we love others perfectly, even as He loves us.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

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Error Intolerant

*By John MacArthur,
Grace to You*

As Christians we must understand that whatever opposes God's Word or departs from it in any way is a danger to the very cause of truth. Passivity toward known error is not an option for the Christian. Staunch intolerance of error is built into the very fabric of Scripture. And tolerance of known error is anything but a virtue.

Jesus clearly and unashamedly affirmed the utter exclusivity of Christianity. He said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me" (John 14:6). "Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved" (Acts 4:12). Lest anyone mis-

Obviously, that sort of exclusivity is fundamentally incompatible with post-modern tolerance.

Truth and error cannot be combined to yield something beneficial. Truth and error are as incompatible as light and darkness. "What fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? And what agreement has the temple of God with idols?" (2 Corinthians 6:14-16).

We can't tell the world, "This is truth, but whatever you want to believe is fine, too. It's not fine. Scripture commands us to be intolerant of any idea that denies the truth.

understand, I'm not defending dogmatism on any and every theological issue. Some things in Scripture are not perfectly clear. But the central teachings of Scripture (in particular, those things related to the way of salvation) are so simple and so clear that even a child can understand.

Those things which are necessary to be known, believed, and observed, for salvation, are so clearly propounded and opened in some place of Scripture or other, that not only the learned, but the un-

learned, in a due use of ordinary means, may attain unto a sufficient understanding of them. (Westminster Confession, 1:7).

All the truth that is necessary for our salvation can be easily understood in a true way by anyone who applies common sense and due diligence in seeking to understand what the Bible teaches. And that truth—the core message of Scripture—is incompatible with every other system of belief. We ought to be dogmatic about it.

No wonder post-

modernism, which prides itself on being tolerant of every competing worldview, is nonetheless hostile to biblical Christianity. Even the most determined post-modernist recognizes that biblical Christianity by its very nature is totally incompatible with a position of uncritical broad-mindedness. If we accept the fact that Scripture is the objective, authoritative truth of God, we are bound to see that every other view is not equally or potentially valid.

There is no need to seek middle ground

through dialogue with proponents of anti-Christian worldviews, as if the truth could be refined by the dialectical method. It is folly to think truth given by divine revelation needs any refining or updating. Nor should we imagine that we can meet opposing worldviews on some philosophically neutral ground. The ground between us is not neutral. If we really believe the Word of God is true, we know that everything opposing it is error. And we are to yield

no ground whatsoever to error.



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ATV, AUDIO, VIDEO

Election

Continued from page 5

one-third of the House's 435 districts – and 122 of those seats are held by Democrats, more than half of their total number (212)!

But no more, for “the Supremes” have ruled that such abuse violates the “equal protection” clause of the Constitution (that’s Amendment 14, Section 1). As Justice Alito correctly observed, “Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act...was designed to enforce the Constitution, not collide with it.” NO political party can use the Voting Rights Act to DISCRIMINATE on the basis of race, no matter what race we’re talking about. Sound like equal rights? You bet! The effect of the ruling will force states

with race-based districts to redraw them. (Louisiana’s was the worst, a real salad-shooter of a district!) The DOJ has warned that it will vigorously enforce the Court’s ruling in all 50 states, not waiting for private citizens to sue. Their vigilance is justified, for 88% of likely U.S. voters say that malicious tinkering with redistricting is a serious problem!

However, some warn this ruling, if enforced, may reduce the Democrat Party to insignificance. I doubt that, for it’s their own growing RADICALISM that’s harming them the most, and some leading Democrat voices agree (Sen. John Fetterman, former Rep. Barney Frank, even Team Obama vets like Rahm Emanuel and re-election manager Jim Messina)! While we’re still months

away from full redistricting of all 435, some pundits estimate that a gain of 6 Democrat and 18 GOP House seats will be the result. (I believe higher estimates of GOP gains, such as +27 seats, is too optimistic.) Currently, the states which have approved or are reviewing their districts are AL, FL, LA, SC, TN, MS and TX. Two (VA and CA) are stuck in limbo, and the rest need to get moving on it. If enough blue states choose to fight our DOJ in court, the November election may even be threatened – but I suspect some very high-level state election officials may be arrested and jailed to force compliance before that happens. America wants its politicians to WORK, not play a game of political chicken!

Some hopeful signs in-

dicating that “woke” election officials are realizing their own legal jeopardy: in my home state of Michigan, possibly the largest cesspool of election fraud ever, Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson has relented her “voter roll name freeze” of 20 years which conflicted with Federal law, and under legal pressure from the State Court of Appeals and the Michigan Fair Elections Institute (MFEI) has FINALLY removed over 213K long-dormant voter registrations from the state Qualified Voter File (QVF). The names should have been deleted after six inactive voting years, but they weren’t because it’s so handy to attach bogus ballots to them. Continuous monitoring of the QVF is required, for more than 345K suspicious inactive registrations remain! And

then in Detroit, an audit by another anti-fraud group, “Check My Vote,” revealed that from 51 taxpayer-subsidized housing addresses, a whopping 12.4% of absentee 2020 election ballots lacked the official signed return envelope required by Michigan law in order to be counted! So what happened to all the missing envelopes and who counted the votes, because bypassing this requirement is a FELONY punishable by 5 years in prison plus a fine. Oh, by the way, Jocelyn Benson was also admonished by a judge in 2020 for mailing out 7.7 MILLION unsolicited voter applications without proper approval. She also directed local clerks to ignore signature verification. No wonder she got a prize (the Presidential Citizens’ Medal) from the Biden Crime

Family in 2023!

In New Jersey, Henry Ibezim, a former Democratic mayoral candidate, pleaded guilty to forging nearly 1,000 voter registration applications during the 2021 Democratic primary. Despite his efforts (he was ironically running on the “Unity Party” ticket!), he received only 103 votes in the primary. God’s Word is clear, and the Book of Proverbs applies to EVERYONE, whether God-fearing or not: “A malicious man disguises himself with his lips, but in his heart he harbors deceit. Though his speech is charming, do not believe him, for seven abominations [see Prov. 6:16-19] fill his heart. His malice may be concealed by deception, but his wickedness will be exposed in the assembly” (Prov. 26:24-26). Amen!

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Kansas Legislature completes override of Gov. Laura Kelly's veto of two abortion bills

Bills alter information source for patients, make it easier to win lawsuits against clinics



Rep. Heather Meyer, D-Overland Park, appears April 9, 2026, on the House floor. She objected to the override of two abortion-related bills vetoed by Gov. Laura Kelly. (Photo by Sherman Smith/Kansas Reflector)

By Tim Carpenter, Kansas Reflector

The Kansas Legislature completed Thursday the process of assembling two-thirds majorities to override Gov. Laura Kelly's

veto of a pair of abortion regulation bills.

The House voted 87-36 and the Senate responded 31-8 to pass House Bill 2729 into law. It requires the Kansas Department of

Health and Environment assume responsibility for producing standardized consent forms for individuals seeking to end a pregnancy.

Under the bill, documentation presented to women would include information on fetal development, risks of abortion and alternatives to the procedure. Controversially, information handed to women would include the discredited idea that a medication abortion could be "reversed."

Members of the House and Senate, by the same margins, voted to override Kelly's veto of House Bill 2727, which would allow plaintiffs alleging violation of informed consent laws tied to abortions to file lawsuits without first working

through a medical malpractice board. Plaintiffs could sidestep the review board on condition claims were limited to \$5,000 in damages as well as attorney fees and reimbursement for medical costs.

There was no back-and-forth debate in the House about the overrides, but Rep. Heather Meyer, D-Overland Park, said the bills could lead to additional litigation challenging the state's abortion statutes.

Meyer said the bills were in conflict with the August 2022 statewide vote to reject an amendment to the Kansas Constitution that would have made it easier to regulate or prohibit abortion in Kansas. In that vote, Kansans refused to nullify a Kansas Supreme

Court decision that found the reference to "bodily autonomy" in the state's Bill of Rights established an individual's fundamental right to end a pregnancy.

"We need to respect peoples' right to make their own medical decisions and provide them with accurate medical advice and knowledge," Meyer said.

Sen. Mike Thompson, R-Shawnee, told senators the bills made certain women considering an abortion received uniform messages from KDHE and had a less-onerous path with lawsuits associated with allegations a clinic or physician failed to abide by informed consent law.

In her veto message on HB 2729, Kelly said she was concerned the Legisla-

ture would require KDHE to put its name and credibility behind inaccurate guidance regarding abortion.

"This bill requires the state to put false medical information out that has no scientific basis and only serves to mislead women," she said.

The governor's veto message on HB 2727 renewed her objection to the state's intrusion into lives of women by tipping the scales on lawsuits related to informed consent.

"This bill is another attempt by politicians to involve themselves in these private decisions, this time by trying to intimidate health care providers," Kelly said.

The God Who Sees

Behold the Lord

He reigns on high

He knows my every grief

His watchful eyes

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The Holy One

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Beyond His reach

He is the God who sees

By Johnny Loos

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