

REMINDER

Volume XV

May 10, 2009

Number 19

TODAY IS -

MOTHER'S DAY!



***EVERY MOTHER PRESENT TODAY WILL RECEIVE
A SPECIAL GIFT FROM OUR CHURCH!***

WE WILL ALSO HONOR -

- ***The Oldest Mother Present***
- ***The Newest Mother Present***
- ***The Mother With The Most Children Present***
- ***The Mother With The Most Children AND
Grandchildren Present***

THANK YOU FOR BEING HERE!

I WONDER . . .

*I wonder if the little path
Still winds across the sod -
The little, narrow, beaten path
Where friendly feet have trod.*

*I wonder if the trumpet vine
And flowering almond tree
Are blossoming along the way
Just where they used to*

*I wonder if small children's feet
Are eager still to climb
The old board fence and "cut across,"
As long ago did mine;*

*And if the same old kitchen door
Is standing open wide,
Where eager eyes may catch
A glimpse of mother's face inside.*

*Oh, little memories like these
Come creeping in betimes
And sing themselves to little tunes
And set themselves to rhymes.*

*Just haunting little memories
That seem to cling and guide
The thoughts along to open doors
And mother's face inside.*

*Someday I'll find another path
Where friendly feet have trod,
That's leading down the valley road
And o'er the hills to God.*

*When on those strange eternal shore
The heavenly gates swing wide,
'Twill just be "Home, Sweet Home"
Once more With mother's face inside.*

- Author Unknown



Mother's Vacant Chair

. . . I go a little farther on in your house, and I find Mother's chair. It is very apt to be a rocking chair. She had so many cares and troubles to soothe, that it must have rockers.

I remember it well. It was an old chair, and the rockers were almost worn out, for I was the youngest, and the chair had rocked

the whole family. It made a creaking noise as it moved, but there was music in the sound. It was just high enough to allow us children to put our heads in her lap. That was the bank where we deposited all our hurts and worries.

Oh, what a chair it was! IT was different from Father's chair - entirely different. You ask me how. I cannot tell, but we all felt it was different. Perhaps there was about this chair more gentleness, more tenderness, more grief when we had done wrong. When we were wayward, Father scolded, but Mother cried.

It was a very wakeful chair. In the sick day of children, other chairs could not keep awake; that chair always kept awake - kept easily awake. That chair knew all the old lullabies, wordless songs which mothers sing to their sick children - songs in which all pity and compassion and sympathetic influences are combined.

That old chair has stopped rocking for a good many years. It may be set up in the loft or the garret, but it holds a queenly power yet. When at midnight you went into that bar to get the intoxicating drink, did you not hear a voice that said, "My son, why go in there?" and louder than the boistrous encore of the theatre, a voice saying, "My son, what do you here?" And when you went into the house of sin, a voice saying, "What would your mother do if she knew you were in here?" and you were provoked at yourself, and you charged yourself with superstition and fanaticism, and your head got hot with your own thoughts, and you went home, and you went to bed. No sooner had you touched the bed than a voice said, "What a prayerless pillow!"

Man! What is the matter! This! You are too near your mother's rocking chair. "Oh, pshaw!" you say, "there's nothing in that. I'm five hundred miles off from where I was born - I'm three thousand miles off from the Scotch kirk whose bell was the first music I ever heard." I cannot help that. You are too near your mother's rocking chair.

"Oh!" you say, "there can't be anything in that; that chair has been vacant a great while." I cannot help that. It is all the mightier for that; it is omnipotent, that vacant mother's chair. It whispers. It speaks. It weeps. It carols. It mourns. It prays. It warns. It thunders.

A young man went off and broke his mother's heart, and while he was away from home his mother died. The telegraph brought the son. He came into the room where she lay, looked upon her face, then cried out, "O Mother! Mother! What your life could not do, your death shall do. This moment I give my heart to God." And he kept his promise.

Another victory for the vacant chair. With reference to your mother, the words of my text were fulfilled: "***Thou shalt be missed because thy seat will be empty.***"

- T. De Witt Talmage

Reflections of a Mother -



*I gave you life, but cannot live it for you.
I can teach you things, but I cannot
make you learn.
I can give you directions, but I cannot
be there to lead you.
I can allow you freedom, but I cannot
account for it.
I can take you to church, but I cannot
make you believe.*

*I can teach you right from wrong, but I cannot always
decide for you.*

*I can buy you beautiful clothes, but I cannot make you
beautiful inside.*

I can offer you advice, but I cannot accept it for you.

I can give you love, but I cannot force it upon you.

I can teach you to share, but I cannot make you unselfish.

*I can teach you respect, but I cannot force you to show
honor.*

*I can advise you about friends, but cannot choose them for
you.*

I can advise you about sex, but I cannot keep you pure.

*I can tell you the facts of life, but I can't build your
reputation.*

I can tell you about drink, but I can't say "no" for you.

*I can warn you about drugs, but I can't prevent you from
using them.*

*I can tell you about lofty goals, but I can't achieve them for
you.*

*I can teach you about kindness, but I can't force you to be
gracious.*

I can warn you about sins, but I cannot make you moral.

*I can love you as a child, but I cannot place you in God's
family.*

I can pray for you, but I cannot make you walk with God.

A Mother's Day Prayer

*"Dear God, You have given the mother a unique
role in the life of a child. In body and spirit everyone
receives a special inheritance from his mother.
Heavenly Father, grant the mothers of our church
and our nation the grace to demonstrate through
their lives and to speak with their lips the truths that
will bring each child to faith in Thee. Help them to
inspire their children to purposeful living. Grant the
wisdom necessary for the making of wise decisions
and the courage to build a home that honors Thee.
This we pray in the Name of Jesus Christ, Amen."*

Mother Means More Now



Mother means more to me today
Than she ever has before,
Although she has moved away from here
And lives now on the golden shore.
When I was a child, she played with me
And cooled my fevered brow;
Her presence drove all fears away,
How could she mean MORE, now?

When still a child, I saw her kneel
At an old-time altar where -
She poured out her troubled heart to God
And received the Saviour there.

The years passed by and we were pals;
Hardships wrinkled mother's brow.
But her faith in God as a flower grew;
How could she mean MORE, now?

As into young womanhood I grew,
Mother warned of sin and shame,
And urged me to live above the world;
To honor the Saviour's Name.

Her words and prayers oft came to me
When Satan would have me bow,
Then God would send strength to overcome,
How could she mean MORE, now?

While mother was here, I knew for SURE
There was one who loved and cared;
And she always planned for me, the best -
No matter how SHE fared.

Now I miss her smile and her tender love,
But she has kept her vow.
She lived for Christ while here below, so
How could she mean MORE, now?

When into the valley of the shadow she came
And it was her time to go;
Like a soldier I saw her march with Him
Who doth conquer every foe.

Such confidence and trust, O Lord,
Wilt Thou to me endow;
For mother's life has challenged me,
That's why she means MORE, now!

The earthly possessions she left were few,
But a rich heritage I find
Her Bible, her faith, her confidence sure,
Bring peace to the troubled mind.

And now she lives in a mansion fair,
Clothed upon, I know not how -
But for me she awaits inside heav'n's gate,
And that's why she means MORE, now.



My Mother's Bible

M. B. Williams

*There's a dear and precious book,
Though it's worn and faded now,
Which recalls those happy days of long ago,
When I stood at mother's knee,
With her hand upon my brow,
And I heard her voice in gentle tones and low.*

*Blessed Book, precious book,
On thy dear old tear stained leaves I love to look;
Thou art sweeter day by day,
As I walk the narrow way
That leads at last to that bright home above*

*Then she read the stories o'er
Of those mighty men of old,
Of Joseph and of Daniel and their trials,
Of little David bold,
Who became a king at last,
Of Satan and his many wicked wiles.
Then she read of Jesus' love,
As He blessed the children dear,
How He suffered, bled and died upon the tree;
Of His heavy load of care,
Then she dried my flowing tears
With her kisses as she said it was for me.*

*Blessed Book, precious book,
On thy dear old tear stained leaves I love to look;
Thou art sweeter day by day,
As I walk the narrow way
That leads at last to that bright home above*

*Well, those days are past and gone,
But their memory lingers still
And the dear old Book each day has been my guide;
And I seek to do His will,
As my mother taught me then,
And ever in my heart His Words abide.*

*Blessed Book, precious book,
On thy dear old tear stained leaves I love to look;
Thou art sweeter day by day,
As I walk the narrow way
That leads at last to that bright home above.*

Today is the day each year we set aside to honor our mothers.

Time may have scattered the snowy flakes on her brow, plowed deep furrows on her cheek, but is she not beautiful now? The lips are thin and shrunken, but these are the lips that have kissed many a hot tear from the childish cheeks, and the sweetest lips in the world.

The eye may be dim, yet it glows with soft radiance of holy love which can never fade. Ah, yes, she is a dear old mother. The sands of life are nearly run out; but feeble as she may be, she will go farther and reach down lower for you than anyone else upon the earth.

You cannot walk in a midnight haunt where she cannot see you; you cannot enter a prison whose bars will keep her out; you cannot mount a scaffold too high for her to reach that she may kiss and bless you in evidence of her deathless love.

When the world shall despise and forsake you, when it leaves you by the wayside to die unnoticed, the dear old mother will gather you up in her feeble arms and carry you home and tell you of all your virtues, until you almost forget that your souls is disfigured by vices.

Love her tenderly; cheer her declining years with tender devotion.

- Author Unknown

QUOTATIONS ABOUT MOTHERHOOD

- **“All that I am or ever hope to be, I owe to my angel Mother.” - Abraham Lincoln**
- **“My mother was the most beautiful woman I ever saw. All I am I owe to my mother. I attribute all my success in life to the moral, intellectual and physical education I received from her.” - George Washington**
- **“The mother's heart is the child's schoolroom.”
- Henry Ward Beecher**
- **“Youth fades; love droops, the leaves of friendship fall; A mother's secret hope outlives them all.”
- Oliver Wendell Holmes**
- **“I remember my mother's prayers and they have always followed me. They have clung to me all my life.” - Abraham Lincoln**
- **“The most important thing a father can do for his children is to love their mother.”**

- Author Unknown

Mother's Gone

*Bare stand the trees,
Bleak lies the plain,
Gone summer's breeze,
Cold grips the main.*

*Snow piling high,
Frost sinking deep,
Cloud-laden sky,
Plants all asleep.*

*Church bells have tolled,
Mourners do weep,
One's left the fold -
Embraced her last sheep.*

*Thoughts, yesteryear,
Rush to the mind,
Mem'ries so dear
Of Mother so kind.*

*Dark seems the way,
Sorrows depress;
Short was her stay -
Toil and distress.*

*Loved ones now left,
Battles must face;
Lone and bereft,
Continue the race.*

*Flickering lights,
Guiding the way;
Hope for new heights
Each dawning day.
Through the dark night
A message rings clear:
Dismiss all your fright,
For lo, I am near.*

*Nearer than Mother,
Stronger than all;*

*Trust not another
Lest you should fall.*

*I'll be your Saviour,
Never to fail;
I will be with you
Come heat, or come hail.*

*Soon I will gather,
From East and from West,
Children and Mother
Close to My breast.*

*Teardrops all ended,
No heartaching pain,
Partings suspended -
Graves, NEVER again!*

*Joy everlasting;
Victory's song;
Praises abounding,
Eternity long.*

- E. B Anderson



Mysteries of Motherhood

by Reb Bradley



Mother's Hearing

She does not hear the car alarm, the neighbor's music,
or the noise of playing children,
But from the other end of the house, in the middle of the night,
she will hear a child's slightest whimper.

Mother's Mind

She may not comprehend how to use the VCR or the computer,
But she understands a child's heart whenever it hurts.

Mother's Strength

She may be too weak and exhausted to carry
groceries in from the car,
But she is strong enough to intimidate any
who threaten her children.

Mother's Memory

She may not remember where she put her keys
or the reason she walked into a room,
But she never forgets the wonderful things
her children do and say.

Mother's Clothes

Her clothes aren't so perfect – they're stained by baby's burps
and last month's lasagna,
But each stain is a badge of love and service
equal to any won by a soldier.

Mother's Hands

All she sees are the lines and wrinkles in her hands,
and longs for their youthful appearance,
But she forgets their wear speaks of love,
devotion, and sacrifice.

Mother's Shape

She sighs and moans when she cannot fit into
the clothes of her youth,
But her shape and stretch marks are like battle scars which say,
"Kids, you were worth it!"

Mother's Eyes

The mirror tells her that her eyes lack sparkle,
But the bags and fatigue betray love
that burns bright all night long.

Mother's Career

She is haunted sometimes by what she could have been,
But she equips generations and shapes the world's future.

Mother's Trust

She doesn't trust enough to let you near the strange dog
or to climb to the tip top branch,
But she believes in you when you are
discouraged and full of self doubt.

Mother's Significance

She regrets her failures, mourns her anger,
and dreads she is warping her children's psyches,
But she so tightly bonds her children to her heart
that they will grow up, but not away.



IS YOURS A CHILD-RUN HOME?

by Reb Bradley

Who is in charge of your home -- you or are your children? You can tell who is in charge of any organization by who leads. In your home – who makes the plans and decisions? If you believe you make the decisions, is your home a democracy? That is, do your children have a voice in most or all household decisions? Are you like a politician who feels the need to listen to your constituency lest they not vote for you in the next election? Do your children obey you quickly and quietly each time you speak, or do they think they have the right to discuss everything?

Who is in charge of your home? Are you the leader who is free to make decisions, and can announce them to the children, who immediately accept your authority with humility and respect? Or do you often compromise your own values or wishes in anticipation of a negative reaction from the kids? Do they have the security of having a strong leader at the helm, or are they insecure and agitated because they share part of the burden of making family decisions?

Children need leadership. Not only do they lack the maturity to handle the stress of running the home, but the self-control they gain from accepting strong leadership is the key ingredient they

need to grow in maturity. They need their parents to be the parents.

To help you determine if yours is a child-run home, consider the following list. Parents in a child-run home will be heard saying things like:

- ❑ *"I can't make that for dinner at our house, the kids just won't eat it."*
- ❑ *"I prepare meals in two batches – one for my husband and I, and one cooked a special way for the kids."*
- ❑ *"Among restaurants, my wife and I enjoy Sizzlers' Salad Bar, but we never go there ... the kids prefer the play-land at McDonald's."*
- ❑ *"We can't have that family over to the house, their children are so much younger than ours. Ours would not enjoy them."*
- ❑ *"We can't go there, the kids will be bored!"*
- ❑ *"We can never go out. Our children just don't behave for baby-sitters."*
- ❑ *"We could never take our children into the church service. They wouldn't last."*
- ❑ *"We won't be able to attend. Our little Princess just doesn't do well in those situations."*
- ❑ *"We'll have to find a new church. Junior just doesn't get along with one of the boys in his class."*
- ❑ *"We'll have to change teachers or schools. Little Jane doesn't enjoy Mrs. So & So."*

Those parents who say, *"Junior just refuses to ...,"* or *"My child just won't put up with ..."* have given up their authority and put their children in charge of their home. They have granted their children veto power and in doing so must follow their children's leadership. Needless to say, for those parents who have shared their authority with their children, parenting will be very difficult and unfruitful.

If you realize that you have accidentally shared your parental authority with your children, and desire to step back into leadership, you will want the help you can receive from Reb's tape set *"Biblical Insights Into Parenting"* and from his book *"Child Training Tips: What I wish I knew when my children were young."*

- from www.familyministries.com

CLOSED CHURCHES

As I was visiting Wednesday, I was struck by the number of old church buildings I passed. A generation or two ago, these were spirit-filled country churches. Today they are Grange halls, thrift shops, and apartments.

It was sad. It was like driving through a graveyard.

These bygone churches reminded me of a passage from a book

I had read:

"While the country churches are the stronghold of the evangelizing and missionary enterprises of the Church at home and abroad there are alarming conditions of weakness in many country churches. ... there were in Maine at that time 282 pastorless churches in farming districts and some of the deserted churches were then serving as cheese factories, dance halls, and road houses. The Day of the Country Church, by James Oliver Ashenhurst."

This book was written in 1908! How much worse is our condition now?

Last year, I read that churches in America are closing at a rate of 3,000 per year. Massachusetts -- the very state where our pilgrim fore-fathers landed -- now rates fourth from the bottom in belief in God according to a 2009 survey. Right below Massachusetts is my own state of Maine.

Following is Gallup's entire list of states, in order of what percentage of respondents said religion is "an important part" of their daily lives:

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| * Mississippi: 85% | * Iowa: 64% |
| * Alabama: 82% | * Minnesota: 64% |
| * South Carolina: 80% | * Illinois: 64% |
| * Tennessee: 79% | * Michigan: 64% |
| * Louisiana: 78% | * Delaware: 61% |
| * Arkansas: 78% | * Wisconsin: 61% |
| * Georgia: 76% | * Dist. of Columbia: 61% |
| * North Carolina: 76% | * Idaho: 61% |
| * Oklahoma: 75% | * Arizona: 61% |
| * Kentucky: 74% | * New Jersey: 60% |
| * Texas: 74% | * Wyoming: 58% |
| * West Virginia: 71% | * Colorado: 57% |
| * Kansas: 70% | * Hawaii: 57% |
| * Utah: 69% | * California: 57% |
| * Missouri: 68% | * Montana: 56% |
| * Virginia: 68% | * New York: 56% |
| * South Dakota: 68% | * Connecticut: 55% |
| * North Dakota: 68% | * Nevada: 54% |
| * Indiana: 68% | * Rhode Island: 53% |
| * Nebraska: 67% | * Oregon: 53% |
| * New Mexico: 66% | * Washington: 52% |
| * Pennsylvania: 65% | * Alaska: 51% |
| * Florida: 65% | * Massachusetts: 48% |
| * Maryland: 65% | * Maine: 48% |
| * Ohio: 65% | * New Hampshire: 46% |
| | * Vermont: 42% |

Where will we be in our children's time?

Where are the preachers who will give up hope of wealth and fame to serve in little country churches, bringing our nation back to God one soul, one community at a time?

Where are the missionaries to America, a nation rapidly becoming a pagan land?



We can give up and say, "well, we're in the end times. It's just gonna be like this", or we can rise up and fight back against the dark tide sweeping our nation.

One day after big storm, a man walked out on the beach and saw thousands of

starfish washed up and dying on the sand. A boy was picking them up one-by-one and tossing them back into the water.

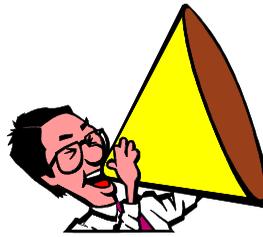
The man said, "What are you doing, son?" The boy replied, "saving the starfish."

The man chuckled at the boy's ignorance and said, "There's no way you can save all those starfish -- there are too many of them."

The boy picked up another one and tossed it out into the waves. "There's one more."

Maybe we can't save them all. Maybe this country will never turn back to Christ. But, if we try, we can save "one more."

Pastor Ron Meldrum
Hope Haven Gospel Mission
New Vineyard, Maine



**BEGINNING NEXT
SUNDAY, MAY 17,
WE WILL BEGIN A
CLASS ON**

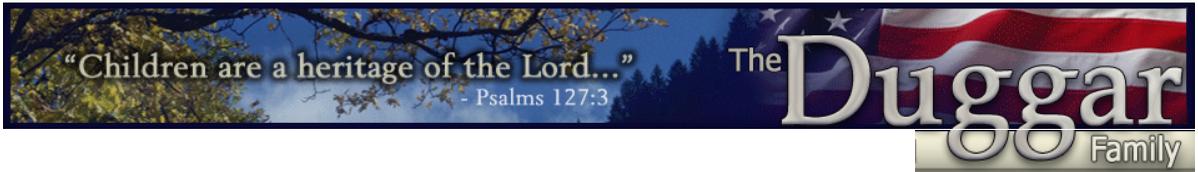
FINANCIAL FREEDOM

*Learn Biblical Principles For Finances That Will Free You
From The Bondage Of Debt!*

This class, though designed for our young adults, is open to all from high school age and upward. Every Christian needs to learn how to handle their finances God's way!

*Classes will begin promptly at 9:45 each Sunday morning
in the Auditorium starting May 17.*

BE PLANNING NOW TO BRING SOMEONE TO MEET -



**Sunday Morning
June 28, 2009**

- Duggar-family Musicians Will Play and Sing For Our Service!*
- Jim Bob Duggar Will Be Speaking In The Morning Service!*
- Michelle Duggar To Give Devotional At Rebekah White's Baby Shower At 1:30 p.m.*

PLAN NOW TO BE HERE!

NEWS OF INTEREST TO CHRISTIANS

by Evangelist David W. Cloud

❑ CALVIN COLLEGE ON THE EMERGING PATH- In April, Calvin College of Grand Rapids, Michigan, held a Festival of Faith & Music that celebrated the emerging church philosophy. A “few hundred artists, musicians, critics, thinkers and listeners” convened to “discuss and discern the ways grace, love, compassion and the Christian faith are expressed in the world of popular music” (“Figuring It Out,” Christianity Today, April 21, 2009).

Calvin College can probably say with Mark Driscoll of Mars Hills Church in Seattle, “We are theologically conservative and culturally liberal.” The school holds to a Reformed Calvinist theology, but it has jettisoned the Bible’s command to separate from the world. They have adopted the emerging philosophy of redeeming society by immersing oneself in the culture, of being a missionary to culture. Ken Heffner, Director of Student Activities at Calvin, said that Christians should “show up in the public square and do popular art and also partner with other people that are doing popular art.”

The festival “operates from the assumption that popular culture is not the bad part of culture.” We wonder what pop culture they are talking about, because pop culture in North America is morally filthy and philosophically relativistic and exists in open defiance to God’s holy commands, and that is definitely BAD! Lupe Fiasco was a celebrated participant at the festival, even though “his own faith background is steeped in Islam,” his “spirituality is a smorgasbord,” and he uses profanity. Not surprisingly, one of the themes of the conference was reproving biblical fundamentalism. Heffner ridiculed Christians that have “a reputation as naysayers of pop culture” and “separate themselves from society’s creative heartbeat” and “try to dictate what is of God and what is not.”

What a pathetically confused festival this was! The Bible tells us exactly what is of God and what is not and God’s people are responsible to delineate between the holy and the unholy. “And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them” (Ephesians 5:11). Our job is not to dialogue with culture but to preach the Word of God (2 Timothy 4:2). The Lord Jesus Christ was a friend of sinners, but he was holy at all times, never participated in anything sinful, preached repentance and warned about hell, and that will put a serious damper on any pop culture party!

The apostle Paul was made all things to all men that he might win the more (I Cor. 9:22; 10:33), but he also abstained from all appearance of evil, refused to be conformed to the world or unequally yoked together with unbelievers (I Thess. 5:22; Rom. 12:1; II Cor. 6:14-17). Jesus and the apostles were not rock & roll party animals! James warned, ***“Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the***

enemy of God” (James 4:4). Do you think James and his negative preaching would be welcome to Calvin College’s Festival of Music!

❑ HOMOSEXUAL “MARRIAGE” COLLIDING WITH PARENTAL AND RELIGION RIGHTS - The following is excerpted from “Gay Marriage Colliding,” Baptist Press, April 3, 2009:

“Some say the sky hasn’t fallen in the nearly five years since ‘gay marriage’ was legalized in Massachusetts, but Kris Mineau, a citizen and conservative activist in that state, begs to differ. Sure, he says, things may look the same on the surface, but if you dig a little deeper, you’ll see dramatic cultural changes. Teachers are teaching children about homosexual families over the objections of parents. A major adoption agency has chosen to shut down rather than be forced to place children with homosexual couples. ‘The sky is falling in Massachusetts in two key areas: parental rights and religious liberty,’ Mineau, president of the Massachusetts Family Institute, told Baptist Press. ... ‘Religious liberties and the homosexual agenda are on a collision course,’ said Douglas Napier [an attorney with the Alliance Defense Fund], who grew up in Iowa and practiced law there for 16 years. ‘I don’t think anybody should think this doesn’t affect them. It will affect them, and it will affect them in a very deep way.’ [These cases are] but the tip of the iceberg in what has become a steady load of controversies putting religious freedom on the line in same-sex disputes. ... ‘The list goes on and on,’ Mathew Staver, chairman of Liberty Counsel, a religious liberty legal organization, told BP. ‘Whenever you have same-sex marriage or same-sex civil unions, you end up having a clash between the same-sex agenda and freedom of religion. The two are not compatible, because the same-sex agenda seeks to force by law acceptance of its view, and that will inevitably collide with Christian values. People really need to wake up, because this, I think, is the greatest threat to our liberty that we face today--bar none.’”

❑ GLOBAL WARMING, AN ALL-CONSUMING SCAPEGOAT - The following is excerpted from OneNewsNow.co, April 9, 2009:

“The author of a new book and the host of a popular website that debunks global warming science says the green agenda is all about control. Steve Milloy, the author of Green Hell and the host of JunkScience.com, notes his new book describes how environmentalists plan to control all aspects of life. ‘They really are trying to implement a social and political agenda, which I don’t think most Americans want,’ he contends. Milloy describes that agenda. ‘Global warming has just, for whatever reason, been the most successful scheme the greens have ever implemented....[T]hrough global warming they can reach all of what, you know, population control has now become a global warming issue,’ he contends. ‘Meat production has become a global-warming issue. What color your car is? Global warming. What kind of community you can live in? ... Every aspect of our lives becomes a global-warming issue.’”

❑ **MOST PROFESSING CHRISTIANS IN U.S.A. DON'T BELIEVE SATAN IS REAL** - According to a new Barna poll, the vast majority of professing Christians in America do not believe that Satan and the Holy Spirit are real persons. Only 35% believe Satan is "a living being" and only 25% believe that the Holy Spirit is a "living force." The rest believe that Satan is "a symbol of evil" and the Holy Spirit is "a symbol of God's power or presence" (ChristianityToday.com, April 14, 2009). The root problem with the host of moral and social ills in America is the apostasy and compromise in her churches. ***"Therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts concerning the prophets; Behold, I will feed them with wormwood, and make them drink the water of gall: for from the prophets of Jerusalem is profaneness gone forth into all the land"*** (Jeremiah 23:15).

❑ **LUTHERAN CHURCH IN MINNEAPOLIS ORDAINS HOMOSEXUAL** - Calvary Lutheran Church in Minneapolis, Minnesota, ordained a homosexual as pastor on April 12 ("At One Lutheran Church," Fox News, April 11, 2009). The church is affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). The new pastor, Brad Froslee, has lived with his male partner for over five years. Prior to this, the church was pastored by a husband-wife team. The ELCA officially prohibits "non-celibate gay pastors," but it does not always enforce the issue. In August the liberal denomination will vote on whether or not to change the policy. It is just as wrong to ordain a woman as pastor as it is to ordain a homosexual. Both are an affront to God's standards for pastors in I Timothy 3 and Titus 1.

❑ **MORE CHRISTIANS KILLED IN IRAQ** - The following is excerpted from Christian News Today, April 10, 2009:

"International Christian Concern (ICC) has learned that on April 1 and 2, four Iraqi Christians were killed Baghdad and Kirkuk. Though the perpetrators of the murders are not yet indicated, Islamic fundamentalists, criminal gangs and other armed groups have been behind attacks against Christians in Iraq in the past. ... Iraqi Christians have been paying a heavy price due to the instability in the country following its invasion in 2003. In a recent press conference, Archbishop Louis Sako, said, 'A total of 750 Christians have been murdered in the past five years.' ... ICC's Regional Manager for Africa and the Middle East, Jonathan Racho, stated, 'The suffering of Iraqi Christians has been beyond description and is not yet over.'"

❑ **RICK WARREN SAYS HE IS NOT "ANTI-GAY OR ANTI-GAY MARRIAGE ACTIVIST"** - In his appearance on Larry King Live, April 6, 2009, Pastor Rick Warren of Saddleback Church said he is not an "anti-gay marriage activist." He told King: "During the whole Proposition 8 thing, I never once went to a meeting, never once issued a statement, never--never once even gave an endorsement in the two years Prop 8 was going. The week before the vote, somebody in my church said, Pastor Rick, what do you think about this? And I sent a note to my own members that said, I actually believe that marriage is--really should be defined, that that definition should be--say between a man and a woman. And then all of a sudden

out of it, they made me, you know, something that I really wasn't. ... I wrote to all my gay friends--the leaders that I knew--and actually apologized to them."

The pastor apologized to the homosexuals who are dead set on destroying America's moral foundation! He should, rather, have rebuked them for their attempt to pervert the God-given institution of marriage. In an interview with *Beliefnet* in December 2008, Warren said divorce is a greater threat to the family than homosexual marriage and claimed that homosexuality is no worse than other sins, such as gossip.

While it is true that every sin is wicked before God, and while it is true that any sin can be forgiven through repentance and faith in the blood of Jesus Christ, the Bible does not say that all sin is the same in its effect in this world. God did not pour out fire and brimstone upon Sodom because of its jealousy or covetousness or gossip or divorce. It was judged specifically because of homosexuality (Jude 1:7). Homosexuality is in a special category because it is a sin against nature itself. It destroys the very fabric of society, which is the family as defined biblically--a man and a woman united in holy matrimony.

Homosexuality is "vile," "against nature," "unseemly," and the product of a "reprobate mind" (Romans 1:26-28). When homosexual "marriage" is accepted, the institution of marriage will be destroyed, and preachers should be outspoken against all such things.

In the same Larry King Live interview, Warren said that spoke at the memorial service of the 40th anniversary of Martin Luther King's death, that he keeps a picture of King and Gandhi in his office, and that King has "been a hero all of my life." He forgot to mention that King was a multiple adulterer and a theological modernist who denied the faith that Warren claims to believe. ■



C. S. LEWIS'S THE LION, THE WITCH, AND THE WARDROBE IS A SILLY FAIRY TALE

C. S. Lewis's fantasy, *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*, made its appearance as a feature Hollywood movie on December 9, 2005, and took in \$187 million worldwide in the first ten days.

There is much hubbub about the movie in evangelical circles. R. Albert Mohler, Jr., president of Southern Baptist Seminary, is typical in his claim that Lewis's fiction "stands as a powerful story with clear allusions to the person and work of Christ, to the reality of human sin, to humanity's desperate need for redemption

and to God's ultimate victory in Christ" ("Aslan Is on the Move," Baptist Press, Dec. 10).

I could not disagree more strongly. Though I have not seen the movie, I have read the book, and it is nothing more than a silly fairy tale.

The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe, one of seven stories called *The Chronicles of Narnia*, is about four children who enter a magical country called Narnia through a closet. It is perpetually winter in Narnia, because the land is under the spell of a witch. A prophecy predicted that two boys and two girls would come to the land and become the rightful kings and queens. The great lion Aslan, supposedly a Christ figure, dies and rises from the dead to make the defeat of the witch and the fulfillment of the prophecy possible.

What about the alleged Christian aspects of this story? At best, any biblical doctrine that is presented in Lewis's Narnia is vague and distorted and overlaid with heathen mythology. The defenders of Lewis's fiction argue that the Bible uses parables to present truth, but Lewis's fiction is filled with unscriptural things that one will never find in a biblical parable.

Christ's parables did not contain a mixture of truth and paganism, but Lewis's stories unblushingly intertwine a few vague biblical themes with pagan mythology: nymphs, fauns (part man and part goat), dwarfs, centaurs (part man and part horse), Dryads (tree-women), and Naiads (well-women). All of these creatures are depicted as serving Aslan. Lewis presents the deeply heretical idea of good magic. He calls Aslan's power "Deep Magic" and Aslan's father's power as "Emperor's Magic." He introduces the vile pagan god Bacchus and his orgies as a desirable thing that was part of Narnia's past before the White Witch worked her spell. He presents the myth of "Father Christmas" as if it were innocent and wholesome. He teaches that Adam's first wife was not Eve but rather a woman named Lilith and that she was a witch.

As for the heart of the story, which is the death and resurrection of the lion Aslan, at best it is a corrupt depiction of Christ's salvation. Aslan dies and sheds his blood not to satisfy God's law but to satisfy the "Deep Power" and the White Witch.

This confusion is a reflection of Lewis's heretical stand on the atonement. He said, "The central Christian belief is that Christ's death has SOMEHOW put us right with God and given us a fresh start. Theories as to how it did this are another matter. ... Any theories we build up as to how Christ's death did all of this are, in my view, quite secondary..." (Mere Christianity, HarperSanFrancisco edition, 2001, pp. 54, 55, 56). This is heresy. God has revealed exactly what Christ did and what the atonement means. It is not a matter of theorizing or believing one "formula" over against another. The Bible says our salvation is a matter of a propitiation, a ransom, whereby our sins were washed away by Christ's bloody death, which was offered as a payment to satisfy God's holy Law.

Through Christ's blood we have eternal redemption. "*Neither*

by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us" (Heb. 9:12).

This is not a theory or a formula. It is the Word of God, and if one does not like it or believe it, he cannot be saved.

In *Mere Christianity*, Lewis claims that "the Christ-life" is spread to men through baptism, belief, and the Lord's Supper. This is a false gospel of faith plus works. He says, "There are three things that spread the Christ-life to us: baptism, belief, and that mysterious action which different Christians call by different names--Holy Communion, the Mass, the Lord's Supper. ... I am not saying anything about which of these things is the most essential. My Methodist friend would like me to say more about belief and less (in proportion) about the other two. But I am not going into that" (Mere Christianity, p. 61). (Note that he includes the Catholic Mass in his list of the various names by which holy communion are known, failing to acknowledge to his readers that the Mass is an entirely different thing than the simple Lord's Supper of the New Testament.)

It is not a Methodist we should listen to but the Bible itself, and the Bible says that salvation is by the grace of Christ alone through faith in Christ alone without works, that works are important but they follow after salvation and are the product of salvation rather than the means of it. The difference between saying that salvation is by faith without works and that works follow and saying that salvation is by faith with works or faith plus works is the difference between a true gospel and a false one, the difference between heaven and hell.

"Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt. But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness" (Rom. 4:3-4).

"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them" (Eph. 2:8-10).

"And if by grace, then is it no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work" (Rom. 11:6).

I have read several of C. S. Lewis's books and several biographies about him, and I have never seen a clear teaching on the new birth or a clear biblical testimony that he was born again. This should be cause for the deepest concern.

As for Aslan's resurrection, Lewis calls it "more magic."

Friends, I would urge you in the strongest way to beware of C. S. Lewis and of the deluded evangelical world that glorifies him.

- David W. Cloud

NURSERY MINISTRY WORKERS FOR THIS WEEK

10:50 a.m. Service ----- Cradle Roll 1: Charity Crawford
 Cradle Roll 2: Brian Crawford
 6:00 p.m. Service ----- Cradle Roll 1: Rebekah White
 Cradle Roll 2: Nathaniel White
 Wed. Eve. Service ----- Cradle Roll 1: LeAnna White
 Cradle Roll 2: Seth White

AND THE PEOPLE CAME...

Week of May 3, 2009

Sunday School ----- 18
 Sunday Morning Service ----- 33
 Sunday Evening Service ----- 25
 Wed. Eve. Service, 05/06/09 ----- 18

AND THE PEOPLE GAVE...

Week of May 3, 2009

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings ----- \$ 837.00
 New Hymnals Fund ----- \$ 10.00
 Total Received for Week of 05/03/09: \$ 847.00

Average amount of Undesignated Offerings needed to operate the church EACH WEEK, as a minimum = \$ 1,400.00 🇺🇸

FUND DRIVE REPORTS

NEW HYMNAL FUND

Offerings Received To Date: \$ 1,356.00

NEW PIANO FUND

Offerings Received To Date: \$ 570.00

PARSONAGE RENOVATION FUND

Total Received, To Date: \$ 330.00



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WHAT IT MEANS TO BE SAVED

1. *Admit that you are a sinner.*
2. *Admit that God says all sins must be paid for.*
3. *Accept the fact that Christ took upon Himself the suffering necessary to pay for all your sins.*
4. *You must change your mind about sin and sinning (God calls this repentance).*
5. *By an act of your will, accept by faith the Lord Jesus Christ, who can save you from the penalty of sin. Then, tell God about this in a simple prayer. Believe that God keeps His promise to save you, and thank Him for His salvation.*



Please Remember To Be Faithful to Give!

As with everything else, the costs of keeping a church going never go down - they always go *up*. Bills wait for no one, and churches are no exception to this. An extra, sacrificial gift today by everyone present would go a long way...

We encourage all of our membership to practice obedience to God by being faithful every payday to give back to Him His tithe (10%). *If every family in our church would practice this one simple discipline, we would never have weeks where we have to put off paying some bills until the following week!*

Everything is expensive, especially for a small church like ours, but ours is a BIG God, and He LOVES to bless His children when they are obedient to Him!

If you are already a tither, we thank you, and encourage you to also give offerings as well. If you're currently not tithing, won't you please start *today* - **OK?** Thank you.

Church Directory

Todd W. White ----- Pastor
 Mickie Shatwell ----- Pianist
 Dickie Eberle ----- Greeter, Custodian
 Larry Mathews, Caryn Quinnely, Todd W. White ----- S.S. Teachers
 Larry & Mary Byars, Brian & Charity Crawford, Nathaniel & Rebekah White ----- Outreach