

SOUTH HEIGHTS BAPTIST'S WEEKLY REMINDER

Volume XV

October 27, 2019

Number 41

NURSERY MINISTRY WORKERS FOR THIS WEEK

10:50 a.m. Service ----- Cradle Roll 1: Volunteer Needed!
Cradle Roll 2: Volunteer Needed!
6:30 p.m. Service ----- Cradle Roll 1: Volunteer Needed!
Cradle Roll 2: Volunteer Needed!
Wed. Evening Service ----- Cradle Roll 1: Shirley White
Cradle Roll 2: Volunteer Needed!

AND THE PEOPLE CAME...

Week of October 20, 2019

Sunday School ----- 14
Sunday Morning Service ----- 23
Sunday Evening Service ----- 14
Wed. Evening Service, 10/23/19 ----- 9

AND THE PEOPLE GAVE...

- Week of October 20, 2019 -

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings ----- \$ 709.04
Auditorium Air Conditioning Repair Fund ----- \$ 40.00
Total Received for Week of 10/20/19: \$ 749.04

- Week of October 13, 2019 -

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings ----- \$ 1,133.13
Auditorium Air Conditioning Repair Fund ----- \$ 117.09
Total Received for Week of 10/13/19: \$ 1,250.22

- Week of October 6, 2019 -

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings ----- \$ 1,678.00
Auditorium Air Conditioning Repair Fund ----- \$ 70.00
Total Received for Week of 10/06/19: \$ 1,748.00

- Week of September 29, 2019 -

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings ----- \$ 305.02
Auditorium Air Conditioning Repair Fund ----- \$ 11.00
Total Received for Week of 09/29/19: \$ 316.02

- Week of September 22, 2019 -

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings ----- \$ 1,425.03
Auditorium Air Conditioning Repair Fund ----- \$ 40.00
Total Received for Week of 09/22/19: \$ 1,465.03

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



AUDITORIUM AIR CONDITIONER REPAIR FUND

Total Repair Cost, unit repaired 05/17/19 ----- \$ 4,800.00
Amount received thusfar ----- \$ 1,300.47
TOTAL AMOUNT STILL NEEDED TO PAY OFF: \$ 3,499.53

Thank You For Your Generous Help With This Need!

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
Lois Mae Floyd ----- Pianist/ Organist
Don Diehl ----- Greeter
Larry Byars ----- S.S. Teacher
Larry & Mary Byars, Don Diehl, Susan Strain ----- Outreach
Bertha Segebart ----- Custodian
Flowers ----- Shirley White



Billy Sunday (1862-1935)

The Devil's Boomerangs!

(Hot Cakes Off the Griddle)

by Evangelist Billy Sunday

“Rejoice, O young man, in thy youth, and let thy heart cheer thee in the days of thy youth, and walk in the ways of thy heart, and in the sight of thine eyes: but know thou, that for all these things God will bring thee into judgment” (Ecclesiastes 11:9).

“Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap” (Galatians 6:7).



ou can always get the truth out of the Bible.

Of course you can always find truth elsewhere, but never from so clear a source. Nothing was ever printed more true than **“Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also**

reap.”

God will not coerce and attempt to force any man to be a Christian. When he dies, however, he will be judged for his sins. He must face the day of judgment.

Do as you please - lie, steal, booze, fight, prostitute. God won't stop you. Do as you please until the undertaker comes and puts you in a coffin and then the Lord will have His say. Lives of pleasure shall have an end, the wicked shall not live half their days.

If I sat in the pew and you were up here preaching there are four questions I would ask that you answer satisfactorily before you could win me.

First: Are you kindly disposed to me? Second: Do you want to help me? Third: Do you know what you are talking about? Fourth: Do you practice what you preach?

No man can say I am not kindly disposed to him. I do want to help every man and woman. I have read and studied and everything I preach comes from the Bible. What I say this afternoon is based on indisputable facts. I have no ambition except to alleviate the misery and suffering that comes through sin. I'll not pump you full of hot air, and what I preach I'll practice. If I didn't practice what I preach I'd leave this platform and never try to speak to an audience again.

If sin wasn't so deceitful it would not be so attractive.

The devil doesn't let a man stop to think what he is doing, that in every added indulgence in a drink he grows weaker. Some people think that to be a Christian means to be a weakling sort of a sissified individual. When I played baseball and was serving the devil, I circled the bases in fourteen seconds from a standing point, and I believe I can do it now. No man has ever beaten that. Han Lobert and some of the rest may have equaled it, but none has ever beaten it. I used to be handy with my dukes, too, before I became a Christian, and I can go so fast now for five rounds you can't see me for dust.

When I was with the Chicago Y.M.C.A. I did the saloon route for a time handing out invitations to men's meetings in Farwell Hall. One day I met a young man I had known in Iowa. He was half drunk and a broken down, drunken bum came along. I told my friend that if he persisted in drinking he would become as the bum. He laughed and said he would never be a drunkard. One year later he was down and out, his job gone and his home wrecked.

(continued inside)

No man ever started out with the intention of becoming a drunkard. Line up all the drunkards on earth and ask them and they will all tell you they never intended to be drunkards. They all started as moderate drinkers.

Christianity is capital and capital is character. Your *character* is what you do business with and there's a **big difference** between character and reputation. *Reputation* is what people think about you, and *character* is what God, your wife and the angels know about you.

For a man to preach and practice the gospel of Jesus Christ makes him trustworthy. There was a time when people wouldn't trust me to hold a yellow dog fifteen minutes.

Many men live only for money. They care for nothing else, but I believe they are in the minority. You cannot measure a man's success by the rattle of the cash register. All some men have is money. Subtract \$50,000, booze and women from some men and you will have nothing left.

I haven't a word to say against the rich man who got his wealth honestly and is trying to do good with it. The Bible doesn't have a thing in it against a man because he's rich. Look at Solomon. He was worth about \$6,000,000,000 (in 1920's money - TWW), according to our standard of gold and silver. Yet he was a Godly man.

But there's a lot of good-for-nothing lobsters who think they are called by God to go up and down the country harping for a limitation of wealth and cussing and damning the rich man for every dollar he has, while they sit around and cuss and never work.

If you want to use your genius and ability to get all you can and use the surplus over your own needs for the good of humanity, I hope you all will be millionaires. If you want to get all you can, and can all you get, I hope you'll all go to the poorhouse.

Comodore Vanderbilt, who was worth \$200,000,000 at the time he was dying, called in a minister and asked him to sing for him that old song Vanderbilt's mother used to sing in Moravia, "Come ye sinners, poor and needy!"

Worth \$200,000,000 and yet poor and needy when he came to his death! The next day one man told another Vanderbilt was dead. "How much did he leave?" asked the second man. He left it all. He could not take *one cent* with him.

But don't stop for anything *I* say. Go on piling up money until you have a pile as big as the tabernacle. When you die you can't take it with you, and if you could it would melt or burn up.

Just remember, however, that it will not be long before you and I go to the Beyond.

Another thing I want to talk about this afternoon is the immorality of the country. Sixty thousand girls were ruined last year by the white slave traffic. But I don't believe any woman was ever ruined but that some brute of a man didn't take the

initiative. If what I hear about you young bucks is true, when you come back home from trips, no decent girl ought to speak to you, allow you in their homes or even to look at you. And I understand some of you old married rakes are at it, too. I think the lowest, vilest, most damnable buffoon and triple extract of infamy and degeneracy in the world is the one who will plight his troth and marry, and leave his wife at home to go out with a prostitute.

I wouldn't wipe my feet, I wouldn't spit or blow my nose on society that makes a distinction between the man who sidesteps and the woman who goes wrong. The crying need of the age is a single standard for the sexes. It makes no difference to God whether one wears a plug hat or a hairpin. When a man wants to marry, does he select a girl from the red-light district? No. He goes to some decent, virtuous girl and asks her to accept his whisky soaked, sin blackened, diseased carcass.

A man visited a house of prostitution and found his sister there. He murdered her, although she had as good a right there as he had. Talk about your buccaneers of the Spanish Main, or the heartless men who sat at the feet of Jesus Christ as He hanged on the cross, and gambled for the coat on his back - I'd rather trust my daughter with *them* than some of the smooth rascals in society. They go around with their trousers rolled up, and their only aim is to lead the next girl they can astray. Then they go back to a lot of young bucks like themselves and laugh at her.

I say they are interlopers in decent society. There must be a Hell! *If there isn't, where would these low down scoundrels who force motherhood upon a woman and then haven't the manhood to accept fatherhood go?* There couldn't be a better argument for Hell. And a lot of you young bucks walk around with a pistol in your hip pockets, and if it would explode it would blow your brains out. I believe that any man low-down enough to deliberately ruin a young girl and sell her into a life of shame should be shot on the spot. Shooting is too good for him. What is wrong for the woman is wrong for the man and any other code is rotten.

If a man has the right to sit around telling smutty stories a woman has the same right. The man adulterer is no better than the woman adulteress. There are many young men so vile that the only good use that could be made of them is to dip their heads in buckets of soapsuds and use them for mops.

Perhaps you have no idea of the extent to which the black plague has grown in this country. Much more than half the young men of this country are or have been afflicted with venereal disease. Eighty per cent of the abdominal operations performed on women are caused by disease contracted from their husbands. Most cases of blindness in infants is caused by disease in their fathers. I know this is plain talking, but what is needed in this country are men not afraid to talk plainly to men. There are men hobbling diseased around Omaha who say, "Oh, I don't go to hear Billy. He is too vulgar for me." Rot. Plain speaking is always vulgar to the rascal and old fool who is afraid to hear the truth.

There are 500,000 prostitutes in this country. Besides them,

there are 1,500,000 who are not classed as prostitutes, being kept on the side. Every year 100,000 prostitutes die, directly or indirectly, from the diseases peculiar to their trade. Think of it!

Eighty per cent of the cases of total blindness in the world are a result of venereal diseases. Perhaps the person himself or his parents were not afflicted, but their ancestors were some time or other. The cause of the downfall of Greece and Rome was the degradation of woman's honor and no attempt by men to curb their beastly desires. And the virtue of womanhood is the rampart wall of American civilization.

Some men say they drink because it makes them cool in summer and warm in winter. Then why is it the booze fighter dies from sunstroke or freezes to death quicker than the man who doesn't drink? That's easy. The alcohol drives the blood to the surface, where it warms or freezes quicker.

You drink because there is alcohol in it, and if the alcohol was taken out you might as well drink water. Some of you let 1,000 gallons of beer slop drain through you to get the value of one and three-quarter pounds of beefsteak. If you want to make swill barrels out of your stomachs, go ahead.

One of the first indications of a crushed strawberry stomach is a crushed strawberry nose. Some of the diseases from drinking are locomotor ataxia, stammering, jaundice, Bright's disease.

I defy any man this side of Hell to show me any scintilla of benefit that ever come from hitting the booze.

It is strange the drinking man thinks I am his enemy when I am only trying to protect him from the things he is rushing into. By my voice, my vote and by all my power I am trying to add twenty years to his life, pull the pillow out of the window and put in a pane of glass, and to feed and clothe his wife and babies the way they should, and put carpet on his floor. I can pass the saloon in my strength and not have a desire to take a drink, but there are many who cannot, and I don't see how men can do anything but drown the dirty rotten business in Hell. Drive it back into Hell, where it ought to be, men!

I have seen more drunken men since I came to Omaha, more drunken men in the tabernacle than I have seen in any other city in seven years.

Whisky is rarely pure. Less than 15 per cent of the whisky sold in this country is unadulterated. That's the chief reason it makes men commit crime.

If you want to know what whisky does to you, drop the white of an egg into a glass when you go home, cover it with whisky and let it stand for a time. The white of the egg will harden. That is what whisky does to your nerves. It affects them the same way and you reel and mutter, because your nerves are whisky soaked. If I could show you men today the inside of a drunkard's stomach, hold his liver or kidneys up to your view, that would be all you would want to make you quit hitting the booze.

Alcohol poisons the system, prevents the liver and kidneys doing their work and eventually sends a man tottering and reeling

to a drunkard's grave or to an insane asylum. Men may look healthy but if they drink they are not. Something is wrong with their heart, liver or kidneys. If you don't believe me ask your physician.

I have been drinking your Omaha water for three weeks and I do not believe that anywhere in the country have I drank better, clearer, more refreshing water. I asked where your water came from and they told me from the old muddy Missouri. I could hardly believe that water could be made so pure by filtering. But just in that way do the liver and kidneys filter your blood and when you fill your system with alcohol you stop the filtering process. For 1,900 years alcohol has ruined its millions, sent men to drunkard's graves, impoverished families, wrecked homes and filled our institutions. How much longer are we going to stand it?

Because of my fight against this rotten business, I have suffered attacks from newspapers and from the dirty gang that howls at every man who dares interfere with their illicit profits.

I have been lied about, vilified, insulted, defamed in Omaha since coming, but let me tell you, men of Omaha, any little, rotten, stinking two-by-four sneaking editor of a vile, unspeakable sheet can revile me and talk about me until he is black in the face and I will not give up my fight against that dirty, Godforsaken, rotten business as long as I live.

I'll reach further down and higher up than any man you ever heard of to save you, your wife and babies from the fangs of that beast and I am not going to be turned back or dismayed by the opposition of a pack of curs.

The spawn of Hell barks at my heels from one end of the land to the other. The open saloon is the hotbed of political corruption and the breeding place of criminals, and nest of anarchy, and the incubator of poverty, misery, squalor, want, dishonesty and all that is vile.

I've been through blood and fire for Jesus Christ, and when some of the preachers stop preaching about the New Jerusalem and start preaching against the whisky crowd and the red-light district in these cities something is going to happen.

You Methodists can talk about infant baptism, and the Presbyterians can howl about perseverance and half waters close over me you'll say and the Baptists can howl about water and half of your members go where you can't get a drop.

When I leave old Omaha you can take me down to the Missouri River, tie a millstone around my neck and drop me off the bridge. And when the waters close over me you'll say "There goes a man who wasn't afraid to preach the truth."

You say you can't prohibit men drinking. If Jesus Christ lived in Omaha men would booze fight, men would side step. But when you say you can't enforce the laws you lie. You can enforce the laws against booze as much as against anything else if you have honest, decent officials to do it. There is not a law in the United States which prohibits. There is a law against murder, but does it prohibit? No. Would you advocate a repeal of all the laws

because they do not prohibit? No. You wouldn't let a man murder any one he wanted to by paying a license of \$1,000; or for \$500 ruin any girl over 16 years of age; or for \$250 seduce young girls-or for \$200 license him to crack any safe-or for \$50 license him to burn buildings. That's what you do with the whisky gang.

As many of you know I was a member of the old White Sox ball club, the best club that ever stepped on a diamond. We could beat any other nine men that ever donned a uniform. I was converted in Chicago and forsook the old crowd. The other boys saw me go to Jesus one night in Chicago, but none followed.

Listen! Mike Kelley was sold to Boston for \$10,000. Mike got half of the purchase price. He came up to me and showed me a check for \$5,000. John L. Sullivan, the champion fighter, went around with a subscription paper and the boys raised more than \$12,000 to buy Mike a house.

They gave Mike a deed to the house and they had \$1,500 left and gave him a certificate of deposit for that. His salary for playing with Boston was \$5,000 a year. At the end of that season Mike had spent the \$5,000 purchase price and the \$5,000 he received as a salary and the \$1,500 they gave him and had a mortgage on his house. And when he died down in Allentown, Pennsylvania, they went around with a subscription paper to get money enough to put him in the ground. Mike sat there on the corner with me twenty nine years ago when I said, "I bid you good-bye."

Williamson was the shortstop, a fellow weighing 215 pounds, and a more active man you never saw. When Spaulding took the two clubs around the world, I was the second man asked to sign a contract. I was sliding to second base one day - I always slid head first - and I hit a stone and cut a ligament loose in my knee. I got a doctor and had my leg fixed up, and he said to me: "William, if you don't go on that trip I will give you a good leg." I obeyed, and I have as good a leg today as I ever had. They offered to wait for me at Honolulu and at Australia. Spaulding said: "Meet us in England, and play with us through England, Scotland and Wales." I didn't go. Ed Williamson went with them, and while they were on the ship crossing the English channel a storm arose, and the captain thought the ship would go down. Ed dropped to his knees and prayed and said: "God, bring this ship safe into harbor and I promise to quit drinking and be a Christian." God abated the storm and the ship went into the harbor safely. They came back to the United States and Ed came back to Chicago and started a saloon in Dearborn Street.

I would go through there giving tickets for the Y. M. C. A. meetings and would talk with him, and he would cry like a baby. I would go down and pray for him, and would talk with him. When he died and they put him on the table and cut him open and took out his liver, it was as big as a candy bucket. Ed Williamson sat there on the street corner with me twenty-nine years ago, when I said, "I bid you good-bye."

Frank Flint, our old catcher, who caught for nineteen years, drew \$3,500 a year on an average. He caught before they had

chest protectors and masks and gloves. He caught barehanded.

Every bone in the ball of his hand was broken; you never saw a hand like Frank had. Every bone in his face was broken and his nose and cheek bones, and the shoulder and ribs, had all been broken. Frank was discharged from the Chicago club because he would drink, and nobody else wanted him. He used to hang around the saloon all the time. Many a time I have found poor old Frank asleep on a beer table. I turned my pockets wrong side out and dumped every cent I had on the table and said: "Frank, you can always look to me for half of what I have. I haven't as much now as I had when I was playing ball." Then I was drawing \$5,000 and \$7,000 a year, and was offered \$1,000 a month if I would play ball. But I stuck to my job at \$85 a month.

His wife left him, and one day he staggered out of a saloon and was seized with a paroxysm of coughing. His wife happened to meet him and the old love for him returned. She called a carriage and summoned two policemen, and they carried Frank to her boarding house. She summoned five physicians, the best that money could get.

They felt his pulse, counted, and then told her he couldn't last very long. She leaned over and whispered: "Frank, the doctors say it won't be very long now." Frank looked up and said: "Send for Bill." I hurried over to the house, and as I stood beside his bed he reached up his left hand and put it around my neck and drew me down to him. He said: "Bill, there is nothing that gives me so much comfort as to have you come down on an occasion like this. I can see the crowd hissing when I strike out and they need a run, and I can hear them cheer when I catch a foul tip, or throw a fellow out on the base. But it don't do any good, now, when I come to a time like this."

Frank coughed and his life went out. The umpire had leaned over him and said: "You're out." Frank Flint sat on the street corner with me twenty-nine years ago, when I said, "Boys, I am through."

Men of Omaha - did they win the game of life or did I?



Karen Swallow Prior

SEBTS Hires Gay Affirming Feminist Who Says 'Abortion Isn't Murder' to Teach at SBC Seminary

Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forrest, a seminary belonging to the Southern Baptist Convention, just hired a radical leftist and gay-affirming feminist to its faculty. Karen Swallow Prior's days at Liberty University were limited after promoting her pro-gay book on Liberty's campus only months ago and her increasingly brazen liberal stances becoming more apparent since 2015.

Prior repeatedly uses affirming language toward the LGBTQ (James White agreed that her language was "affirming" on an episode of The Dividing Line), attended pro-LGBTQ fundraisers,

supported pro-LGBTQ ad campaigns, and back-peddled and soft-handed abortion while pretending to have been a pro-life advocate (various claims about her past activism cannot be substantiated). Radical animal rights activists saw Prior as an "ally and resource contributor" to "invade right-wing evangelical institutions with an animal-first agenda" as far back as 2007.

Prior gave glowing accolades of a book that argues against the pro-life position. Prior said in *Christianity Today* that abortion is **not** murder and defended abortionists from the accusation of being "murderers". Prior said that calling abortion murder is unchristlike. She also is on record saying that animal cruelty (in this case, dog-fighting) bothers her **more than abortion**. Don't worry though, she's against capital punishment, so it's all good. In fact, Prior has even been glib about dining with the director of Planned Parenthood, almost reveling in the fact it didn't kill her appetite.

Dr. Prior seems intent on corrupting young people. She praised the "It Gets Better Campaign," which is a pro-LGBT campaign targeted at youth and children and produced videos from Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton encouraging kids in their homosexuality. Dr. Prior praised Common Core curriculum, calling it Good News (we kid you not). Prior endorsed the use of gay porn propaganda in high schools and colleges.

Dr. Prior believes that pets go to Heaven because when you name them it gives them personhood. Prior says she wants an end to modern animal husbandry and factory farms "even if the economy of the country be damned."

Dr. Prior is a political leftist as well. She was thrilled when Bernie Sanders came to Liberty University. But, we can find no such enthusiasm from Prior for any conservative speaker (although she did speak against the President regularly). When the late Rachel Held Evans was appointed to Obama's Faith Advisory Council, Prior was giddy with excitement and enthusiastically applauded her. Prior has given affirming words towards the anti-cop hate-group, Black Lives Matter. She ridiculed Vice President Mike Pence for following the Billy Graham Rule. She promotes and supports illegal immigration. She also says that poor people in bad neighborhoods shouldn't have firearms.

As a feminist (that's a term she uses to describe herself), Prior has launched a ministry program with other progressive-liberal women to promote what they call "hospitable orthodoxy."

Prior has been pushed out of Liberty University because she has been implicated with involvement in the attacks against Jerry Falwell, Jr. (they have come from Prior's gay protege, Brandon Ambrosino, who credited Prior with the courage to "come out of the closet"). After schilling her pro-gay book on campus, her days were limited.

Now, Prior has been hired by **Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary**, which has reverted to a pre-1979 liberalism every bit as progressive as it was prior to the "Conservative Resurgence."

Prior will now be the "full-time research professor of English and Christianity and Culture" starting in 2020.

Sources indicate Dr. Prior began looking for alternative career options after Falwell became wise to her undermining ways and extreme leftism. Primary options for her were Wheaton College through avenues created by Ed Stetzer or a position secured for her at SEBTS by SBC leader Russell Moore.

Dr. Prior, who endorsed the pro-gay Revoice Conference, will fit in well among the cesspool of liberalism that is now the Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. ÷



Participation: KEY To A Healthy Church!



oday, we live in a society filled with **spectators**. We **watch** television. We **watch** sports. We **watch** movies. We **watch** our kids do their things. We even **watch** our lives tick away every hour of every day, and think little of it. The list of things we allow to entertain us is seemingly endless. It seems today that precious few in America do much more than sit back and **watch someone else do something**. Isn't that sad?

It used to be that Americans were the most industrious people on the planet. Not anymore. We've become the most lazy - allowing others to work at those jobs **we** won't do anymore, paying others to do things we **could have** done ourselves, and we've even degenerated to the point we expect **everyone** else to do **everything** else for us, even to the point of paying our way through life. **Isn't that sad?**

The Apostle Paul exhorts all believers that with **"...quietness they work, and eat their own bread" II Thessalonians 3:12b**). Of course, the Church is supposed to care for those who cannot care for themselves, such as widows and orphans, but most churches have left that up to the state. It seems even believers would rather **watch** someone else do it!

We see this even in Christians who are looking for a church home. One of the first things they will ask a pastor will invariably have something to do with the programs that his church offers. What they're usually looking for, in reality, is a church where they can sit around, shirk responsibility, and **"let George do it."**

Well, "George" doesn't go to church here. At least I don't think he does. Therefore, we, as members of the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ, mustn't sit around waiting for ol' George to pick up the slack for us. **Whatever is going to get done will have to be done by us!**

One of the first steps in seeing to it that your church grows is to **participate** in what it does yourself! During the rest of this year, we will be doing several things to prepare for 2020,

including soulwinning opportunities, finishing out the Adult and Children's Sunday School Classrooms, installing new wainscoting in the hallway that was damaged by the broken water pipe, **but we need EVERYONE to participate!**

Of course, this also means that **YOUR FAITHFUL ATTENDANCE** in our **church services and Sunday School is vitally important!** We have had quite a few first-time guests during the last 6-7 months, and we want them to return, but if they visit a church service and find a large portion of the people and families who are already members here missing, it's awfully hard to get them to come back. When everyone is here, we'll have around 50 people in the building, and, whether we like it or not, a fuller building of around 50 people gives a **much better impression** to our first-time guests than 25, which is what we have been having in attendance lately.

Why not purpose in your heart - right now - to get involved in everything God has planned for you, starting with a renewed commitment to be present for our church services, unless God providentially redirects your path, every time they're scheduled?

You'll be glad you did!



HILLSONG SAYS TO CELEBRATE HALLOWEEN

In a recent message, Nathan Finochio, pastor at Hillsong "church" gave ten reasons why you should celebrate Halloween. His piece shows a deep lack of discernment. In response, one ought to note significant godly reasons for not celebrating this so-called holiday. Here is Finochio's list:

1. Don't instill fear of the world.
2. Don't teach them that the world has more fun.
3. Don't teach them superstition.
4. Don't teach them isolationism.
5. Don't teach them a lack of faith.
6. Teach them common grace - candy is from God and that to the pure all things are pure.
7. Teach them the redemptive motif - that we reinterpret culture and give it a new meaning.
8. Teach them that the demonic works by willful agreement, bot [sic] accidental consumption.
9. Teach them in but not of, not out and not of.
10. Critique loudly what you see as you walk. Make them brave and discerning, not scared and superstitious.

So, here are the refutations of this so-called "Christian counsel."

FIRST, avoiding Halloween has nothing to do with fearing the world. Rather it has everything to do with fearing the Lord. **"The fear of the LORD is to hate evil . . ." (Prov. 8:13).** Among God's commands, one finds the following:

"When thou art come into the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not learn to do after the abominations of those nations. There shall not be found among you any one that

maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch, Or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer. For all that do these things are an abomination unto the LORD: and because of these abominations the LORD thy God doth drive them out from before thee. Thou shalt be perfect with the LORD thy God. For these nations, which thou shalt possess, hearkened unto observers of times, and unto diviners: but as for thee, the LORD thy God hath not suffered thee so to do" (Deut. 18:9-14).

SECOND, avoiding Halloween has nothing to do with comparing the world with the "church" on a fun-meter. Many churches have their annual "Trunk and Treat" and have the children do the same as the world. Bringing this nonsense into the church and pretending that we have just as much fun as the world we are trading activities upon the wrong foundation. That is why "churches" galore have activities and programs, festivities and carnivals, to secure the attendance of families with children. One forgets that what you win these families with, is what you win them to. So, one has to outdo the world at every turn. The truth of the matter is that the "fun" of the world is short-lived and will one day be brought before the judgment-throne. Our goal is not to have as much, or more, fun than the world. But, instead, to -

"...hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil" (Eccles. 12:13-14).

THIRD, avoiding Halloween has nothing to do with superstition. Demons are no laughing matter. **"But I say, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to devils, and not to God: and I would not that ye should have fellowship with devils."** The Apostle continues, **"Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils: ye cannot be partakers of the Lord's table, and of the table of devils. Do we provoke the Lord to jealousy? are we stronger than he?"** (II Cor. 10:20-21).

FOURTH, avoiding Halloween is not about isolation but about protection. Isolation is a loaded term and connotes that we are individually an island unto ourselves. But, the Lord ordered our separation or sanctification in His Word. To be separate is about holiness. **"Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you"** (II Cor. 6:17). And, **"But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy"** (I Pet. 1:15-16).

FIFTH, avoiding Halloween has nothing to do with a lack of faith. It has everything to do with faith working through love. Love for God, love for our children, and love for our fellow man. Believing God for all that He reveals in His Word is the foundation for all.

SIXTH, avoiding Halloween has nothing to do with whether candy comes from God or not. By Finochio's reasoning, "candy is from God and that to the pure all things are pure" would lead,

no doubt, to where he would not wish to follow. Because one can claim to be "pure" and imbibe in and relate to many things that the Lord would look upon with disdain. We do not avoid Halloween because candy is bad (though dentists may have something to say about that), but because the whole endeavor is ungodly, characterized by wickedness in costumes, and in some cases behavior. A tribute to demons does not sit well with our Christian profession that Christ has overcome the wicked powers. When we imitate the world we start towards a path that denies in practice what we claim to believe.

SEVENTH, avoiding Halloween has nothing to do with denying Christ's redemption. Finochio says, we ought to teach our children the "redemptive motif - that we reinterpret culture and give it a new meaning." This is a sleight of hand trick applied to theological discourse. Notice the two different words that are italicized: "redemptive" and "reinterpret." In this assertion, Finochio would have us believe that the second is an exposition or an outworking of the first. That is, that redemption (the motif) is effectuated by our reinterpretation of culture. This is nonsense, pure and simple. First, Christ's redemption of the Cosmos will occur when a New Heaven and New Earth appears. In robbing redemption of its actual meaning, and foisting a foreign notion onto the word, one is urged to do what has been long done by professing Christians in their accommodation and compromise with the world. This "reinterpretation of culture" is an attempt to trick the world into becoming "Christian," but in reality, it is more like the Ark letting in the water. Eventually, it is the culture that will dominate and the Church will find that Christianity itself has been redefined and, moreover, left behind.

EIGHTH, avoiding Halloween has nothing to do with thinking that the demonic works by magic [excuse the pun] but by willing adherents. This should jump out and land on the ironic papers. Is this not what Finochio is doing is to get parents to willingly participate in the Halloween activities? **Of course, it is.** If anything, he is soliciting parents to change their minds about Halloween and to go full-fledged in a willing faith to celebrate **with** the lost masses. By taking your children to these satanic festivities, no matter where they are housed or sponsored is to toy with giving them up to Moloch.

NINTH, avoiding Halloween has nothing to do with blurring the lines between in the world but not of it. In his poorly worded ninth principle, Finochio says, **"Teach them in but not of, not out and not of."** Assuming I have understood him correctly, this again is a red herring. Not only does his statement confuse the issue, but it is also unhelpful for any positive action. Does he really imply that teaching our children that we are in the world but not of it, is to be done by taking them to activities in which those of the world relish and participate without blushing? I can understand the principle, that originated with Jesus, if we apply it to supermarket shopping or dry cleaning, but in celebration of the **clearly** demonic we will do great harm to our children in suggesting that we participate but it will not harm us, because unlike the others, we are not "of" the world. Remember what

Haggai said:

"In the four and twentieth day of the ninth month, in the second year of Darius, came the word of the LORD by Haggai the prophet, saying, Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Ask now the priests concerning the law, saying, If one bear holy flesh in the skirt of his garment, and with his skirt do touch bread, or pottage, or wine, or oil, or any meat, shall it be holy? And the priests answered and said, No. Then said Haggai, If one that is unclean by a dead body touch any of these, shall it be unclean? And the priests answered and said, It shall be unclean. Then answered Haggai, and said, So is this people, and so is this nation before me, saith the LORD; and so is every work of their hands; and that which they offer there is unclean (Haggai 2:10-14).

And, **TENTH**, avoiding Halloween has nothing to do with making children scared or superstitious. Finochio says, **"Critique loudly what you see as you walk. Make them brave and discerning, not scared and superstitious."**

So, ignoring the obvious and intended allusions to the demonic in Halloween, how is it that we as parents will actually register our critique if we take our children to it? Again, this seems so ironic as the principle is not upheld by the entire program set forth by the Hillsong pastor. He wants us to participate in Halloween, but at the same time critique what we see. How will our children be discerning if we play both sides by critiquing and participating in the said celebration? Probably, and, one may guess here, Halloween is to be indulged, but other [questionable practices] are to be disdained and forsaken. But will this not make our children afraid of the other thing, whatever it is?

This alleged tenth commandment from Finochio is certain to be violated, upon clear dereliction of duty, as parents keep their children from the wiles of the devil. Maybe the problem is in the advice!

I fear that Finochio is, in reality, Pinnochio.

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