

AND THE PEOPLE CAME...

- Week of December 31, 2023 -

Sunday School	29
Sunday Morning Service	41
Sunday Evening Service	27
Wednesday Eve., 01/03/24 Service	13

AND THE PEOPLE GAVE...

- Week of December 31, 2023 -

<u>Undesignated</u> Tithes & Offerings	\$ 3,940.00
Church Sign Restoration Fund	\$ 135.64
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 12/24/23:	\$ 2,369.24

- Week of December 24, 2023 -

<u>Undesignated</u> Tithes & Offerings	\$ 2,369.24
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 12/24/23:	\$ 2,369.24

- Week of December 17, 2023 -

<u>Undesignated</u> Tithes & Offerings	\$ 1,404.34
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 12/17/23:	\$ 1,404.34

- Week of December 10, 2023 -

<u>Undesignated</u> Tithes & Offerings	\$ 1,390.24
Love Offering Income	\$ 20.00
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 12/10/23:	\$ 1,410.24

- Week of December 3, 2023 -

<u>Undesignated</u> Tithes & Offerings	\$ 2,084.25
Love Offering Income	\$ 300.00
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 12/03/23:	\$ 2,384.25

Average amount of Undesignated Offerings needed for church operating expenses EACH WEEK, as a minimum = \$ 1,600.00

**AND THE LORD
ADDED TO THE CHURCH...**

- Sunday, December 31, 2023 -

Mr. Brandon Klassen ----- Letter

LISTEN TO -

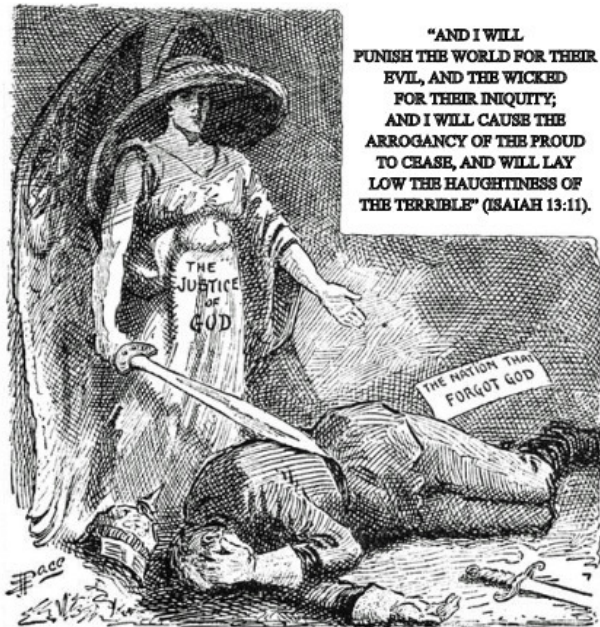


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WHAT IT MEANS TO BE SAVED

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.

LET THE NATIONS TAKE WARNING!



Church Directory

Todd W. White	Pastor
Debra Carlton, Mickie Shatwell, Lois Mae Floyd	Pianists
Derek Quinnelly	Greeter
Kim Phillips; Shirley White/LeAnna White; Berdena Bergman/Debra Carlton; Daniel Avery/GiGi Avery; & Keith Shufelt	Teachers
Larry & Mary Byars	Outreach
LeAnna White	Custodian
Keith Shufelt	Men's Prayer Group
GinaMarie Shufelt	Ladies Bible Study/Flowers
Seth White	Sound/Video

REMINDER



**NEW DNA SEQUENCES OF THE
Y CHROMOSOME REFUTE
HUMAN-APE EVOLUTION**

By Jeffrey P. Tomkins, Ph.d.

DNA sequencing technologies have been progressing rapidly over the past several decades and now finally afford the opportunity to analyze mammalian chromosomes from end to end. In the past, many regions of human and ape genomes have been very difficult to fully decipher because older DNA sequencing technologies were limited to obtaining very short snippets of DNA—impairing their utility to fully decode long, complex, and repetitive DNA regions. However, new long-read DNA sequencing technologies are able to completely read through and traverse these long and difficult chromosomal segments. This new data is proving to be bad news for conventional theories of human-ape evolution.

In a new study being reported, a large group of researchers have produced complete end-to-end DNA sequences of the Y chromosome for a human and the great apes (chimpanzee, gorilla, and orangutan).¹ The researchers also included a gibbon Y chromosome as a primate outgroup. Shockingly, when the new chimp Y chromosome was compared to the human Y chromosome, it was only 26% similar! Since the Y chromosome is the most non-variable chromosome in the mammalian genome due to a lack of recombination with a homologous chromosome, it should be less evolved than the others. But instead of being most similar, it is the most different from that of chimp compared to the other chromosomes. These data directly point to humans being genetically unique and debunk the whole human-ape evolution myth.

Interestingly, a 2010 study was reported where the major gene-rich regions of the chimpanzee Y chromosome were compared to their human counterparts.^{2,3} That study reported that 50% of the human genes had their alleged counterparts missing in chimp genes and that the regions that did have some similarity were located in completely different patterns. This huge evolutionary discrepancy prompted the researchers to say, "Indeed, at 6 million years of [evolutionary time] separation, the difference in MSY gene content in chimpanzee and human is more comparable to the difference in autosomal gene content in chicken and human, at 310 million years of separation."³ In other words, the human Y chromosome looks just as different from a chimp as the other human chromosomes do from a chicken.

Another very interesting angle that came out of this new 2023 report is that each great ape Y chromosome was unique from that of other ape kinds. For example, chimpanzee compared to gorilla and orangutan was only 19.8% and 21.1% similar, respectively.⁴ Gorilla compared to human was only 25.1% similar, and orangutan compared to human was only 23.1% similar. As a whole, not only was human-ape evolution refuted, but great ape evolution in general met its demise.

From a Genesis-based interpretation of these new data, it is quite clear that the results fully support the biblical claim that humans are created uniquely in God's image (Genesis 1:27) and did not evolve from an ape-like ancestor. Furthermore, the data also supports the idea that each created type of creature was made by God "according to its kind" (Genesis 1:24). In other words, chimpanzees, gorillas, and orangutans are each a unique ape kind, which makes perfect sense since none of them can interbreed with each other, and each has its own set of unique biological and anatomical features. Once again, science confirms the Bible and refutes evolution. ■



Philip P. Bliss (1838-1876)

Hymns - Philip Bliss

Philip P. Bliss (1838-1876) might have become the most prolific hymn writer of his era had he not died young. He grew up in a log cabin in Pennsylvania and was saved at age 12. He married Lucy Young in 1859. They shared a love for music and sang duets together. He loved music from childhood but had no opportunity for formal training until 1860 when Lucy's grandmother donated \$30 so he could attend a six-week program at the Normal Academy of Music of New York. From 1865 to 1873, he worked with the Root and Cady Musical Publishers in Chicago, conducting music conventions, singing schools, and concerts.

In 1874, he surrendered his music talents totally to the Lord's service. "Mr. Bliss made a formal surrender of his life to Jesus Christ. He gave up everything, his musical conventions, his writing of secular songs, his business position, his work at the church, so that he would be free to devote full time to the singing of sacred music in evangelism" (Ed Reese, *Philip P. Bliss*).

Bliss was the song leader for evangelist Daniel Whittle from 1874 to 1876. They had 25 campaigns in eight states in the east, south, and midwest. He published his first book of *Gospel Songs* and devoted the entire profit of \$30,000 to evangelism. After Ira Sankey returned from the Moody crusades in England in 1875, the Bliss/Sankey songbooks were combined into Gospel Hymns and Sacred Songs.

In November 1876, Bliss conducted a service for the 800 inmates of the Michigan State Prison and saw the fruit of genuine repentance in many. There he sang "*Hallelujah, What a Saviour*" and another of his own, "*Eternity*."

Philip Bliss's popular hymns include the following:

"Jesus Loves Even Me" (1870)

"Hold the Fort" (1870)

"Whosoever Will" (1870)

"Almost Persuaded" (1871)

"Once for All" (1871)

"Dare to Be a Daniel" (1873)

"Pull for the Shore" (1873)

"Hallelujah, What a Saviour!" (1875)

"The Light of the Word Is Jesus" (1875)

"Let the Lower Lights Be Burning" (1875)

"Wonderful Words of Life" (1874)

"I Will Sing of My Redeemer" (1876) (tune by James McGranahan)

"Hallelujah 'Tis Done" (1876)

Bliss wrote the tunes to Frances Havergal's "*I Gave My Life for Thee*" and Horatio Spafford's "*It Is Well with My Soul*" (1876).

Agreeing to begin work with D.L. Moody in late 1876, Bliss and his wife traveled to Rome, Pennsylvania, for Christmas holidays with Bliss's mother and sister, and immediately

afterwards booked seats on a train back to Chicago for meetings that were to begin the Sunday following Christmas. As the train neared Ashtabula, Ohio, a bridge collapsed and the cars plunged 75 feet into the icy river below. "*Five minutes after the train fell, fire broke out from the kerosene heaters in the train's cars. Fanned by gale-like winds, the wooden coaches were soon fiercely ablaze. Mr. Bliss succeeded in extricating himself and crawling to safety through a window. Finding his wife was pinned under the ironwork of the seats, he returned into the car, and bravely remained at her side, trying to extricate her as the flames took their toll. All that remained was a charred mass. No trace of their bodies was ever discovered*" (Reese). It was said that Bliss was a man of "herculean stature," but he couldn't rescue his wife and they perished together. With the remains of other passengers whose bodies could not be recognized, that of Philip and Lucy Bliss were buried in a mass grave that was marked with a large monument.

The Blisses were survived by two sons, George and Philip, who were aged four and one at the time of their parents' death.

Bliss had sent their trunk ahead to Chicago, and it arrived safely. In it was "*I Will Sing of My Redeemer*," which was later set to music by James McGranahan. Also in the trunk was the last song that Bliss wrote the music for, a poem by Mary Brainard entitled "*He Knows*." It was first sung at Bliss's funeral.

"He Knows"

1: I know not what awaits me, God kindly veils mine eyes,
And o'er each step of my onward way He makes new scenes to rise;
And every joy He sends me, comes A sweet and glad surprise.

Refrain: Where He may lead me I'll follow, My trust in Him repose,
And every hour in perfect peace I'll sing, He knows, He knows;
And every hour in perfect peace I'll sing, He knows, He knows.

2: One step I see before me, 'Tis all I need to see,
The light of Heav'n more brightly shines, When earth's illusions flee;
And sweetly through the silence, came His loving "Follow Me."

3: Oh, blissful lack of wisdom, 'Tis blessed not to know;
He holds me with His own right hand, And will not let me go,
And lulls my troubled soul to rest In Him Who loves me so.

4: So on I go not knowing, I would not if I might;
I'd rather walk in the dark with God Than go alone in the light;
I'd rather walk in faith with Him Than go alone by sight. ■

NEWS OF INTEREST TO CHRISTIANS

❑ **THE STATE OF "GENDER AFFIRMING CARE" FOR YOUTH IN THE U.S., ENGLAND, AND EUROPE** - The following is excerpted from "*Increasing Number of European Nations Adopt a More Cautious Approach*," Forbes, June 6, 2023:

"Increasingly, European nations are adopting a more cautious approach to gender-affirming care among minors. In March, for example, the Norwegian Healthcare Investigation Board announced it would revise its current clinical recommendations

with respect to 'gender-affirming care' for minors. The updated guidelines would restrict the use of puberty blockers, cross-sex hormones and transition-related surgery to clinical research settings. Norway joins other European nations, such as Finland, Sweden and the U.K., in introducing limits on the provision of gender-affirming care to minors. In the U.S., a partisan divide is shaping up between states that allow for and guarantee access to youth gender-affirming care and states that ban or severely restrict gender-affirming care for minors. There doesn't appear to be much middle ground. Thus far this year, 12 states have either banned or severely limited gender-affirming care for minors. It's expected that more Republican-led states will soon follow suit. At the same time, five Democrat-led states have passed legislation designed to legally protect transgender healthcare coverage and access for minors.

... In the U.S., talk of introducing guardrails is sometimes met with being branded 'transphobic' or a 'science denier.' ... But caution with respect to gender-affirming care for minors may be warranted, as European experience indicates.

... In Europe, there has been a gradual shift from care which prioritizes access to pharmaceutical and surgical interventions, to a less medicalized and more conservative approach that addresses possible psychiatric comorbidities and explores the developmental etiology of trans identity.

... From puberty blockers to cross-sex hormones to surgery, the rules across Europe tend to be either stricter than many jurisdictions in the U.S. or in the process of tightening."

❑ **PASTOR EXPOSES SOUTHERN BAPTIST MEGACHURCH FOR ITS COMPROMISE WITH HOMOSEXUALITY** - The First Baptist Church of Orlando, Florida, which recently changed its name to *First Orlando*, is facing two ways in regard to homosexuality. On one hand, the church allows practicing homosexuals, even those in same-sex marriages, to participate in all aspects of church life, even in ministry. They are baptized and they participate in baptisms of their friends. They are on greeting committees and other ministry teams.

A prominent example is Joe Mills, a man who has been affiliated with First Baptist since about the time that he "married" his male partner in 2021 ("*Is a Southern Baptist Megachurch Now Affirming?*" *The Christian Post*, Dec. 12, 2023). On the other hand, when challenged about this, the church claims that it is not "affirming" of homosexuality, that it does not allow homosexuals to be members, etc.

In contrast, Beulah Baptist Church of Winter Garden refuses to play religious politics and word games. The church is one of many that have left the Southern Baptist Convention over the deep and growing spiritual and doctrinal compromise. Beulah's senior pastor, Casey Butner, does not mince words in warning about what is happening in the SBC. Butner told the *Christian Post*, "Basically, Joe Mills was a member [of First Orlando], and they removed his membership [when the questions started]. ... Joe may not [currently] be officially on paper as a member, because he doesn't agree with the Southern Baptist doctrine of marriage, but

he certainly is doing and participating in every way at First Baptist Church as a full blown member would be afforded. [He is] able to interact and be around the inner circle of the church, in a way as if he was a trusted Christian. He's in the baptismal [pool] baptizing people, and though he would say he didn't, the video footage shows that he did." Butner continues, "David Uth, the senior pastor [at First Orlando] is just simply acting more like a chameleon. And whatever pragmatically works best to try and be the largest church in Central Florida. Numbers are the end goal, and they are very slick in being able to ease in a liberal, progressive agenda with their methods. They would keep things a bit ambiguous so that they can flip it to the left or to the right, in whichever conversation is most advantageous for them. ... I'm definitely an Ezekiel 33 type guy who believes with all of my heart that I will be blood guilty before God if I did not warn, and so part of the faithful job description of a pastor, according to Titus 1:9, is not only to speak sound doctrine, and hope to live, but also to refute those who contradict it. And I just see it as being faithful." Butner warned in conclusion, "*We have a plague in America. American Christianity is no Christianity at all. We're too comfortable. We have our tax ID statuses and we have freedom of religion or freedom of speech. We need New Testament Christianity, not American Christianity.*"

❑ **NEW MEXICO JOINS 31 OTHER STATES SUING SOCIAL MEDIA COMPANIES ON CHILD SAFETY ISSUES** - The following is excerpted from "*This Might Be Facebook's Lowest Moment Yet*," *PJMedia*, Dec. 7, 2023:

"Almost every day of my life it seems I have some new reason to think I'm the best dad in the world for keeping my kids off of Facebook and Instagram--and today is another one of those days. Investigators in New Mexico created a fake account for a seventh-grade girl named 'Issa Bee,' complete with AI-generated photos of her. Issa quickly attracted 'thousands of adult followers who deluged her with both invitations to join private chat groups and sex content featuring both children and adults,' according to the Wall Street Journal. With allegedly no effective safeguards in place to prevent child exploitation, this week New Mexico Attorney General Raul Torrez filed suit against Meta--the parent company of both social media platforms--alleging that the company 'has allowed Facebook and Instagram to become a marketplace for predators in search of children upon whom to prey.' The suit also holds founder and CEO Mark Zuckerberg 'personally responsible' for the decisions that created platforms that have 'enabled dozens of adults to find, contact, and press children into providing sexually explicit pictures of themselves or participate in pornographic video.' Among other, equally lurid offenses, including allowing 'users to find, share, and sell an enormous volume of child pornography,' and serving 'underage users a stream of egregious, sexually explicit images--even when the child has expressed no interest in this content.'

... Torrez's lawsuit joins a long list of other states fighting similar legal battles against Meta for enabling child predators--32 states now that New Mexico is on board."