

AND THE PEOPLE CAME...

Week of February 28, 2021

Sunday Morning Service -----	28
Sunday Evening Service -----	21
Wed. Evening Service, 03/03/21 -----	8

AND THE PEOPLE "TUNED IN"...

Week of February 28, 2021

- Number of people who connected with our services on Facebook -

Sunday Morning Service:		
149 Views	112 Engagements	305 People Reached
Sunday Evening Service:		
263 Views	75 Engagements	436 People Reached
Wednesday Evening Service:		
29 Views	85 Engagements	34 People Reached

AND THE PEOPLE GAVE...

- Week of February 28, 2021 -

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings -----	\$ 2,031.54
Church Insurance Fund -----	\$ 50.00
Love Offering -----	\$ 25.00
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 02/28/21:	\$ 2,111.54

- Week of February 21, 2021 -

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings -----	\$ 869.79
Love Offering -----	\$ 25.00
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 02/21/21:	\$ 894.79

- Week of February 14, 2021 -

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings -----	\$ 991.99
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 02/14/21:	\$ 991.99

- Week of January 31, 2021 -

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings -----	\$ 1,353.09
Church Insurance Fund -----	\$ 10.00
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 01/31/21:	\$ 1,363.09

- Week of January 24, 2021 -

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings -----	\$ 479.52
Church Insurance Fund -----	\$ 30.00
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 01/24/21:	\$ 509.52

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

**PLEASE BE FAITHFUL TO GIVE,
- ESPECIALLY NOW**

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.*



THANK YOU For Your Continued Faithfulness In Giving!

During the early part this pandemic, we were unable to meet in the church-house. But - that did not mean that the expenses of having a church-house were suspended. We still had bills to pay - electricity, gas, water, trash pickup, phone, internet, facility insurance, copier lease, office supplies, etc., and, praise the Lord, His people kept praying, watching online, & supporting their church with their giving.

Some people only give when they are in attendance at church - sort of like paying for "services rendered" - but the truth is that they are robbing THEMSELVES of God's blessings when they withhold their tithes and offerings and only give when they are here (see Malachi 3:10). Thankfully, our people have remained faithful, in so many ways, during this crisis, including financially.

WE HAVE 3 WAYS YOU CAN GIVE DURING THIS CRISIS:

1. **By mail** - 23 East Wells Blvd., Sapulpa, OK 74066
2. **Drop it off** - call the Church Office to arrange it. 224-1924
3. **Online** - Go to the link below and give electronically:

<https://tithe.ly/give?c=433047>

WE ARE GLAD WE CAN NOW GATHER TOGETHER TO PRAISE GOD & STUDY HIS WORD TOGETHER IN THE CHURCH-HOUSE! YOUR GENEROUS GIFTS WILL HELP US KEEP UP WITH THE BILLS AND CONTINUE OUR OUTREACH EFFORTS!

Church Directory

Todd W. White -----	Pastor
Lois Mae Floyd -----	Pianist/ Organist
Mickie Shatwell -----	Evening Pianist
Derek Quinnelly -----	Greeter
Larry Byars -----	S.S. Teacher
Larry & Mary Byars, Susan Strain -----	Outreach
Bertha Segebarr -----	Custodian
Flowers -----	Shirley & Brenda White
Sound/Video -----	Seth White



CHURCH INSURANCE FUND

Monthly Premium, Due 03/05/21-----	\$ 537.92
Amount Received To Date -----	\$ 50.00

TOTAL SHORT FOR FEBRUARY 2021: ----- \$ 487.92

Thank You For Your Faithful Help With This Need!

SOUTH HEIGHTS BAPTIST'S WEEKLY
REMINDER

Volume XXVII

March 7, 2021

Number 9



The Doctrine of Repentance

by Evangelist Gipsy Smith
1860-1947

You will find the text in the first chapter of Mark, beginning at the fourteenth verse: "*After John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom of God, and saying, Repent ye.*"

Jesus came into Galilee preaching the Gospel of repentance. My theme tonight is: "**Bible Repentance.**"

Let me say at the beginning, I have nothing very pleasant to say, therefore, I pray you, hear me patiently. My message is not soothing at all. Indeed, you may get very angry with me. I shall not be surprised if you do. They got angry when this doctrine was first preached from, and wherever it is preached in the hearing of evildoers somebody will still get angry, but it is the preacher's business to preach it. The doctrine of repentance is the most unpopular doctrine in the New Testament. It is the most neglected doctrine of the New Testament, and for every one sermon you hear preached on repentance you will hear twenty on the love of God, and some of you have been preached to on love till you are lovesick. And if you laugh at it, it shows you do not realize what I am talking about, for I am not here to make you giggle. I would rather see you weep, for, God knows, there is need of it. I am afraid that in our zeal, in our enthusiasm to get people into the church we have lowered the standard. We have widened the doors, but not God's doors, for they never can be widened. Their limits were set on Calvary, and nobody with any human fingers, or planning, or scheming, or effort can move back the straight and the narrow gate. I am afraid, I say, that in our zeal to get people into our churches we have lowered the standard, and I, believe me, would rather lose my soul in an honest attempt at keeping the standard up. Even though I never reached it. I would rather lose my soul in that effort than save my soul lowering the standard to suit my own miserable, contemptible ideals and experience.

TOO EASY FOR PEOPLE TO COME INTO CHURCH

Listen! Jesus on Calvary is not the substitute for the life He means me to live. That is the power and the place where we get our equipment to live the life which God means us to live. I am afraid, I say, we have made it too easy for people to come into the church. Jesus never made it easy; the apostles never made it easy; the fathers of our churches, the founders of our churches never made it easy. To multitudes if people nowadays it costs nothing to come into the churches, and it costs nothing to go out. They give up nothing when they come in and leave nothing behind when they go out. When I came to Christ it meant something. A quarter of a century ago it did mean something to come to Jesus. It was a pilgrimage, it was a warfare, it was a conflict, it was a struggle. It meant an honest attempt to do the will of God, and we heard something about cutting off right arms then, and taking out our eyes then. There was a text in the Book that talked about the Cross, and something else that spoke about self-denial. It meant being willing to be a fool for Christ's sake, to be misrepresented, slandered and abused; it meant walking alone, to be ostracized, to be bated for His dear sake; it meant resisting unto blood, striking against sin; it meant tears and loneliness; there was a place on the map called Gethsemane; there was a day in the calendar called Good Friday, and there was another day called Easter, and there was no getting to Easter if we tried to dodge Good Friday. Coming to Jesus, being a Christian a quarter of a century ago meant business, it meant a life, a life lived in harmony with the Eternal.

What is it now? It is a picnic. It is a social. It is an endeavor. To join a church taking communion is a mockery, a caricature. May God open our eyes! Remember, remember, this Gospel of repentance holds the field till Jesus recalls it. He has not recalled it, and

(continued inside)

therefore I am going to preach it. And one of the reasons why you have got such a sickly, sentimental crop of so-called believers in the churches who can get up enthusiasm for a fancy fair or a lecture, but are not there when there is a prayer meeting and they are conspicuous by their absence when Christianizing evangelism is on hand, is because they were not born right. They skipped the main business.

WHAT A SPURIOUS REPENTANCE MEANS

A spurious repentance means a spurious Christian life, and the man who dodges this dodges everything. John came preaching repentance and they put him in jail for it. They did not like it, and if some of you get up and go out mad while I am speaking I shall know which one I have hit. They got mad at John for preaching repentance. They did not like it, and they put him in jail.

Listen! As soon as John was put in prison Jesus took up John's doctrine because it was Christ's before It was John's. Jesus took up the same theme when John was silent, and He was in Galilee and His first public sermon in that part of the world was on repentance, and He knew where to begin. He knew. The first public utterance of the Son of God in that part of the world was, "Repent ye," Oh, for some John, the man m camel's hair coat and iron girdle, with that fiery tongue and the flashing eye and the thundering voice to stand somewhere in Brooklyn and New York and in the cities of the world— with "a voice that commands", shouting with his might, "**Repent!**" for that is what is needed. I wish I knew how to do it.

And, if you care to look at the last words Jesus spoke to the world before He left it, when He got the mark of the nails in His hands and feet up yonder on the mountain and was about to leave His disciples and go back to Glory, yon will find He gave the commission to preach repentance; so that in His first and last utterances we have got "repentance." And when He got back to the throne, as though He had not said the last word about it, and as though He looked down through the ages and saw that some of us would shrink to preach it— it is far easier to congratulate than to expostulate— as though He knew that some of us would shrink from proclaiming the whole counsel of God.

A SOP TO SOOTHE THE CONSCIENCE

He looked out of the clouds and said to a man called Saul, "Saul, jou go to the Gentiles and make them do works meet for repentance—make them." Jesus never made it easy. He did not say "only believe," and the Bible does not say it. And the man who says it preaches a mongrel Gospel. It is a sop from the pit to soothe the conscience, only saying "Peace when there is no peace." Peace, while the world is in anarchy! Peace, while the heart is in rebellion! Peace, while God is defied! Peace, when I have dethroned the Infinite! No, sir, there never can be, peace until there is a cessation of hostilities toward God; until occasion for war is put away. You need not bother your head about peace; the Kingdom of God begins with righteousness, and then peace. Right first, and when a man gets right with God his peace will flow like a river.

My friends, we have been more anxious to count heads than hearts, and there are thousands of people in America called backsliders, who never were frontsliders. Don't you label yourself when you are dealing with these things, but allow God to put His own labels on, and don't you go ahead of Him! No, let me say it again: If the repentance is not genuine, everything is false. And so at the beginning of these days, I want, if I can, to clear the ground, for there is a good deal of vague misunderstanding about this mighty doctrine, and I think it is enforced over sixty times in the New Testament and all the epistles were written to show men how to repent. We ought to know, but alas! many of us are ignorant as to what the word means and what Christ means when He says: "**Repent.**"

I said, just now, that Jesus never made it easy. Let me prove it. Here is a man who came to Him saying: "*What shall I do to inherit eternal life?*" and Jesus said: "**Sell all thou hast, and give to the poor, and follow me.**" He went away. It was not easy. Here is another man who came to Him and said: "We know that thou art a teacher come from God, for no man can do the things thou doest except God be with him," and He said, "**You must be born again,**" and He could not make it easy even for a master in Israel.

Here is another man. He said: "Lord, are there few that be saved," and Jesus said: "**You save yourself; you strive to enter in, you agonize and struggle to enter in at the strait gate.**" Here is another: He was one of the popular sort that is moved by anything and carried away by emotion, and he says: "Lord, I will follow Thee whithersoever Thou goest," and Jesus knew he had not counted the cost and He said: "**The foxes have holes and the birds have nests, but the Son of Man hath not where to lay his head.**"

As much as to say: "If you are going to follow me, it won't be easy." One day, when it seemed as if the multiude would be disciples. He stopped and held up a cross (for that was ever the test), and He said: "**If any man will be my disciple, let him deny himself and follow me.**"

THE STRUGGLE TO LEAD AN HONEST LIFE

Jesus never made it easy, and let any man in the house who has tried honestly for twenty-four hours in his life to do right tell me if it is easy. For me it is a struggle, it is a conflict, it is a fight, inch by inch, and the best days, in ray own estimation, are poor, for I spoil them with some rudeness; I stumble a thousand times where I'm out of control; but God knows when I stumble, I stumble with my face toward what I would like to do. But it is not easy, it is not easy.

But, blessed be God, there is victory in the struggle. You say, "Repent, what is it for?" I must repent, and you must repent, and the man who does not will never know what God is and what Christ is and what the Holy Spirit is, and what salvation, joy and peace are. You will never know unless you come this way. This is God's unalterable plan for saving men.

"What is it?", you say.

2. **Mandates that schools notify parents of a child's expressed inconsistency with their gender**
3. **Establishes criminal penalties for the violation of this law**

- A Class C felony in Alabama appears to come with up to 10 years in prison and or a \$15,000 fine

There is no grandfather clause in this bill, meaning that once this bill is enforced doctors will have to cease their current child abusing practices. This bill does not address males competing in women's sports nor gendered spaces like bathrooms; however, one can argue that it mitigates these issues.

The bill passed the Alabama Senate 23-4 along strictly partisan lines.



**DR. RAY MEIER WILL BE WITH US
MARCH 21ST IN BOTH SERVICES - HE
WILL BE PREACHING THE GOSPEL
USING CHALK ART
INVITE SOMEONE TO HEAR THE WORD
OF GOD PREACHED AND PRESENTED
IN THIS FASCINATING AND UNIQUE
WAY!**

I SMILED AT THIS -



- During his wedding rehearsal, the groom approached his pastor with an unusual offer. "I'll give you \$100 if you'll change the wedding vows, and leave out the 'love, honor, obey, and forsake all others' part." He pressed a \$100 bill in the pastor's hand and walked away with a satisfied smile.

On the day of the wedding, the groom was feeling pretty pleased when the pastor got to the part where the vows are exchanged. The pastor looked him in the eye and asked, "Will you promise to bow before her, obey whatever command she gives, fulfill her every wish, serve her breakfast each morning, and swear before God that you'll not look at another woman as long as you both shall life?"

The groom gulped and looked astonished, but he finally said

"Yes" in a tiny voice. He then leaned in toward the pastor and whispered, "I thought we had a deal!"

The pastor pressed the \$100 bill back into his hand and whispered in return, "She made me a much better offer."

● In Sunday School one morning Little Joey raised his hand and proceeded to ask a question that had perplexed him for some time.

"Mr. Whitehead," said little Joey, "there's something I can't figure out. According to the Bible, the Children of Israel crossed the Red Sea, right?"

"Right."

"And the Children of Israel beat up the Philistines, right?"

"Er, right."

"And the Children of Israel built the Temple, right?"

"Again you're right."

"And the Children of Israel fought the Egyptians and the Children of Israel were always doing something important, right?"

"All that is right, too," agreed Mr. Whitehead. "So what's your question, Joey?"

"What were all the grown-ups doing?"

● Sometimes life gets difficult and we feel there is no way we can go on. I heard a story about a man who lived in Memphis, Tennessee. He married a wife who became the light of his life.

He was constantly talking about how happy he was being married. He said, "If anything happened to my wife, I couldn't make it." He kept on saying it.

But after some months of such happy marriage, she fell ill, then passed away. And they say he buried his wife and had inscribed on her tombstone:

THE LIGHT OF MY LIFE HAS GONE OUT

They say he then left Memphis and came to Chattanooga. There, he met a young lady. After awhile, he fell in love with her. When he proposed, she accepted.

Then he happened to think what he had put on that grave:

THE LIGHT OF MY LIFE HAS GONE OUT

Now that he was going to get married again, he wired the tombstone maker: "If you don't mind, change that tombstone. I decided to get married again."

They got married and went back to Memphis. After some days he decided to take her out to the grave of his first wife. He happened to think, "How did he change that tombstone? To what did he change it?"

He soon found it. It read:

**THE LIGHT OF MY LIFE HAS GONE OUT, BUT I
STRUCK ANOTHER MATCH**

That is exactly what each of us needs to do when we face the darkness of hard times. Whatever happens we need to strike another match and keep on keeping on. ■

One of Gayle’s most popular songs today is a song called “*New Name Written Down in Glory.*” On the surface, and from the title, it sounds like it might be okay. ***But is it?*** Let’s look at the lyrics.

A quick look at the lyrics reveals from a conservative count that the words “I,” “me,” “my,” or “mine” are repeated at least **101 times**. Compared to “He,” “Jesus,” or any reference to God, **25 times**. And, even when Jesus is mentioned, it’s only in reference to what He has done “*for her.*”

I’m so glad He changed me...

But Jesus pulled me out...

Jesus is mine...and He’s mine...

“Mine,” “mine,” “mine,” ... that’s what this song is about...

The song is so full of references to herself that one wonders if Jesus even has any part in her worship experience. She seems to be so happy now about who she is and what she has; “There is a new name written down in glory And it’s mine, yes, it’s mine.”

But perhaps the worst part of this song is when they begin a refrain towards the end that really takes the focus **off of God** and places it directly on ***themselves***, in one of the most blasphemous, self-affirming ways, even by invoking the name of God for themselves. And it’s repeated eight times in succession”

I am who I am because the I Am tells me who I am

I am who I am because the I Am tells me who I am

I am who I am because the I Am tells me who I am

I am who I am because the I Am tells me who I am

I am who I am because the I Am tells me who I am

I am who I am because the I Am tells me who I am

I am who I am because the I Am tells me who I am

I am who I am because the I Am tells me who I am

Anyone who actually worships God knows that the name “***I Am***” is reserved for God, yet, blasphemers like Joel Osteen and Steven Furtick regularly take this name and apply it to themselves.

Now, through the musical apostasy of self-loving idolaters like Charity Gayle and her band, this prosperity gospel garbage is now being mainstreamed in Evangelical churches across the globe. If you don’t believe me, watch this garbage below and see how simple-minded pew-sitters react as they praise and worship themselves during this that they call “worship.”

It’s time churches abandon this junk and get back to worshipping the one true God. ■

SBC PRESIDENT J. D. GREEAR DEFENDS STAFF MEMBER WHO HAD GAY HOOKUPS ONLINE AND LOOKED AT GAY PORNOGRAPHY

by Jeff Maples
03/06/21

In a podcast, JD Greear defended a former staff member who said that while he was on his personal pastoral staff and “very active” in his church for many years, he secretly looked at gay

porn and hooked up on gay dating sites. Despite the fact that this went on for years, Greear defends him saying that he needs to “feel his pain” and “learn to grapple with his questions from his point of view.”

Interestingly, this is the **same** staff member that Greear defiled the pulpit with when he and this guy danced together to a Whitney Houston song and Greear “shook his rump.”

He goes on to say that this person is “still very close to his family” and that even though he was secretly addicted to gay porn and hooked up with other men online, he still lets him around his kids. “My kids love him,” he says.

While Greear doesn’t go as far as to affirm homosexuality, Greear has insisted that the Scriptures only “whisper” about homosexuality while addresses other sins—such as greed or boasting—in a much greater way. He’s also called on Christians to stand up for LGBTQ rights.

So this begs the question: what do we need to see from this person’s point of view? Do the Scriptures not provide a clear enough point of view? While this guy was running around on the pastoral staff and pretending to be a Christian, he was hooking up on gay dating sites and looking at gay porn. All behind everyone’s back. Romans 1 is clear—he gave up natural relations with women and he was consumed with passion for other men (Romans 1:27).

So what is it exactly we need to see? Would J. D. Greear say the same thing about a man abusing women? Greear and the Southern Baptist Convention have a no-tolerance policy for that. In fact, they’ve invented an entire committee to investigate and disfellowship churches who even consider hiring someone who has even considered batting an eye at a woman who isn’t his wife.

Should we approach them with the same compassion and understanding? Wasn’t he just born that way? Shouldn’t we see things from his point of view? Yet, when it comes to gay sin, Greear wants us to approach them with “understanding” because the Bible only “whispers” about that.

ALABAMA SENATE PASSES BILL TO CRIMINALIZE TRANSGENDERING CHILDREN

The Alabama legislature has taken steps to take the offensive against the current trend to allow parents to change the gender of a child.

SB10, which calls itself the ***Alabama Vulnerable Child Compassion and Protection Act***, takes aim at making it illegal for doctors to transgender a child. It’s key point are as follows:

1. Prohibits medical professionals from transgendering a child

- Medical procedure or medication
- Includes puberty blockers
- Provides exceptions based on a medical diagnosis that can be empirically proven

First, it is not conviction; you can be convicted without repentance. It is one thing to be called at 5 o’clock in the morning and another thing to get up. It is one thing to be awake and another thing to arise. It is one thing to see your duty and another thing to face it and do it like a man. It is one thing to have light and another thing to have life. It is one thing to say, “I know the right,” and another thing to say, “I am honestly seeking to do it.”

And God took the trouble a while ago to awaken some of you in your moral light. It was dark, very dark, and He awoke you—you were awake. And to make sure. He struck a light for you when He illuminated your judgment and He said, “This is the path I want you to walk.” You were awakened; you were convicted; you were alarmed; you were concerned; your conscience was aroused; you knew you were wrong; you were made to smart; you could not sleep; you shed tears; you could not rest; you were mightily moved on account of your own sin and your own state and your own condition. God, the Infinite God, took the trouble to awaken you, to convince you, and had you submitted, had you paid attention, you would “have been a Christian.”

But, listen! You killed, you fled, you resisted, you fought against it; you said, “No;” you rolled over and went to sleep again. But you were once convicted, and you remember it to this day, although you are gray-headed; you have not forgotten that conviction.

WHY DO MEN PUT CHRIST AWAY?

There are others of you who have been living in that state for years. You never hear your own old pastor but you say, “He is right, and I might to be a Christian, and I should renounce my sin and give up this thing that is holding me and enslaving me, binding me, stealing away my manhood and killed the best in me. I should give it up if I were manly enough,” yet you go on in that state.

Yes, you have conviction, but that IS NOT enough. Conviction is not repentance. “What is it, then?”

It is not sorrow for sin. You may be sorry in a way without repentance. The young lawyer was; but he was only sorry enough to go away without Jesus. And, remember, he wept. But he went away without Christ; and do not think your tears count if your heart is in rebellion. Some people can weep over a sermon as they weep at a funeral, weep at a play, at a sentimental story, and because their tears are handy they think they are half in the Kingdom.

Their tears are an insult to the Deity until they submit to His command. Something more than tears IS needed. And do not whisper sweet little messages to yourself because your heart is soft and you can cry and your emotions are easily set going; that you cannot be in a very bad state, because you are in a very bad state until you go and sav, ‘Lord, Thy will be done in me. “Until you get there,” God says, “Why bring your vain oblation; why bring your tears; I am weary of them, weary of them. Obedience is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.”

No, sorrow is not sufficient. What is it, then? Listen! It is not

promises to be better. It is not emotion. It is not excitement. It is not sensationalism. It is not hanging after evangelists and evangelization. It is not tramping from church to church to hear a man speak or sing or pray. There is something infinitely better than all these things. It is not church fellowship or communions. It is not self-elected work. It is not getting busy about religious things. It goes deeper than all these things and it should precede all these things.

It is that one great, deliberate act of the soul. It is the command of God to be willing and obedient and it is the response of the awakened intelligent, redeemed soul to the call of its God.

WHAT REPENTANCE IS

Listen! In Bible language it is turning - turning from sin to God, from sin to God. That is repentance —***from and — to***. It is putting your hand on your heart and getting hold of the thing that has been your curse, the enslaving passion, the captivity, the predominating force in your existence, the blackening thing, the hellish thing, the damning thing of your soul and dragging it out— by the hair of the head and saying, “***There, Lord Jesus that is it, and I will die before I will commit it again. I turn from it now, and forever.***” ***That*** is repentance; ***That*** is Bible repentance.

Listen! Have you repented after that fashion? Don’t talk about being a church member until you have done this, for it is an insult to God to talk about church membership until you have. Which is the first thing? The first thing is to repent.

O, Holy Spirit, help us to be honest.

Listen! Repentance is such a beautiful thing that when a man does it, Jesus says, “There is joy in heaven.” Have you repented after this fashion? I dare not make it easier; the Bible does not. We must put God in His right place. We must play at religion no longer; we must begin to live it.

A REVIVAL AMONG THE WEALTHY

On one of my trips to your great city I spent, some of you will remember, nearly six months in New York. Hundreds of people were converted. One morning, I sat at the breakfast table of a very wealthy family. The wife, a splendid Christian woman, who bears an honored name and does great work in this country for God, said, “Brother Smith, I wish we could do something for the rich women of our city. Some have been to your meetings, but the majority are afraid to go. I have an idea: If you give a few meetings especially for them, privately, in some drawing room, I think if they were invited by letter they would come.” And we arranged half a dozen meetings in one of the mansions in New York City. I went to the first meeting with a good deal of fear and trembling, but my fear soon vanished when I saw waiting for me 175 women, mothers, wives, sisters and daughters of the wealthiest men of America (and I know no difference between millionaires and paupers when I am preaching my Master’s message.).

I took for my text “Repent ye,” and at the close of the service

a bright young mother came to me and asked to speak with me. We withdrew into one of the bay windows. Her tears fell like rain, and she said: “If what you have been preaching is the Gospel, if that is religion, then I am a heathen. It is true I am a church member, but I have no knowledge of righteousness and joy and peace in the Holy Ghost” (I had been emphasizing that). “I have no Holy Ghost within. I live as these women live. I am one of the ‘swim,’ and we are living for the gratification we can get out of our money—the theater, the race course, the ballroom, the swell dinner, the euchre party. What have you to say?”

I said: “God has spoken to you; obey Him,” and departed. She attended every meeting, and when the last one came, after the benediction a lady got up and said: “Mr. Smith, our men folk want to meet you. Will you give us an afternoon? They have heard us talk about you and have expressed a desire to meet you.” I replied, “You can have my rest day— Saturday,” and I arranged to have a meeting with the men and women. They came as if to some brilliant social function, decked out in their jewelry to see this gypsy boy, and I took them where they never expected to be taken— to a gypsy tent— and I showed them a father and five little, motherless children, without hope, without God or a Bible, with nobody to love or care for them. Only an old gypsy tent, a gypsy father and five children. And then I tried to show them how Jesus came down into that smoky tent and cast it into loveliness until it shone like an old cathedral, and how out from that tent has gone all round the globe a stream of blessing that has enriched the world and made it a little more like what it ought to be.

THE CONVERSION OF A SOCIETY MATRON

For these children are trying to preach the Gospel, and I saw there men move like a field of corn, and just as I was about to close the gentle lady of the house rose and said, “May I speak?” I said: “You are in your own house - speak,” and she said: “You know me. I am no stranger. I was born with you and grew up with you. I became a mother with you and you know that I have lived. I have been with you to the theater and the race course, but you will never see me there any more, for Jesus has come to me and He satisfies me. You may keep my company, but if you don’t, I know it will be hard to bear. My choice is made. Christ for me, Christ for me.”

What made the difference? She turned from sin to God.

Listen! She enthroned Christ; she put Jesus where He ought to be in her heart. And *that* is repentance. God help everybody here to do it this night. Let us pray. ■

NEWS OF INTEREST TO CHRISTIANS

☛ **DEMOCRAT REPRESENTATIVE SAYS GOD’S WILL “NO CONCERN OF THIS CONGRESS”** - The following is excerpted from “*Nadler*,” ToddStarnes.com, Feb. 25, 2021:

“Rep. Greg Steube (R-FL) triggered a bunch of God-hating Democrats after he pointed out that God makes people uniquely male or female. Steube said, ‘When men or women claim to be able to choose their own sexual identity, they are making a

statement that God did not know what he was doing when he created them. ... The gender confusion that exists in our culture today is a clear rejection of God’s good design. Whenever a nation’s laws no longer reflect the standards of God that nation is in rebellion against him and will inevitably bear the consequences. We are seeing the consequences of rejecting God here in our country today.’ That comment drew a fiery response from Rep. Jerry Nadler (D-NY). ‘What any religious tradition describes as God’s will is no concern of this Congress.’ ... May God have mercy on our nation...”

☛ **HOMOSEXUAL-AFFIRMING CHURCH FINALLY BOOTED FROM THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION** - Towne View Baptist Church in Kennesaw, Georgia, has been disfellowshipped from the Southern Baptist Convention **two years** after it began accepting homosexuals as members. In the last issue of *News Of Interest To Christians*, I used Towne View as an example of what is happening in Baptist churches in the South.

That the church has been disfellowshipped from the SBC over this issue is irrelevant to the point I was making. Most of the SBC churches aren’t as far down the road of apostasy as Towne View, but a **lot** of former SBC churches are that far along, having joined the *Cooperative Baptist Fellowship*. Two decades ago, CBF coordinator Daniel Vestal said there are congregations that support the CBF who ordain homosexuals and that he does not want anyone to leave over this issue (“CBF ‘welcoming but not affirming’ of homosexuals,” Associated Baptist Press, Oct. 23, 2000). CBF council member Dixie Lee Petrey said, “*I don’t think we should limit the Spirit of God in the way that it moves. Do we really want to sit here and say God’s Spirit cannot call a homosexual to follow God’s call?*”

That is complete apostasy, and there are a great number of Baptist churches in Georgia and across the country that are in that condition. Further, the large majority of the present SBC churches are terribly worldly, filled with unregenerate members (a great many of whom don’t even attend one service a week), having no spiritual power. Southern Baptist pastors and evangelists themselves have made this same observation, as we have documented.

A long time ago I made the shocking realization that the average fundamental Baptist church is as worldly and lukewarm and powerless as the Southern Baptist church of my childhood. The point I was making last week (“Cobb County, Georgia, A Cast Study in the Priority of Churches over Politics”) is that as the churches go, so the politics go, and we need to put the priority where God tells us to put it, which is on the spiritual building up of churches. It is the Lord’s House that is the pillar and ground of the truth, not the White House (1 Timothy 3:15).

☛ **EQUALITY ACT PROMISES RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION IF PASSED** - God’s people should pray for the Lord to have mercy on America in halting the Equality Act. The following is excerpted from “*6 Reasons to Oppose the Orwellian ‘Equality Act*,” PJMedia, Feb. 25, 2021:

“On Thursday, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 5, ‘The Equality Act.’ Three Republicans joined with every single Democrat to support the bill, which now moves to the Senate. The bill will require 60 votes to pass in the Senate, due to the filibuster.

...The bill would amend federal law to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity, among other things. It would expand the arenas in which non-discrimination law applies and explicitly gut religious freedom protections. In true Orwellian fashion, the Democrats have crafted an Equality Act that will promote inequality, enabling the government to privilege LGBT ideology over the Americans who disagree, for religious or other reasons....H.R. 5 explicitly erodes the protections of the Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1993 (RFRA).”

The following is excerpted from “*The Gay Supremacy Act*,” NC Daily Gazette, Feb. 26, 2021:

“The hypocrisy of the left couldn’t be more obvious as they attempt to push through a massive bill that would do the very thing they claim they are trying to eliminate--it would undermine the rights of minority groups. H.R.5, dubbed by the left as The Equality Act, should rightfully be renamed the Gay Supremacy Act instead. The purpose of the bill is to make it illegal for minority Christian and conservative groups to hold to their sincere religious beliefs--a guaranteed right in the Constitution--and undermine protections for these groups. The bill argues that homosexuals and other sexually perverse people and their allies are a minority group and are disproportionately discriminated against in the public square. This is simply false. Gays are among the most celebrated group in this perverse society and while most Americans don’t self-identify as LGBTQ, support for them has hit record highs.

...On the other hand, Christians, particularly, conservative, Bible-believing Christians, are clearly in the minority. Conservatives who hold to a biblical worldview are enslaved to ‘Cancel Culture’ and are unable to voice their opinion on these issues without facing severe repercussions.”

☛ **SOUTHERN BAPTIST PRESIDENT SAYS JESUS DIDN’T SAY “TAKE UP MY TEACHINGS OR MY MORAL LAW”** - J. D. Greear, President of the Southern Baptist Convention, tweeted on Feb. 25, “*Jesus doesn’t say, ‘Take up my teachings and follow me,’ Or, ‘Take up my moral code.’ He says, ‘Take up my cross.’*”

This is further heresy from an ignorant man who has no business in the pastorate. Note the following words from Christ Himself: “**If ye love me, keep my commandments**” (John 14:15). “**He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him**” (John. 14:21). “**Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him. He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings: and the word which**

ye hear is not mine, but the Father’s which sent me” (John 14:23-24). “**If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father’s commandments, and abide in his love**” (John 15:10). “**Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you**” (John 15:14). “**And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: TEACHING THEM TO OBSERVE ALL THINGS WHATSOEVER I HAVE COMMANDED YOU: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world**” (Matthew 28:18-20).



CHARITY GAYLE AND THE SELF-IDOLATRY OF MODERN WORSHIP MUSIC

by Reformation Charlotte
03/03/21

Traditional Christian hymns have for centuries carried the Church through difficult times as well as good times. These old hymns--theologically rich and focused on the one who binds all believers together--have a way of connecting the Church to the great progenitors of the faith and, ultimately, to God himself.

The purpose of worship is to draw the attention of the worshiper to the greatness of God, to worship Him for who He is. Worship is the natural by-product of a soul who has “tasted and seen” the goodness of God--it is not natural for an unregenerate soul to desire to worship God.

Today, what the Church calls “worship” is generally tantamount to a gospel of self-affirmation cloaked in a bit of Bible language--mostly taken out of context. The hymns many churches sing are self-focused and draw attention to the state of the person worshipping rather than on the God who commands all worship. Even the songs that are theologically accurate are still focused on the affirmation of self and “who I am” because of God rather than Who God is.

This is clear in the lyrics of so many popular modern contemporary “worship” songs by popular groups like **Hillsong** and **Bethel** and artists such as **Kari Jobe** -- all of whom have been previously written about by us. But another up-and-rising star in the modern contemporary worship movement is **Charity Gayle**.

“*A time will come when instead of shepherds feeding the sheep, the church will have clowns entertaining the goats!*”

– Charles Haddon Spurgeon

Charity Gayle is a worship leader at **Big House Church** in Spring, Texas, and is married to one of the pastors, Ryan Kennedy. Gayle is gaining popularity in Evangelical churches through much of her music, like “Amen,” which boasts, in her own words, a “powerful voice” with a “fresh yet reminiscent sound.” In short, people think Gayle’s music sounds really good to the ear--and, admittedly, it does. **But what it lacks is good theology, the right focus, and reverence to God.**