

AND THE PEOPLE CAME...

- Week of May 29, 2022 -

Sunday Morning Service -----	36
Sunday Evening Service -----	26
Wednesday Eve., 06/01/22 Service -----	11

AND THE PEOPLE GAVE...

- Week of May 29, 2022 -

<u>Undesignated</u> Tithes & Offerings -----	\$ 1,185.00
Love Offering Income-----	\$ 10.00
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 05/29/22:	\$ 1,195.00

- Week of May 22, 2022 -

<u>Undesignated</u> Tithes & Offerings -----	\$ 994.97
Church Gas Line Repair Fund -----	\$ 100.00
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 05/22/22:	\$ 1,094.97

- Week of May 15, 2022 -

<u>Undesignated</u> Tithes & Offerings -----	\$ 1,340.07
Church Gas Line Repair Fund -----	\$ 150.00
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 05/15/22:	\$ 1,490.07

- Week of May 8, 2022 -

<u>Undesignated</u> Tithes & Offerings -----	\$ 1,702.00
Church Gas Line Repair Fund -----	\$ 120.00
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 05/08/22:	\$ 1,822.00

- Week of May 1, 2022 -

<u>Undesignated</u> Tithes & Offerings -----	\$ 2,081.00
Church Gas Line Repair Fund -----	\$ 100.00
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 05/01/22:	\$ 2,181.00

- Week of April 24, 2022 -

<u>Undesignated</u> Tithes & Offerings -----	\$ 685.10
Church Gas Line Repair Fund -----	\$ 210.00
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 04/24/22:	\$ 895.10

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

- CHURCH NATURAL GAS LINE REPAIR FUND -

Total Cost Of Repairs -----	\$10,365.78
Amount Received Thusfar -----	\$ 8,288.50
Amount Still Needed: \$	2,077.28

Thank You For Your Help With This Need!

AND THE LORD ADDED TO THE CHURCH...

- Week of May 29, 2022 -

Mr. Randy Carlton -----	by Letter
Mrs. Debra Carlton -----	by Letter

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.

Sadly, 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, most of our people have remained faithful, in so many ways, during this crisis, including financially.

WE HAVE 3 WAYS YOU CAN GIVE:

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 FAITHFUL AND GENEROUS GIFTS WILL HELP US KEEP UP WITH THE BILLS AND CONTINUE OUR RENEWED OUTREACH EFFORTS!**

Church Directory

Todd W. White -----	Pastor
Lois Mae Floyd -----	Pianist/ Organist
Mickie Shatwell -----	Evening Pianist
Derek Quinnelly -----	Greeter
Larry & Mary Byars -----	Outreach
Bertha Segebarr -----	Custodian
GinaMarie Shufelt -----	Flowers
Seth White -----	Sound/Video

SOUTH HEIGHTS BAPTIST'S WEEKLY REMINDER

Volume XXVIII

June 5, 2022

Number 23



Dr. Oliver B. Greene
1915 - 1976

Paul Declares Justification by Faith Without Law - Works

by Dr. Oliver B. Greene

Paul declares that both Jews and Gentiles are on the same grounds, insofar as sin and salvation are concerned.

"We who are Jews by nature, and not sinners of the Gentiles, knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the Law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the Law: for by the works of the Law shall no flesh be justified" (Galatians 5:15-16).

Paul points out here that it is not a question of justification for the Gentiles any more than it is a question of justification for the Jew also, because Jews and Gentiles in this dispensation of grace are justified before GOD in the same way . . . by grace, through faith, plus nothing. It will be a happy day in the lives of some church people when they realize the difference between justification "BEFORE GOD" (Romans 4:2), which is by faith alone, which saves the sinner, causing him to become a Christian; and justification "BEFORE MEN" (James 2:14-26), which is by works and which gives the believer a testimony before his fellowman. Through good works he proves to his fellowman that living faith abides in his heart.

We are justified before GOD by naked faith; we are justified before men through good faithful works . . . stewardship. JESUS commanded, "Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in Heaven."

Works do not have anything to do with justification before GOD. We are justified by faith without the deeds of the Law: "Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law" (Romans 3:28). "Not of works, lest any man should boast" (Ephesians 2:9). "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost" (Titus 3:5).

Jew or Gentile, by the deeds of the Law there shall no flesh be justified. Paul clearly states this again in Romans 3:20. Here he is saying to the Jews that if they hope to stand before GOD in peace, they too must come by grace through faith, and not by the works of the Law - or by the practice of Judaism.

"But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, is therefore Christ the minister of sin? God forbid!" (Galatians 5:17).

You will notice in Paul's writings that he many times asks a question, and then answers his own question immediately. In Paul's day it was customary for the Jews to speak of Gentiles as "sinners." Of course, many times they were referred to as "dogs." Paul knew that some Jew - perhaps even Peter - was asking, "If we Jews turn from our religion and seek to be justified before GOD by faith in JESUS CHRIST alone, if we turn our backs upon the works of the Law, then will we not put ourselves in the same class with Gentile sinners? And if we do that, does that not make CHRIST the minister of sin? Would it not then be CHRIST who makes us sinners?" Paul answers, "God forbid!"

"For if I build again the things which I destroyed, I make myself a transgressor" (Galatians 5:18).

Paul's reply to such a question as that of the preceding verse, is this: ***"It is not Christ who makes us sinners - it is we ourselves...because if, after seeking justification through the finished work of JESUS CHRIST, we again turn to the Law of Moses***

(continued inside)

as if we were still unjustified sinners seeking to become justified by the works of the Law, we are then transgressors of the Law and therefore we make ourselves sinners . . . because sin is the transgression of GOD's Law." Read I John 3:4.

Never entertain the idea that Paul was against the Law of GOD. He testifies in Romans that the Law of GOD is holy and righteous. JESUS came, not to destroy the Law, but to fulfill the Law - and what Paul was preaching is simply this: *"In JESUS we are Law-keepers. In JESUS we satisfy the Law of GOD - but ONLY IN JESUS; because what the Law could not do, what the Law had never done, JESUS did in a body like unto your body and mine."* No, Paul was not minimizing the holiness and the power of the Law. He was simply attempting to set straight the people who had been confused by the legalizers who had been commanding believers to practice Law-works to complete their salvation and to be able to keep their salvation. Paul was one hundred percent against mixing Law and Grace. Paul preached pure Grace, and ONLY pure Grace, for salvation.

"For I through the Law am dead to the Law, that I might live unto God" (Galatians (5:19).

Is the believer under Law? Is the Christian subject to the Law of Moses? In Paul's day, that question was already a burning issue. The Bible is crystal clear in giving the answer to the question, "Is the believer under the Law?" Paul answers: *"Ye are not under the Law, but under Grace" (Romans 6:14).* The believer is loosed and delivered from the Law (Romans 7:2).

The believer is delivered from the Law (Romans 7:6). The Lord JESUS CHRIST is *"the end of the Law for righteousness to everyone that believeth" (Romans 10:4).* The Christian is free from the Law (Romans 8:2). And in our present Scripture (Galatians 2:19) the believer is **"DEAD TO THE LAW."**

It may be that some of the Jews asked Paul, *"When and where did you die?"* The answer is found in our next verse:

"I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me" (Galatians 5:20).

Paul answers by saying, *"I died when JESUS died on the Cross."* When JESUS hung on the Cross, the passers-by saw only one man dying on a Cross; but GOD the Father saw more than one man. GOD saw more than a physical body. GOD saw the spiritual body, the mystical body - and that body is CHRIST. The church of the living GOD is the body of CHRIST. GOD looks upon the church as a body. JESUS is the Head; we born again believers are the members.

In I Corinthians 12:13, Paul declares, *"For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles."*

Writing to the believers at Ephesus, Paul said, *"For we are members of His body, OF HIS FLESH AND OF HIS BONES."* Writing to the believers in Colosse, Paul said, "And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things He might have the preeminence."

CHRIST is the head of the church; we are members of His body. Colossians 3:3: *"Ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God."* As GOD looked down upon Mount Calvary and saw the Lord JESUS dying on the Cross, He saw not only the head of the body, but GOD saw the entire body - complete, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing (Ephesians 5:27). He saw the glorious church that He purchased with His own Blood. GOD lives in the eternal present. He knows the end in the beginning; and He saw in CHRIST the church . . . complete, without spot, the holy church that will be displayed in the heavenlies throughout eternity (Ephesians 2:7).

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: according as He hath chosen us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love: having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will" (Ephesians 1:3-5).

That is the meaning of the words of Paul, "For I through the Law am dead to the Law" He died when JESUS died on the Cross. Paul, by grace, was in CHRIST as He hung on the Cross, and what happened to JESUS on the Cross happened to Paul since he was in CHRIST. What happened to Paul happened to every born again believer from then until this day, and to every believer from this day until the church is completed and caught up to meet JESUS in the air.

"WHEREFORE, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the Law BY THE BODY OF CHRIST" (Romans 7:4).

The Law could do no more - it had no more authority over Paul. Certainly the Law holds nothing against a dead man - ("I... am dead to the Law . . . I am crucified with Christ"). If a person commits murder, the state tries him as a criminal, the judge sentences him to die in the gas chamber, and the sentence is carried out.

When the corpse of the murderer is removed from the gas chamber . . . when the body is buried ...the courts hold nothing against the dead man. He paid the supreme penalty of death. JESUS CHRIST, the Son of GOD, paid the penalty for sin ("The wages of sin is death"). JESUS died for sinners. He knew no sin (II Corinthians 5:21). He was the sinless, spotless, Son of GOD. He willingly died on the Cross, that we might be saved, and all believers died with Him because in reality all believers were in Him when He laid down His life on the Cross. But that is not all: When JESUS was pronounced dead, Joseph of Arimathea went with Nicodemus to Pilate and asked for His body, in order that they might bury Him. The record is found in Matthew 27:58-60:

"He went to Pilate, and begged the body of JESUS. Then Pilate commanded the body to be delivered. And when Joseph had taken the body, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn out in the rock."

Beloved, notice the word **"BODY."** Please notice that word is used three times in the account we have just read. The "body" of

JESUS was begged for burial, Pilate surrendered the "body," they wrapped the "body" in clean cloth, they buried it in Joseph's new tomb.

We born again believers are crucified, buried, and risen with JESUS. What He experienced, we experienced with Him:

"Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into His death? Therefore we are buried with Him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life" (Romans 6:3-4).

Yes, born again believers are crucified with CHRIST, buried with CHRIST in the baptism of His death. (Certainly Paul is not referring to the water in the River Jordan nor to the water in a baptistry. The baptism referred to in this scripture is the baptism of which JESUS spoke when He said, "I have a baptism to be baptized with.")

When JESUS came out of that tomb, every member of the New Testament church came out with Him . . . that is, we were raised from the dead along with the Head of the church:

"Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him: knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over Him. For in that He died, He died unto sin once: but in that He liveth, He liveth unto God. Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Romans 6:8-11).

Hear these precious words:

"If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. FOR YE ARE DEAD, AND YOUR LIFE IS HID WITH CHRIST IN GOD" (Colossians 3:1-3).

But that is not all.

Hear this:

"But God, who is rich in mercy, for His great love wherewith He loved us, even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) AND HATH RAISED US UP TOGETHER, AND MADE US SIT TOGETHER IN HEAVENLY PLACES IN CHRIST JESUS" (Ephesians 2:4-6).

Positionally, we born again believers sit with JESUS in heavenly places - now. Our Head is in Heaven, the Body to which we belong is in Heaven, the Foundation of the New Testament church is in Heaven. Our citizenship is in Heaven. We sit together in heavenly places in CHRIST JESUS. What a wonderful position! It is tragic that so many professing Christians do not understand the marvel and the miracle of the grace of GOD. They have been misled by modern legalizers who put them under commandments.

They worry, they struggle, they work, they toil, they strive, they endure . . . in an effort to keep saved! They are trying

desperately to "make it in." True believers are already "in" . . . we are SEATED WITH JESUS "IN HEAVENLY PLACES . . . We are members of His body, of His flesh, and of His bones."

"For what the Law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: that the righteousness of the Law might be fulfilled in us . . ." (Romans 8:3-4).

"FOR CHRIST IS THE END OF THE LAW FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS TO EVERY ONE THAT BELIEVETH" (Romans 10:4).

The Law of Moses demanded death as the righteous penalty for all sin. The Law executed its sentence and claimed its demand upon Paul in the person of the Lord JESUS CHRIST, the Lamb of GOD, the substitute for sinners . . . He who died on the Cross on Golgotha's hill.

GOD reckoned Paul in CHRIST - and put Paul to death in CHRIST when CHRIST died on the Cross for Paul. JESUS represented Paul on the Cross. JESUS also represented YOU, if you are a believer - and He wants to represent every sinner who may read these lines. If you are lost, JESUS is seeking you through this message. If you will believe on JESUS He will justify you before GOD, because JESUS is the *"propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world" (I John 2:2).*

Paul declares, *"We thus judge (reckon) that if one died for all, then were all dead: and that He died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto Him which died for them, and rose again" (II Corinthians 5:14-15).*

Therefore, according to GOD's reckoning at Calvary, we died in the Lord JESUS; but we did not remain dead. We arose from the dead when GOD raised up CHRIST from the dead, and we (believers) who died in CHRIST were also brought to life in CHRIST, because He is life: "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life" (John 14:6). We believers were quickened together with CHRIST (Ephesians 2:5).

Therefore, we were crucified with CHRIST, we were raised with CHRIST, we now live in CHRIST because He is our life. Since "Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God," and "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God," and "The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us," and since that Word was JESUS, the only begotten Son of GOD, and since He died on the Cross, and if we believe in Him we become a member of His body, "of his flesh, and of his bones," we can say that we live "by faith, (THE faith), of the Son of God."

What I have said is simply this: It is Christ in you, the hope of glory (Colossians 1:27). It is you in CHRIST, the hope of Heaven (Colossians 3:3). "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus"; so, the only position that makes you eligible to stand before a holy GOD is that of being in CHRIST by faith.

When we accept His finished work, we receive everything purchased through His finished work; because it is CHRIST in you - and CHRIST is a person. You do not receive JESUS “in parts” or on the “installment plan.” He is a personality, and when you receive JESUS, you receive all of Him. When you are born again you are completely born again. We are not saved in parts, a little at a time; we are saved when JESUS enters the heart by faith.

When Paul died in CHRIST, Paul met all the righteous requirements and commands of the Law. From that moment forward, he was forever delivered from the penalty of the Law. The Law had put Paul to death - but it was not the Law that brought him back to life. The Law was neither the means of his life, nor was the Law the rule of his life. The Law was “done away” in CHRIST JESUS (II Corinthians 3:11).

That is the reason Paul said, “*The life I now live in the flesh, I live by the faith of the Son of God who loved me, and gave Himself for me!*”

“I do not frustrate the grace of GOD: for if righteousness come by the Law, then Christ is dead in vain”(Galatians 5:21).

What Paul is saying in this verse is simply this:

“If a man could have been saved by obeying the Law . . . if a man could attain righteousness on his own merits through keeping the Law, then certainly there was no need for JESUS to die on the Cross!” JESUS died because of man’s utter inability to save himself. The death of JESUS was an imperative on behalf of man. The natural man cannot know GOD, cannot understand GOD, and cannot receive GOD. No man can come to GOD except the Spirit draw him (John 6:44) and the instrument through which the Spirit convicts, convinces, and draws, is the Word of GOD. The Word of GOD is CHRIST, because it was the Word that became flesh and tabernacled among us. The natural man cannot please GOD (Romans 8:8-9); therefore it was imperative that JESUS take a body, and in that body do for man what man could never have done for himself.

You precious people who mix Law and Grace, who thunder out long and loud that we must keep the Law and live by the commandments, hear these solemn words:

“Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the Epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart. And such trust have we through Christ to God-ward: not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of GOD; who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the

spirit: FOR THE LETTER KILLETH, BUT THE SPIRIT GIVETH LIFE. But if the ministration of death, written and engraven in stones, was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not stedfastly behold the face of Moses for the glory of his countenance; WHICH GLORY WAS TO BE DONE AWAY:

How shall not the ministration of the spirit be rather glorious? For if the ministration of condemnation be glory, much more doth the ministration of righteousness exceed in glory. For even that which was made glorious had no glory in this respect, by reason of the glory that excellet. For if that which is done away was glorious, much more that which remaineth is glorious. Seeing then that we have such hope, we use great plainness of speech. And not as Moses, which put a veil over his face, that the children of Israel could not stedfastly look to the end of that which is abolished: But their minds were blinded: for until this day remaineth the same vail untaken away in the reading of the old testament; which veil is done away in Christ.”

O Beloved, can you not see the clear truth set forth here?

“But even unto this day, when Moses is read, the veil is upon their heart. Nevertheless when it shall turn to the Lord, the vail shall be taken away. Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, THERE IS LIBERTY. But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, EVEN AS BY THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD” (II Corinthians 3:3-18).

Here Paul is saying to us that the believer is not transformed into the image of CHRIST by the works (or practices) of the Law; but by the HOLY GHOST abiding in his bosom. It is the Spirit that giveth life, not the letter of the Law; because the letter of the Law killeth . . . it is the ministration of death . . . the ministration of condemnation. But the Spirit quickeneth us together with Christ . . . and every born again believer possesses the Holy Ghost! (Romans 8:9)

“Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days: which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ” (Colossians 2:16-17).

NEWS OF INTEREST TO CHRISTIANS

☛ ***AMERICA’S MASS SCHOOL SHOOTINGS*** - The latest mass school shooting in America occurred on May 24, when 18-year-old Salvador Ramos killed 19 elementary school students and two teachers in Uvalde, Texas. While there were isolated incidences of gun violence in America’s public schools prior to the 1960s, there were no mass murders. The first was in August 1966, when 25-year-old Charles Whitman killed 16 and wounded 31 at the University of Texas-Austin. Since then, there have been 13 or more mass school shootings, depending on how they are counted (“13 Mass School Shootings,” May 26, 2022, Reason.com).

For example, in April 1999, 18-year-old Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold murdered 12 students and a teacher at Columbine High School near Denver, then killed themselves. In March 2005, 16-year-old Jeffrey Weise killed seven students and staff at Red Lake High School in Minnesota. In April 2007, 23-year-old Seung-Hui Cho killed 32 students and faculty at Virginia Tech.

After each of these highly publicized events, new laws have been proposed, but for the most part they are political knee-jerk things that don’t address the fundamental issues. (Putting more guns into the hands of the right people would provide better protection.) America has always had a gun culture, but America has not always been as violent prone as today. A larger percentage of the American population owned guns in the first half of the 20th century and a larger percentage had military and other martial experience, but there were zero mass school shootings.

The thing that has changed is America’s moral character and prevailing culture. We would list three of the fundamentals underlying this change. The first is the apostasy of America’s churches. The 20th century witnessed a great downgrade in the character of evangelical Protestant and Baptist churches. There was a large scale disappearance of such basics as a regenerate membership, forthright preaching, church discipline, separation and a pilgrim lifestyle, fathers as spiritual heads of the home and overseers of the children’s education, and mothers as keepers of the home. A light-hearted party atmosphere replaced a holy atmosphere. The churches walked in lockstep with the world.

The second fundamental was the rise of a vile, antichrist pop culture and entertainment industry. The music-driven youth culture blasted on the scene in the 1950s (preceded by the smaller jazz culture) and exploded in influence in the 1960s. With the self-centered theme, “It’s your life; do what you want,” it is in open rebellion to God and His holy laws and is a recipe for moral disaster. The pop culture and entertainment industry have grown progressively more corrupt and violent-prone with each passing decade, and the internet, smart phone, and social media have amplified the influence.

A third fundamental was the philosophical corruption of the public school system. This began at the turn of the 20th century and spread slowly, gaining ground more dramatically as the century progressed toward the halfway mark. Major turning points were the replacement of creationism with evolution and the rejection of the biblical view of God and man and absolute morals. The result has been evident for all to see. The moral difference between the America into which I was born in 1949 and the America that exists today is breathtaking. Mass school shootings are only one small element.

The top two things that would bring real moral change to America are these: The first thing is spiritual revival in Bible-believing churches. The churches hold the key to this if they are willing to pay the price. Pastors must stop following and start leading. The second thing that could bring real moral change in America is the dismantling of the public educational system, including government-supported colleges and universities. At the very least, all of God’s redeemed people should stop supporting the public schools.

☛ ***HOMOSEXUAL AGENDA TURNING AMERICA’S LIBRARIES INTO HOMOSEXUAL PROPAGANDA CENTERS*** - The following is excerpted from Joy Pullmann,

“The Left has Effectively Banned Christian Kids from Public Pools, Libraries, and Summer Camps,” The Federalist, May 23, 2022:

“I cannot take my children to the public library anymore, either, because the shelves are so full of pornographic and hostile books that it’s not a safe place for them. There, too, self-righteous LGBT activism has resulted in effectively banning my children from yet another public place and weaponizing my own tax dollars against my children’s safety. The shelves and displays in our library are full of books telling my children lies such as that ‘men can become women’ and ‘some boys have girl brains’ and ‘gender is a social construct.’

I’m happy to have these conversations with my children when they are ready, but I know my six-year-old, and he is not ready. My eight-year-old is not ready, and neither are my 10- and 11-year-old, frankly. It’s grotesque and evil to put books at their eye level that deliberately aim to confuse them about something so deep and important. To do this is to usurp not only my parental wisdom and authority over my own children but to usurp my children’s right to an innocent, emotionally secure childhood.

These all prove that rapidly rewriting American laws to ignore sexual differences has effectively banned Christian families from equal participation in public facilities and activities. It’s not just Christian families, it’s any family that thinks it imprudent to lodge their sometimes undressed daughters with an emotionally traumatized male at summer camp or to obtain swimming lessons at a public pool.

This all descends from the massive bait and switch inherent to the LGBT policy agenda. We were told it was only about extending government sanction to what consenting adults do behind closed doors. We were told it was about allowing people to visit loved ones in hospice and inherit without legal difficulties. It wasn’t going to affect our families, remember?

Anyone who raised concerns about how calling sexual activities that cannot create a family ‘marriage’ would affect children, faith, and families was smeared as a know-nothing bigot. Anyone who wanted to logically think through how legally equating men to women in the social keystone of marriage would have a domino effect on many other laws and social arrangements was also smeared as a hateful bigot, all the way up to highly intelligent and reasoned Supreme Court dissents. It’s the same toxic play we’ve seen work ever since: Anyone with a contrary opinion or even unanswered questions is not engaged, but simply smeared.”

☛ ***OKLAHOMA GOV. SIGNS AMERICA’S MOST RESTRICTIVE ABORTION BAN INTO LAW*** - The following is excerpted from “Life Begins at Conception,” Christian Headlines, May 26, 2022:

“Oklahoma Governor Kevin Stitt signed the nation’s strictest abortion ban into law on Wednesday, banning the procedure from the moment of conception. House Bill 4327 went into effect immediately after Stitt signed it on Wednesday. It is considered

the strictest abortion law in the nation because it restricts physicians from performing abortions at any point in the pregnancy except for cases of rape, incest or a medical emergency. ‘I promised Oklahomans that as governor, I would sign every piece of pro-life legislation that came across my desk, and I am proud to keep that promise today. From the moment life begins at conception is when we have a responsibility as human beings to do everything we can to protect that baby’s life and the life of the mother,’ Stitt said in a statement. ‘That is what I believe, and that is what the majority of Oklahomans believe. If other states want to pass different laws, that is their right, but in Oklahoma, we will always stand up for life.’ The new law also allows citizens to file civil lawsuits for up to \$10,000 against anyone who performs an abortion or assists a woman in obtaining one.”

☛ **SOUTHERN BAPTIST MEGACHURCH PERFORMS COVER OF PRO-LGBTQ MORMON BAND AS WORSHIP SONG** - Church by the Glades in Coral Springs, FL, made headlines in early 2020 after its pastor, David Hughes, was selected by another Florida pastor, David Uth, to speak at the 2020 Southern Baptist Convention’s annual meeting. Church by the Glades has been well known for its carnality, worldly appeal, and extravagant performances of secular dance and music including the Stormtrooper Dance, Disney Medleys, and covers of Beyonce’s Freedom.

Thankfully, that year’s SBC annual meeting was canceled due to COVID, and Hughes was unable to solicit the depravity required to put on a circus performance that year. Yet, we continued to cover the debauchery he continued to feed his church over the years. In one worship performance put on by his church, they played a cover of the Satanic Billy Eilish’s Bad Guy, and in another, the pastor preached a sermon themed on the sexually-explicit television show, Game of Thrones. They also put on a Star Wars Stormtrooper Dance featuring men gyrating their pelvises in a sexual manner.

In one of their most recent Sunday morning worship services, Church by the Glades, a Southern Baptist church, performed a cover of Imagine Dragon’s Enemy which features lyrics like the following:

*I wake up to the sounds of the silence that allows
For my mind to run around, with my ear up to the ground
I’m searching to behold the stories that are told
When my back is to the world, that was smiling when I turned
Tell you you’re the greatest
But once you turn they hate us
Oh, the misery
Everybody wants to be my enemy
Spare the sympathy
Everybody wants to be my enemy
Look out for yourself
My enemy
Look out for yourself
But I’m ready*

According to an article in Time Magazine, Dan Reynolds, the lead singer for Imagine Dragon, is not only a Mormon, but is on a mission to turn the Mormon “church” into a pro-LGBTQ organization. The article reads:

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints does not condone same-sex marriage. But for Dan Reynolds, the frontman of Grammy-winning band Imagine Dragons, that official position doesn’t mean its followers have to shun the LGBTQ kids in their communities and homes. In fact, Reynolds — the powerful voice behind blockbuster hits like “Believer” and “Thunder” and a Mormon himself — insists that the church is facing a crisis of teen depression and suicide.

“To our LGBTQ youth, I’d say: I’m here in any way possible,” Reynolds says about his current calling. “I promise to be the best missionary I can — a Mormon missionary for the LGBTQ community — and to hopefully use this privilege I’ve been given to give them a voice.”



7 GOOD REASONS TO MISS CHURCH

1. The Ceiling Might Fall On Us!

This happens often! It’s always in the news: “Church ceilings falling everywhere hundreds killed each Sunday.” Our church has a fulltime crew, of men that do nothing but fix our ceilings because they are always caving in on people. We may have to go to openair meetings soon.

2. We Don’t Have Anything To Wear

Yes, we all have clothes for work and play. We can find clothes to wear for an occasional funeral or wedding. We have plenty of clothes for school or business or to go shopping with each week, but clothes for church are a scarce commodity. Stores just don’t sell them these days. Well, what are you gonna do, huh?

3. We Don’t Have Any Time

So what if there are 168 hours in a week. Does God expect us to use 1 of those hours to go to church? That would only leave us with 167 hours to do all the other things we have to do! Are you nuts??? Doesn’t God know we work full time? That’s 40 hours a week! That only leaves us with 128 hours of free time. No way, Jose! We’re too busy for church. God will have to understand.

4. All They Want Is Money

That’s absolutely the only reason for the existence of the church in our town, to take our money! Our Pastor preaches over 150 sermons a year and everyone is entitled, “Give us your money!” The stores and the service stations, the bars and the movie house, the fuel company and electric company, the phone company and the water authorities, the government and the post office, the florist and the printer, the carpenter and the mechanic, the insurance company and the recreation areas never ask for

money. Why shouldn’t the church operate for nothing too? Who do they think they are, any ways?

5. There Are Too Many Hypocrites At Church

Sure the church is half empty, but there are still too many hypocrites there. Everybody, to some extent, is a hypocrite, but they shouldn’t be allowed in church. Churches should have desks at the door where trained specialists can identify hypocrites trying to sneak in. They should be turned away and barred from going into the service until they’re perfect. Of course, the best place for a hypocrite to be is inside of a good church where they will learn to be honest, sincere Christians who practice what they preach, but until they get rid of the phonies, we’re not going there!

6. Nobody Invited Us Any Ways

Why should you feel as though churches care about YOU? Has the Pastor ever come to your house and given you a personal invitation? Sure, there are 25,000 people living around us, but come on! You’re special! Sure, they advertise just like the stores we patronize and try to help the community just like the businessmen we deal with, but church is different. Until they come to your house personally, DON’T GO!

7. We Can Be Close God Anywhere

The Scripture tells us that God shed His blood for the church (Acts 20:28,) but that’s no big deal. We’d shed our blood for things that aren’t worthwhile to us either. Blood donors don’t give blood to help people. They just don’t have anything else to do. It’s not important to them! We shed our blood for insignificant things all the time, don’t we? Just because we shed our blood for something, doesn’t mean it’s important to us. Same thing with God. Why should we think His church is important to Him? I’m sure He understands. We can be as close to God at home as we can be at the church.

Now, Let’s Be Serious For A Minute -

Some of these reasons seem humorous or silly, but as a Pastor, I hear these and so many others all the time. Friends, the church is not perfect; neither an I, and neither are you. The word “Church” means “a called out ASSEMBLY.” It comes from the Greek work “Ekklesia.” It appears in the Bible 80 times. Of those 80, 58 times it refers to a local church in a local town somewhere in the world. The word “churches” appears in the Bible 35 times, meaning there is more than one, and in some towns there needs to be more than just one. The church is an institution of God that is to be operated in different towns. A true church is comprised of people who have been saved first, baptized second, and added to the church third. Notice this in Acts 2:41, “**Then they that gladly received His word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.**” Acts 2:47 adds this, “**And the**

Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.”

Its main obligation is the preaching of the Word of God. Titus 1:3 says, “**But hath in due times manifested His word through preaching, which is committed unto me according to the commandment of God our Saviour.**” God’s method of doing this is by saved, ordained Pastors. Jeremiah 3:15 says, “**And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding.**” Isn’t it time for you to set aside all the excuses and be saved? Those who wait for the 11th hour to repent usually die at 10:30!

Come to the Lord Jesus Christ as You Are. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and call upon Him right now, where ever you are, to be your Saviour. Ask Him to have mercy on you and save you. (See Acts 4:12, John 1:12, John 14:6, Romans 10:13) Pray from your heart: “*Heavenly Father, I do today receive Jesus Christ as my Savior from sin and its penalty. I believe He died for me and was buried and rose again and trust today in His sacrifice and shed blood for the forgiveness of my sin. Please come into my heart and give to me eternal life. In Jesus’ name, Amen.*”

Now, GO TO CHURCH. Find a Bible preaching, teaching and practicing church. The Bible is God’s Word to man that reveals His mind and His will for us. Find a church where the Bible is studied from cover to cover and not just read.

Get yourself a Bible, and read it, then heed it.

by Art Kohl, Pastor
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The Neglected Remedy