

AND THE PEOPLE CAME...

- Week of August 8, 2021 -

Sunday Morning Service -----	26
Sunday Evening Service -----	19
Wed. Evening Service, 08/11/21 -----	13

AND THE PEOPLE "TUNED IN"...

- Week of August 8, 2021 -

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

Sunday Morning Service:

61 Views 67 Engagements 68 People Reached

Sunday Evening Service:

54 Views 56 Engagements 69 People Reached

Wednesday Evening Service:

39 Views 43 Engagements 48 People Reached

AND THE PEOPLE GAVE...

- Week of August 8, 2021 -

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings ----- \$ 1,082.38
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 08/08/21: \$ 1,082.38

- Week of August 1, 2021 -

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings ----- \$
 Love Offering, Dr. Phil Stringer ----- \$ 634.06
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 07/25/21: \$ 634.06

- Week of July 25, 2021 -

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings ----- \$ 634.06
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 07/25/21: \$ 634.06

- Week of July 18, 2021 -

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings ----- \$ 1,085.00
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 07/18/21: \$ 1,085.00

- Week of July 11, 2021 -

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings ----- \$ 806.15
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 07/11/21: \$ 806.15

- Week of July 4, 2021 -

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings ----- \$ 3,519.78
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 07/04/21: \$ 3,519.78

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



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 Byars -----	S.S. Teacher
Larry & Mary Byars, Susan Strain -----	Outreach
White Family -----	Custodians
Flowers -----	Shirley & Brenda White
Sound/Video -----	Seth White



CHURCH INSURANCE FUND

Monthly Premium, Due 09/05/21----- \$ 537.92
 Amount Received For Sept. ----- \$ 0.00

AMOUNT STILL NEEDED FOR SEPT., 2021: -----\$ 537.92

Thank You For Your Faithful Help With This Need!

SOUTH HEIGHTS BAPTIST'S WEEKLY REMINDER

Volume XXVII

August 15, 2021

Number 31



BEWARE STEVEN ANDERSON!

Steven L. Anderson is an Independent Baptist preacher who has wide influence through his YouTube videos and movies. As a teenager, he made a profession of faith in Christ at Regent Baptist Church in Orangevale, California. Anderson attended Hyles-Anderson College, but left before graduating. Soon thereafter (2005), though very young and inexperienced, a novice at best, he started the Faithful Word Baptist Church in Tempe, Arizona, which advertises itself as an "old-fashioned, independent, fundamental, King James Bible only,

soul-winning Baptist church."

There are things about Faithful Word Baptist Church and Anderson's ministry that we could appreciate under different circumstances. The church is apparently conservative in dress, music, and separation from the world. Anderson has a large family, and the emphasis of the church is on ministering to families as families and not segregating the generations. (Typically, though, they run even this issue into the ground by saying that not only do they not operate a nursery, they "hate" church nurseries.)

Anderson is outspoken and bold for what he believes, and this stands out in the generation of wimpy preachers we have in most pulpits today. While we believe in strong preaching in the sense of "reprove, rebuke, exhort" preaching such as that of Enoch (Jude 14-15) and James (Jas. 4:4-10), that is not what we sense in Anderson. There is something wrong in his preaching. Mocking, ridicule, cursing (yes, you read that right), and railing is **NOT** New Testament reproof. I find that he has a strange spirit - not always, but particularly when he launches into the wilderness of his conspiratorial bents, which is frequently. We don't sense godly humility. Those who disagree with him, even on something like the timing of the Rapture, are labeled as "demonic" and "wicked" and "deceived." He constantly engages in ad hominem attacks, which is a cheap tactic used to discredit one's opponent so as to discount his arguments.

This is evidence of a heretical spirit. The word "**heretic**" in Titus 3:9-11 refers to a willful choosing of and alignment with error, and it refers, as well, to the schism caused by that error. The "heretic" has a heart problem - *there is something wrong with him*. The Bible says that "he is subverted, and sinneth, being condemned of himself" (Titus 3:11). This is why he is to be rejected "after the first and second admonition" (Titus 3:10).

KEY FALSE TEACHINGS OF STEVEN ANDERSON -

I. Denial Of The Holocaust

In his YouTube video "The Holocaust Hoax Exposed," Steven Anderson says that the Holocaust is a "*fantastic story that has no basis in reality*", and that it is believed because "*most people have just not looked at the details.*" He says, "*There is a mountain of evidence on why this never could have taken place.*"

He **does** admit that a lot of Jews died of harsh conditions, and a lot were murdered, but he does **not** believe that the Jews were systematically exterminated by the Nazis during World War II. He says, "The fact that people were rounded up and placed in forced labor camps does not mean that they were exterminated and cremated to the tune of six million. ... Honestly, these camps - Auschwitz, Treblinka, and others - were probably forced labor camps, not death camps or execution camps. You see, the Germans wanted the Jews working to fuel their war machine" (Anderson, "The Holocaust Hoax Exposed"). Anderson admits that Hitler hated Jews, but he would have us believe that the Nazi Führer simply wanted them out of Germany. "He offered them incentives to emigrate somewhere else." And that is why he persecuted them, "to make their lives miserable because he wanted them to leave." His "goal was to get them out of Germany." (It makes me wonder why Hitler didn't just transport all of the Jews to the German border before

(continued inside)

the war and say, “Good bye and good riddance”?)

Anderson says it was the Jewish Zionists themselves who invented the “myth of the Holocaust” so that the Jews would go to Palestine to form the nation of Israel. They had to invent this story, he says, because before the war, most Jews in Europe weren’t interested in going to Palestine. He says the Zionists used the “myth of the Holocaust” to create the modern nation of Israel. “That was the justification for going in and stealing land from the Arabs who lived there, and going in there and killing a bunch of Palestinians and kicking them out and putting them into a giant concentration camp known as Gaza, you know, or the West Bank. So we can see the motive to lie about it ...*the modern nation of Israel is completely Satanic and it was something that Rothschild was behind and the nations and the world government, etc., which is all proven in my film Marching to Zion*” (Anderson, “The Holocaust Hoax Exposed,” 31:32f).

II. Rejection of Biblical Repentance

In my estimation, this is Anderson’s fundamental heresy and fundamental spiritual problem. He is the product of and a proponent of repentant-less quick prayerism. This explains his inability to rightly divide the Scripture and his frightful tendency to twist Scripture. It explains his strange attitude, his rage against his detractors (instead of interacting with them with godly humility).

His “Basic Soul-winning Demonstration Video” presents a standard “1-2-3 pray after me” technique. In the video, Anderson talks to a man at the door of a home. The man doesn’t even invite the preacher in, but, in a matter of about eight minutes--eight minutes!--Anderson supposedly presents the gospel, gets him to repeat a sinner’s prayer, then promises him “eternal security.”

That is *Quick Prayerism*. It is quick to present the gospel in an extremely shallow manner, quick to get someone to pray a sinner’s prayer without being certain of what they understand and what they are really thinking, quick to pronounce them saved, and quick to give them “assurance of salvation” on a mere profession of faith.

Unless someone has grown up with the Bible and already has a background in Bible truth, he would have barely a clue what Anderson was talking about in his eight-minute presentation. Try that with a Buddhist in Thailand or a Hindu in Nepal or even with the typical American today who can’t name the first book of the Bible or any of the Gospels and is steeped in humanism and evolution.

One doesn’t need a Bible Institute certificate to be saved, but it is impossible to be saved without believing the gospel (Romans 1:16; I Corinthians 15:1-4). And to believe the gospel requires understanding the following fundamentals of the gospel: Who is God? Who is Christ? What is sin from a biblical perspective? What is death? What does it mean that Christ died for my sins? What does it mean that Christ rose from the dead? What does it mean that Christ died and rose from the dead

“according to the Scriptures”?)

We have over four decades of experience in dealing with souls all over America and in dozens of countries, including nearly 30 years living in South Asia, and I have never met a person who could understand the gospel in a saving manner in eight minutes the first time he ever heard it.

Further, Anderson’s “soul winning demonstration” doesn’t even hint at the necessity of repentance, because he holds the heresy that repentance and faith are the same, even though the apostle Paul plainly stated that they are two different things:

“Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ” (Acts 20:21).

Paul preached repentance *and* faith. When preaching in the great city of Athens, he preached repentance:

“And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent” (Acts 17:30).

The Apostle Paul knows a lot more about soul winning and repentance than Steven Anderson, and the repentance that the apostle Paul preached is described as follows:

“But shewed first unto them of Damascus, and at Jerusalem, and throughout all the coasts of Judaea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance” (Acts 26:20).

Paul’s repentance is biblical repentance. It is not a works salvation; it is not a change of life, which would be reformation. Paul’s repentance is a change of mind toward God and God’s authority over my life that is so real that it results in a change of life. It is a surrender. Biblical repentance is not a change of life; *it is a change of mind that results in a change of life*, and it always results in a change of life.

III. Replacement Theology

In his video “Marching to Zion”, Anderson teaches that Israel today, the Israel that returned to the land and established a modern state, is *not* the Israel of the Bible. Rather, **New Testament believers** are the “true Israel.” He says,

“It’s those of us who believe in Jesus Christ that are Israel...We Christians are the true people of God. We are the true Israel. And we are marching to Zion” (Anderson, “Marching to Zion”).

A major thesis of “Marching to Zion” is that, since the Jews rejected Jesus as the Messiah, and have continued in unbelief and disobedience to God, and since Judaism today is not based on the Bible, but on the Talmud, *Israel today is not the true Israel*. According to Anderson, she has been rejected by God *and replaced with the church*.

Texe Marrs, one of those interviewed in “Marching To Zion”, misinterprets Matthew 21:43 to support this:

“Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof”. If this verse were isolated, it *could* teach that God was finished with Israel, and that the church has replaced Israel, *but*

it cannot possibly teach that since Christ Himself said that He is not finished with Israel! He said they would not see Him **TILL** they repent (Matt. 23:39). Even so, Steven Anderson says, “So, in God’s eyes, they are not Jews - they are the synagogue of Satan.”

However, the whole Bible plainly teaches that God is *not* finished with Israel, and we are referring to the Israel that is the seed of Jacob and has 12 tribes, the Israel that rebelled against God and was scattered among the nations as a judgment, the Israel that is still dwelling in spiritual darkness. That Israel is not saved, *but God is not finished with that Israel!*

IV. Christ Suffered in Hell

Steven Anderson has latched onto another heresy, and this one is fundamental. *He says that Christ paid for man’s sins by suffering in hell for three days and three nights:*

● *“Not only did His body die, but His soul went to hell. That is death”* (Steven Anderson, “Jesus Went to Hell to Pay for Our Sins”).

● *“What’s the significance of the Passover being roasted with fire? It says that Jesus Christ went to hell for three days and three nights”* (“Jesus Went to Hell”).

● *“Speaking of how that hell is an eternal place, Jesus suffered an eternity of hell in those three days and three nights, if you think about what this verse is saying in Jonah 2”* (“Jesus Went to Hell”).

● *“People will say that on the cross everything was done - ‘It is finished.’ But it is not true. What it really is is that Jesus went to hell and suffered the wrath of God for our sins”* (“Jesus Went to Hell”).

● *“I believe that Jesus Christ’s soul was in a place of torment for three days and three nights”* (Anderson interview with James White).

Here’s what the Bible REALLY teaches about this:

I. This, of course, is heresy, and it is based on a misinterpretation of the word “hell” in the Old Testament. Anderson uses the following passages as proof texts for his doctrine that Jesus went to hell and suffered the wrath of God, thereby paying for our sins:

“For thou wilt not leave my soul in HELL; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption” (Psalm 16:10).

This Old Testament verse is cited in the New Testament in Acts 2:27: *“And said, I cried by reason of mine affliction unto the LORD, and he heard me; out of the belly of HELL cried I, and thou heardest my voice” (Jonah 2:2).*

The word “**hell**” in these passages is translated from the Hebrew word, “*sheol*,” which has two meanings:

Sometimes, “sheol” means the place where the **bodies of the dead are laid** (Psa. 6:5; Ecc. 9:10; Isa.38:18-19). Usually, “sheol” refers to *the place where departed spirits go* (Gen. 37:35; Deut. 32:22; Psa. 9:17; 55:15; 30:3; Prov. 9:18; 15:24; 23:14; Isa. 5:14; 14:15; Ezek. 31:16; 32:21, 27).

In the New Testament, “sheol” is translated by the Greek word “*hades*.” This is the word used in Acts 2:27, when Peter quotes from Psalm 16:10. *Thus, the “sheol” of the Old Testament is the “hades” of the New Testament.*

That it had two compartments seems apparent from the fact that both the saved (David in Psa. 16:10) and the unsaved (all nations that forget God in Psa. 9:17) went to “sheol.”

Christ did not go to the place of torment. He went rather to paradise, as He promised the repentant thief on the cross, “Today shalt thou be with me in paradise” (Luke 23:43). This probably refers to Abraham’s bosom. Matthew 12:40 says Christ went into “the heart of the earth.” This is what Paul is referring to in Ephesians 4:9, which says that Christ descended “into the lower parts of the earth.” Apparently this is the location of sheol or hades. When Christ rose from the dead, He announced His victory to the unsaved (I Peter 3:18-20), and He took the saved to heaven as trophies of His victory (Eph. 4:8-9). He emptied Abraham’s bosom. It is like a victorious king who rescues the captives and brings the captives and the loot on his victory parade. We see examples of this in Gen. 14:14-16 and I Sam. 30:3-34.

2. One thing is clear, and that is that Christ did *NOT* go to a burning hell for three days and nights to suffer for man’s sins. *Christ paid the atonement for sin on the cross itself by His death and blood* (Rom. 5:8-9). The Levitical sacrifices teach us that it is the *blood* that makes the atonement (Lev. 17:11; Heb. 9:22). We are redeemed by Christ’s precious blood (I Pet. 1:19). It was on the cross itself where Christ was made sin for us (II Cor. 5:21). It was then that the holy Father turned away from Him and Christ cried, “My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?” (Matt. 27:46). Just before Christ died, He announced, “It is finished” (John 19:30), and the veil in the Temple was rent, signifying that the way to God was open through Christ’s atonement (Mark 15:38). There was no atoning price left to pay in “hell.”

V. Denying the Imminency of the Rapture

Steven Anderson has produced a number of presentations denying the imminency of the Rapture, chiefly a video series entitled “*The Book of Revelation*” and the slickly produced movie “*After the Tribulation*.”

In “*After the Tribulation*,” Anderson is joined by Kent Hovind, who has recently changed his position on prophecy and has adopted what he calls the “post-trib, pre-wrath position.”

Anderson calls the Pre-Tribulation Rapture “a demonic deception,” a “lie,” a “fraud,” a “fairy tale” (emerging church leaders use similar terminology to demonize the doctrine of an imminent Rapture). Anderson says, “The film [“After the Tribulation”] does two major things - number one, it completely demolishes the fraud that is the Pre-Trib Rapture. You know, this lie that says that Jesus Christ can come back at any moment, and that we’re going to be taken out of here before the Antichrist, before the global government. So about half the movie is spent just completely destroying that idea; just a ton of

Scripture is used to prove that false. And then the other half of the movie pretty much just explains how all this is going to play out..." (The Alex Jones Nightly News, Feb. 1, 2013).

Anderson's presentations on prophecy do, indeed, include "a ton of Scripture," but a ton of Scripture wrongly interpreted adds up to no Scripture at all. In "After the Tribulation," he teaches that the Rapture will occur *after* the Tribulation, but in Part 2 of the video series "The Book of Revelation," he says that the Rapture will happen 75 days after the "abomination of desolation," which occurs at the mid-point of the Antichrist's seven-year covenant with Israel. And, in Part 15, he says the Rapture will occur after the Tribulation but before God's wrath is poured out.

The bottom line is that, to Anderson, the Rapture can *not* be imminent, and he plainly states this. Anderson says, "The Rapture simply cannot happen at any moment" (After the Tribulation, 01:27:05).

If Anderson is right, it would be a matter of waiting until we see the Antichrist arise and make his covenant with Israel and rebuild the Jewish temple, and waiting until we observe the Two Witnesses preaching and being killed and rising from the dead, and waiting until we see the Antichrist desecrate the temple, which is "the abomination of desolation," and exactly 75 days later, the Rapture will occur. We would, therefore, be able to set the *exact day* of the Rapture, even though Jesus said, in Mark's Gospel 13:32 - "*But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father.*"

VI. Hatred for Other Groups, Not Love

In 2009, Steven Anderson preached a message, entitled, "Why I Hate Barack Obama." In it, he told his congregation that he hated Obama, that no one should pray for Obama to get saved, and that he would, that very night, "pray that he [Obama] dies and goes to hell." "I'm gonna pray that he dies and goes to hell when I go to bed tonight. That's what I'm gonna pray," he told his congregation.

Shortly thereafter, a member of the Anderson's congregation showed up at an Obama appearance armed with an assault rifle and a pistol.

Anderson's sermons attack anyone who is against his beliefs, and even states in a YouTube sermon that Mother Teresa "is in hell" for being a "die-hard Roman Catholic."

Further notoriety ensued following the deadliest shooting in US history: The 2016 massacre inside Pulse, a gay nightclub in Orlando, Florida. Anderson claimed in one of his uploaded YouTube sermons that "these people all should've been killed anyway" given that "the Bible says that homosexuals should be put to death."

He also believes that the victims of France's Bataclan terror attack deserved to die. "Well, you went to a death metal concert," he told his congregation. "You bought the ticket."

THE FRUIT OF ANDERSONISM -

The error that Steven Anderson is spreading via his ministry is no light matter.

It will rob you of the Blessed Hope.

It will take away from you the key to understanding Bible prophecy aright, which is the consistent normal-literal method.

It will carry you into the dark forest of Catholic-Protestant allegorical interpretation.

It will separate you from sound Bible preachers whose supposed error is to be "dispensationalists."

It will unsettle your thinking about prophecy and set you on a path to confusion.

It will yoke you together with, or at least, put you into communication with and make you sympathetic toward, heretics and nut cases, including "church fathers," haters of the Rapture, and rabid anti-Jews.

It will carry you into a wilderness of wild-eyed conspiracy theories.

It will cause divisions in churches. Not all division is wrong, of course, as both truth and error can cause division, but we are talking about unholy division caused by error.

- compiled from multiple sources,
most notably Evangelist David W. Cloud

PASTOR'S NOTE: Steven Anderson is not an insignificant "pastor" with a small following and little influence in fundamental, Bible-believing Christian circles. Quite the opposite. His internet followers number in the tens, if not hundreds, of thousands. Most of them are not active members of any church, much less solid, Bible-believing/teaching ones. His followers have infiltrated churches, especially Bible-centered Baptist churches, causing nothing but turmoil, upheaval, and often splitting those churches wide open. His emphasis on the King James Bible, proper standards for Christian living, separation, soulwinning, etc., all appeal to conservative Christians and churches, but they are merely the "hook" used by Anderson's followers to infiltrate and take over otherwise solid churches.

Anderson has followers in our area, and they ARE active! If you run into anyone who seems to be an "on fire" Christian, but they are not an active, faithful member of a solid, Bible-centered church that has a godly pastor, AVOID THEM! You will NOT convert them, nor will you be able to help them "see" what they Bible really says on these, and many other, subjects - all you will succeed in doing is wasting a lot of time and energy, time and energy which could be used to witness to the lost with the REAL Bible gospel, not the false heresies of Steven Anderson!

As always, should you EVER have ANY question as to the biblical accuracy of a preacher/teacher and something they are teaching, I am here to help you sort it out. It's part of my responsibilities to God, and to you.

Todd W. White

NEWS OF INTEREST TO CHRISTIANS

☐ **CANADIAN PASTOR ATTACKED BY ANTIFA IN PORTLAND** - The following is excerpted from "Portland Cops Do Nothing," PJMedia, Aug. 8, 2021:

"If you wondered what it would look like when Nazi brown shirts went after the churches in Germany, wonder no more: it probably looked like Portland on Saturday when black bloc-outfitted antifa thugs burst into a waterfront prayer event featuring persecuted Canadian Pastor Artur Pawlowski.

... 'Where is your God, now?' taunted one of the attackers. ... Portland Police observed as the terrorist group bear-sprayed parents and their kids, lobbed 'flash bombs' into the sparse crowd, and reportedly threw the group's sound equipment into the Willamette River.

... Pastor Pawlowski is known for being arrested and jailed [in May] for hosting in-person church services in defiance of local pandemic diktats in Calgary. Pawlowski, who fled from a communist country, famously ordered health inspectors and police from his church, calling them brown shirts and Nazis.

... Antifa watcher and author Andy Ngo curated some of the video from the event showing the attack, the destruction, and the injuries. 'Shocking video recorded in Portland show a large group of antifa carrying shields & weapons move in to attack & shut down a family Christian prayer & worship event on the waterfront. Police did not intervene.'

☐ **ARCHAEOLOGISTS UNCOVER EVIDENCE OF BIBLICAL EARTHQUAKE** - The following is excerpted from "Archaeologists Unearth," The Times of Israel, Aug. 5, 2021:

"[I]n the first verse of the Book of Amos, the 8th century BCE biblical prophet referred to 'two years before the earthquake' as an anchor to the events he was about to relate. Two centuries later, the prophet Zechariah again referred to this destructive earthquake period, so deeply was it ingrained in the collective psyche.

Now, for the first time, a team of Israel Antiquities Authority archaeologists in Jerusalem's City of David report that they have found unprecedented concrete evidence of this 8th century BCE earthquake in the ancient capital. In an upcoming research paper, the archaeologists chart, for example, that in one particular 8th century BCE structure the destruction layer did not show signs of fire, yet other factors suggested the building had been damaged in a traumatic event, apparently an earthquake. 'This was most notable on the earliest floor of the southernmost room,' they write. 'In this room, a row of smashed vessels was uncovered along its northern wall, above which fallen stones had been found. It appears that these stones were the upper part of the walls of the room, which had collapsed, destroying the vessels which had been set along the wall.'

... Dr. Joe Uziel [excavation co-director] told The Times of Israel that although his team was the first to identify this destruction layer, in reviewing previous excavation reports, they have concluded that other areas of the eastern slope near the Gihon Spring where the team is excavating also exhibited similar

destruction.'

☐ **THE WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES' APOSTASY** - I [Evangelist David W. Cloud] receive text summaries of news from the World Council of Churches, and the reports are a continual reminder of the organization's utter apostasy. The WCC has a false christ, a false gospel, and a false spirit, as Paul warned about to the Corinthian church (2 Co. 11:1-4). They don't preach the gospel of eternal salvation for sinners through faith in the blood of Jesus Christ. They preach a gospel of salvation for the world through social-justice projects.

These days they are busy trying to save the world from global warming and Covid-19. On the "eco" front, the WCC is promoting the United Nations upcoming climate change conference in Glasgow (COP21).

For example, WCC-affiliated churches in Scotland are pushing "Climate Sunday" to "call on local churches across Great Britain and Ireland to hold a climate-focused service" ("Climate Sunday," WCC News, Aug. 3, 2021). On the Covid front, the WCC and the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue recently published "Serving a Wounded World" to "encourage churches and Christian organizations to reflect on the importance of interreligious solidarity in a world wounded by the COVID-19 pandemic."

All of this is blatant disobedience to the Bible which forbids "interreligious" projects.

"Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you" (II Corinthians 6:14-17).

As for global warming, the only thing the Bible says along that line is the warning that God is going to destroy this present fallen creation and replace it with a new one, and He is going to do it with **fire** -

"But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, Looking for and hastening unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness."

- II Peter 3:10-13



THE DANGEROUS CULT OF HILLSONG

With familiar tunes and upbeat rhythms filling the sanctuaries in churches everywhere, Hillsong is by far the most popular producer of mainstream Christian music in the world. They mass produce music from their multi-campus world-wide bands under the labels Hillsong United, Hillsong Worship, and Hillsong Young & Free, which are then sold for untold millions to unsuspecting worshippers and leaders who are willing to pony up for their product. What the vast majority of people are unaware of, however, is the dangerous cult-like tactics Hillsong uses to lure them into a loyal following.

Hillsong Church was founded in 1993 by Brian Houston and his wife, Bobbie, in Sydney, Australia and has now expanded to 23 countries worldwide. Hillsong holds dozens of conferences every year at its many locations and even owns and operates its own college of ministry. All of its locations are under the total and sole control of Brian Houston out of its headquarters in Sydney, Australia. None of its campuses are autonomous or free.

Hillsong Church is deep into the social justice movement - a distraction from the Church's Great Commission of making disciples. Through its many programs, like CityCare, Because We Can, and Colour Sisterhood, there is a strong priority for charity works that emphasize things such as economic equality and other social issues and place little, if any emphasis on the gospel.

Hillsong is a charismatic Church that teaches the continuation of the apostolic sign gifts. These include things such as prophesying, speaking in tongues, and healing. While the regular manifestation of these particular practices at Hillsong is insignificant, one teaching that comes out of Hillsong is extremely dangerous - the prosperity gospel.

Hillsong is one of the premier promulgators of this popular false gospel. Al Mohler of the Southern Baptist Convention labeled Hillsong as "a prosperity movement for the millennials," which has "[minimized] of the actual content of the Gospel." Hillsong's seductive doctrine comes out in every sermon and much of its music. While not all of its music rises to the level of heresy, much of it places its emphasis on carnal ideas of man. One song, What A Beautiful Name it Is, teaches that the reason God saves sinners is that "He didn't want Heaven without us." Cameron Buettell of Grace to You writes,

"That's a nice sentiment, but it's not remotely biblical. In fact, it's doctrinal malpractice by people who should know better."

In reality, they don't know better. This is the doctrine of Hillsong - it is all about man becoming like God. In fact, one of the main tenets of prosperity theology is "little-god" theology which teaches that we, as "little gods," have the kind of power that God has to create by speaking things into existence. Brian Houston's teaching on this comes out clearly in his two books, *Live Love Lead* and *There Is More: When the World Says You Can't, God Says You Can*.

But the most dangerous aspect of Hillsong and their cultish operations are their mass appeal to the carnal desires of the flesh. Jesus said,

"If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but

because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you."

- John 15:18-19

This is a huge problem. The reason the world hates the Church is that the Church stands as a witness to both the current and the coming wrath and judgment of God upon sin. The world loves sin and rebels against God, but the true Church loves God and loves the truth. Hillsong Church does not gather a massive following from the world because they preach the true, unadulterated gospel. They may give lip-service to the Scriptures and Jesus, but it is largely used as a means to benefit the carnal needs and desires of their selves. God is used as a means to provide temporal relief from afflictions in this life instead of a means to lay down one's life to glorify God. And it plays on one of the most seductive tools of Satan to distract people from God - entertainment.

The Hillsong cult attracts people through entertainment and keeps them there by their addiction. They have it down to an exact science. They know what sells and they know what keeps customers. Whether it be their watered-down music, their nuanced affirmation of homosexuals, that they hold Roman Catholic masses, that they produce sleazy renditions of Silent Night during Christmas or pose a nearly naked man on stage at a women's conference, that they defend abortion and complain about the death penalty, or that celebrities love them because they "don't teach that book with Moses and stuff," one thing is for sure, they know what the world opposed to God likes.

So - Hillsong Church is a dangerous cult that follows the personality of its leader, Brian Houston. If your church uses their music for worship, even if the lyrics in the songs they use are doctrinally sound, there is a great danger of leading people astray and you may be placing young men and women at risk. Hillsong should be avoided by Bible-believing Christians and pastors should not be feeding their flock to these wolves.■



Wanted: An Old-fashioned Church

To Whom it May Concern:

I'm looking for a good Baptist church. I don't want to sing songs off a wall, the same five notes, over and over and over and over again while I am lightheaded from standing so long. There's a record of the hymns of God's people that spans 2000 years. ***Why are we so arrogant as to think we don't need those wonderful songs any longer?*** Have **w**e gone through more suffering, more affliction, more pain for Jesus than those who wrote these enduring hymns? Does a semi-secular song writer in Nashville with a multi-million dollar music contract have more to say to us about God and the Christian life than the 17th-century hymn writer who lost four children and his wife during the 30 years War?

I don't want to have my eardrums bashed in by the three kids in the "worship band" who can't be bothered to bathe, shave, dress or comb their hair on Sunday morning. If it's ***really*** all about the God that Scripture describes as ineffably holy, shouldn't that be reflected in attitude and dress for those who serve in church music?

I don't want a vampy "praise and worship" leader who is flaunting her (or his) wares at every male (or female, as the case may be) within view as she (he) does her (his) worship moves on "stage". If we are to worship God in spirit and in truth, as Scripture tell us, than what's all the flesh about? ***Can we no longer discern the difference?***

I don't want to see people in beach attire with their backsides peeping out of their shorts because they think that God isn't worth their best efforts at dressing. "God doesn't care about clothes, only man", they say. But the ***real*** reason is that it's just plain easier to cruise into church in jeans or whatever is still lying on the floor from the night before. Dressing up for worship of the Lord would cost them something, however little, and they don't want to pay it.

I also don't want to see all the variations on lovers' back rubs where Chuck and Sue take turns massaging each other's neck and shoulders during the sermon so everyone behind them is completely distracted. Behavior affects other people. Are Christians so self-absorbed that they never think about the people behind them trying to hear the message?

I don't want to hear announcements during "worship" about the youth group pizza blast and laser tag event next Tuesday night, the need for grills for the upcoming church fun-fest or jokes about how Bill burned the wieners last summer at the church picnic. Why can this not be put at the end after our "worship" is completed?

I don't want Christian karaoke for "special music". Screeching females trying to imitate their favorite pop stars belong at the local bar, not a house of prayer.

Let me tell you what I looking for in corporate worship of believers:

• I'm looking for a spirit of reverence among God's people, a sense that we have come to join in with the company of angels, archangels, and the church triumphant who gather before God's throne in that never ending heavenly worship.

• I'm looking for a service that is founded upon and completely focused on God and His Word. I want to begin the worship with an entrance Psalm, to be reminded that in worship we enter Heaven's gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise. I want to hear the name of God invoked at the beginning, opening the worship in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, without which Spirit, we worship in vain.

• I need to confess my sins, receive the comforting assurance that God has forgiven me, and I want to corporately confess my faith with my fellows believers. I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our LORD...

• I need to sing of God's holiness, His attributes and His greatness through the hymns of the faith that have been handed down through the ages from the pens and the lips of those who have gone before us. Why? Because God is truly "***Immortal, Invisible, God only Wise, in light inaccessible, hid from our eyes***". Because God is "***Holy, Holy Holy,***" our Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come. Because it is right and fitting that our souls should praise the King of Heaven. He is worthy of all our praise because He is "***Lord, Enthroned in Heavenly Splendor***". To discard this canon of music of Christ's church down through time is to turn our backs on our family in the faith. In 21st Century America, we truly do not know better than they.

• I need to hear the Scriptures read out loud as much of it as possible. Three Scripture lessons are hardly enough. How often has a passage of Scripture read out spoken to my heart about something? Why is Scripture so often limited to the text of a message, if it's there at all now? The Old Testament Lesson. The New Testament Lesson. The Gospel Lesson. I need all the lessons that God's Holy Word can provide.

• I need to hear the Scriptures preached from a man of God, who is a man of prayer and personal holiness and who takes seriously his office of under-shepherd. Why do I want preaching? Because faith

comes by hearing, the Bible says, and hearing by God's Word. I need conviction of the Holy Spirit in my own heart and life. I want to be reminded who God is and my duty before Him. I don't want a pastor who spews vulgarities and crude talk to show how "real" he is, or who feeds on Hollywood so that the only thing that comes out of his mouth is foolishness in his pathetic attempts at cultural relevance. God's Word is eternally relevant. I can tell where the pastor gets his life food from. It always, always shows. Any pastor who is not a man of the Word and of prayer is no pastor at all.

• I want a pastor who prays for his sheep, who understands that we are in a spiritual battle, and that Satan hates us and will do anything he can to try to take our faith from us. I want elders who lead by example with their families. No family is ever perfect. That's why we need the forgiveness of our Savior daily. But elders should be leading lives that are Christ-honoring in their marriages and in their leadership and training of their children. When the children of an elder are worldly and carnal and disrespectful, it is plain that they are not keeping their homes in order. This kind of leadership no church needs because how will the members learn how to run their own homes and families if no godly example is in view? We are sheep. We need leaders.

• I want a time of serious prayer in church, seeking God for His help and wisdom in these dark times, for the needs of the congregation and for the witness of the fellowship in the community. As we kneel, we're reminded of our utter helplessness without the Lord.

• I want a benediction at the end of the worship, where the pastor tells us to go in peace, because we have been washed in the blood of the Lamb, have been forgiven for our sins, and have the joyful assurance that God is with us and will take care of us.

This kind of old-fashioned church might meet in a rented room, a home, a gymnasium, a new, modern building, a vine-covered, old brick traditional church, a little white frame building or anywhere else. It is not the location that matters, it is the content and focus of the worship, and the heart of the leaders of the church.

• Outside of the corporate worship, I want a church that believes in evangelism and outreach. Doctrinal clubs that sit smugly complacent are actually mausoleums. Who wants to worship in a tomb? There is a world out there that needs the message of the Gospel. It is our responsibility to take it to them, and churches should facilitate and train members for this critical mission. Truly saved believers have a burning heart to share it with others. I want to be part of a church that has this burning heart. I want to be part of a church where the young people are not just going on mission trips because they get to have fun in cool places, but because they get to share with those who have never heard the truth that Jesus saves. Social work is fine, but the Gospel message of Jesus must be heard loud and clear in the midst of it.

If you know of such a church in my area, would you please contact me at the earliest convenience. I would be grateful.

Sincerely,
A Christian

