

AND THE PEOPLE CAME...

- Week of October 3, 2021 -

Sunday Morning Service -----	14
Sunday Evening Service -----	10
Wed. Evening Service, 10/06/21 -----	9

AND THE PEOPLE "TUNED IN"...

- Week of October 3, 2021 -

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

Sunday Morning Service:		
64 Views	64 Engagements	68 People Reached
Sunday Evening Service:		
76 Views	79 Engagements	91 People Reached
Wednesday Evening Service:		
65 Views	71 Engagements	64 People Reached

AND THE PEOPLE GAVE...

- Week of October 3, 2021 -

<u>Undesignated</u> Tithes & Offerings -----	\$ 2,061.53
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 10/03/21:	\$ 2,061.53

- Week of September 26, 2021 -

<u>Undesignated</u> Tithes & Offerings -----	\$ 1,380.00
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 09/26/21:	\$ 1,380.00

- Week of September 19, 2021 -

<u>Undesignated</u> Tithes & Offerings -----	\$ 647.27
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 09/19/21:	\$ 647.27

- Week of September 12, 2021 -

<u>Undesignated</u> Tithes & Offerings -----	\$ 860.94
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 09/12/21:	\$ 860.94

- Week of September 5, 2021 -

<u>Undesignated</u> Tithes & Offerings -----	\$ 2,084.25
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 09/05/21:	\$ 2,084.25

- Week of August 29, 2021 -

<u>Undesignated</u> Tithes & Offerings -----	\$ 841.37
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 08/29/21:	\$ 841.37

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



CHURCH INSURANCE FUND

Monthly Premium, Due 11/05/21----- \$ 537.92
Amount Received For Nov. ----- \$ 0.00

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

Thank You For Your Faithful Help With This Need!

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE SAVED

1. Admit that you are a sinner.
2. Admit that God says all sins must be paid for.
3. Accept the fact that Christ took upon Himself the suffering necessary to pay for all your sins.
4. You must change your mind about sin and sinning (God calls this repentance).
5. By an act of your will, accept by faith the Lord Jesus Christ, Who can save you from the penalty of sin. Then, tell God about this in a simple prayer. Believe that God keeps His promise to save you, and thank Him for His salvation.



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, Chris Vance, Derek Quinnelly -----	Outreach
White Family -----	Custodians
Shirley & Brenda White -----	Flowers
Seth White -----	Sound/Video

SOUTH HEIGHTS BAPTIST'S WEEKLY REMINDER

Volume XXVII

October 10, 2021

Number 39



Five Observations of Modern Church Liberal Drift and Apostasy

Believers in Christ's atonement are now in declared religious union with those who make light of it; believers in Holy Scripture are in confederacy with those who deny plenary inspiration; those who hold evangelical doctrine are in open alliance with those who call the fall a fable, who deny the personality of the Holy Ghost, who call justification by faith immoral, and hold that there is another probation after death, and a future restitution for the lost. Yes, we have before us the wretched spectacle of professedly orthodox Christians publicly avowing their union with those who deny the faith, and scarcely concealing their contempt for those who cannot be guilty of such gross disloyalty to Christ.

- Charles Haddon Spurgeon



One of the greatest preachers of all time, Charles Haddon Spurgeon, was caught in the middle of a controversy during his time known as the **Downgrade Controversy**. Spurgeon noticed a phenomenon taking place within the professing Church and many during his time hated him for it. He saw theological and moral compromise overtaking churches and he was very outspoken about it. It turns out that what he saw taking place back then has now morphed into all-out apostasy in today's Church. Below are five-of many-observations of this "downgrade" that are associated with compromise in the modern Evangelical Church.

LIBERALISM -

There is no doubt the Church has become theologically weak. Historically, a multitude of Christian denominations held to a set of beliefs, often contradictory beliefs. Presbyterians hold a separate set of beliefs regarding baptism than do Baptists. Lutherans held to the belief of the real presence in communion. But one thing they all had in common was the belief in salvation by grace alone, through faith alone, Scriptural authority...and that Roman Catholicism was the enemy of that.

It was their strong adherence to sound, conservative doctrine in the essentials that united them as one in the body of Christ. Doctrine used to be important to the Church. And even though the Reformers didn't have everything figured out, they all agreed that Scripture was the final authority on matters of faith and practice. To undermine this was to undermine Christ's authority (II Timothy 3:16-17).

While, historically, the majority of the non-Catholic professing Church believed this, in many churches, strict adherence to biblical doctrine is now seen as taboo. The typical modern church now holds to an "anything goes" ideology, which makes nearly any kind of behavior acceptable. The doctrine of repentance has been completely stripped from the teachings in many churches, and easy-believism has taken over. This is why churches, like Hillsong, can allow sodomites to serve in leadership positions, and so-called pastors, like Andy Stanely, can claim that expository preaching is "dangerous." Liberalism has run amuck, and one only has to profess a belief in Jesus to be considered a Christian.

"Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble" (James 2:19).

Charismania -

It's easy to point to people like Benny Hinn, Mike Bickle, Todd Bentley, Jesse Duplantis, Kenneth Copeland, etc., and recognize them as frauds, and expose the evil they've brought into the Church. But it's more difficult when the charismatic nonsense they

(continued inside)

espouse creeps into the practice and teachings of once-thought-solid churches and teachers. Many solid Bible teachers toy with charismatic ideas like extra-biblical revelation and the misapplication of the Apostolic (sign) gifts. But it's rather clear that, before many churches or leaders fall into sin, they have become open to beliefs, practices, and errors of the modern, charismatic movement.

It's difficult to state exactly whether charisma is a cause or a symptom of the downgrade. It's likely both. Charisma is a result of liberal theology—a denial of biblical authority. Even when it's subtle, it's evil. Even those who claim that Scripture is the final authority, yet still hold to charismatic beliefs, tend to compromise in many areas theologically, and even morally. Even slight charismatic influence leads to a theological "openness" that ultimately leads to corruption. If the line isn't drawn from the beginning—at the beginning—then the line can be drawn anywhere, and moved around as one pleases.

The Word of God has been spoken and Christ alone is all we need.

“God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds” (Hebrews 1:1-2).

Politics -

Politics has taken a top priority in many churches - both on the right and the left. Even in the most solid of denominations, political ideology has taken precedence in many pulpits. Political influence has crept into our theology and masquerades as Gospel truth for many. Preachers will often put their reputation on the line to endorse political candidates, and promote political ideologies. Political correctness has become the new doctrine of reconciliation, and political ideology has become the new Gospel of salvation. National salvation supercedes spiritual salvation for many.

Of course, politics is important, but our politics should be informed by our theology - not the other way around. In fact, our political ideology should be inseparable from our theology if we are taught to think about cultural and political issues biblically. There should be little room for disagreement in the church politically because there is little room for disagreement theologically where there is clear doctrine on the issue.

For some Christians, however, political leaders have been looked at as Messianic, yet failing to bring the promised "salvation." Some believed Barack Obama would bring racial reconciliation to the nation - of course, that failed. And, despite many good conservative policies from Trump, neither was he the savior some made him out to be. Now, many are looking to Joe Biden to save them from temporal suffering with godless ideologies like socialism and totalitarian health orders.

Others even have political candidates preach sermons at their

churches. Still, others will go as far as making Christ-deniers out to be Christians simply to advance a political agenda.

Yet, the political gospel is simply another false Gospel. It has no power to save, no power to reconcile, and no power to overcome sin - especially when it is rooted in godless secularism, as it is in the Democrat party.

While Christians have a duty to honor and glorify Jesus in their practice of politics, regardless of who becomes president, Christ will still reign as King of Kings.

“For our conversation (citizenship) is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ” (Philippians 3:20).

Unity -

This one we hear all the time, “the Church must be united.” In fact, it's becoming clear that the Evangelical Church's focus is becoming centered around unity. The call to unity in the Bible is very clear and repeated often. I Corinthians 1:10, I Peter 3:8, and Philippians 2:2 make it clear that unity among believers is essential - *but unity around what?*

So many churches today have watered down the truth so much so that there is little truth left in what they preach. They have once again set aside sound doctrine so as not to offend people. Yet it is this watered-down system of piety, often focused on “love,” “tolerance,” and “acceptance” of everyone, that this unity abounds. Sound doctrine has lost precedence and unity has become the central theme. Many solid churches are even falling into lockstep with this movement. Churches standing in ecumenical unity with Rome for political and cultural advancement have become the norm. But worse, church leaders and pastors refuse to openly criticize bad movements - such as the “woke church” movement - out of fear of breaking “unity” with these people.

The illusion of unity among these religious systems is false and dangerous. It is neither sound doctrine or criticism of bad doctrine that causes divisions and destroys unity, as many have been led to believe. It is the *false doctrine* that creates divisions—there can be many false doctrines, all contrary to each other, but there can only be *one truth*. The true Church is united around God's truth, not error. There can be no true unity around error. Truth has no accord with error, and error must be exposed to the light of truth in Jesus Christ.

“Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them” (Romans 16:17).

Tolerance -

Finally, perhaps the gravest of these observations is tolerance. Sin can only flourish if it's tolerated. So many will overlook sin and compromise, believing that doing so will somehow uphold the unity of the body of Christ.

“Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because

thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols” (Revelation 2:20).

Let's be clear, however, that God has no tolerance for sin or compromise in any way. For if He did, there would be no need for his Son to die.

Yet, sin and compromise have become acceptable in the Church. One can unite with heretics, sharing a platform with them, so long as they are united around some central tenet. Evangelicals can tolerate Catholics so long as they can unite around abortion or marriage issues. Solid preachers can tolerate charismatics, Egalitarians, Emergents, and false teachers, so long as they're offered a platform for self-promotion. And churches can tolerate unrepentant sinners in their congregations, so long as they are contributing financially to the programs.

In Scripture, though, we are exhorted to expose false teachers, not affirm them. We are not to yoke with unbelievers to accomplish any spiritual task (II Corinthians 6:14). We are not to tolerate sin in any way. If the Gospel is the only solution to sin, we cannot join hands with those who deny it to try to defeat it. What fellowship has light with darkness?

Jesus Christ has already defeated sin, and this is the only truth we need to tolerate in the Church.

“If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds” (II John 1:10-11).

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NEWS OF INTEREST TO CHRISTIANS

☐ **PERSECUTION IN AFGHANISTAN: THE FALSE AND THE TRUE** - The following is excerpted from “Christians Trapped in Afghanistan,” Release International, Sept. 27, 2021:

“UK-based Release International is concerned about false reporting of persecution under the Taliban, which is obscuring the real hardship faced by the Afghan Christians who remain. Such reports have presented images from Iraq of Isis atrocities, and of a protest in Colombia, claimed to have been filmed in Afghanistan. Even a 2009 rumour of missionaries about to be executed in Iraq has been amplified and applied to Afghanistan. ... ‘Understandably, there is a great deal of fear and rumour,’ says Release International CEO, Paul Robinson. ‘This is why we talk to partners who are working directly with the underground church. Release International partners with SAT-7 Pars, which broadcasts programmes via satellite TV into Afghanistan. SAT-7 is hearing directly from its audience about what is happening in that country.’ The executive director of SAT-7 Pars, Panayiotis Keenan, told Release International: ‘Since the Taliban has taken over, we are receiving many messages from Afghanistan that the persecution is getting harder. Afghan Christians are contacting us on a daily basis, describing how difficult the situation is. They are

hiding and meeting in secret locations. But winter is coming and that will soon become more and more difficult.’ ... Pakistan and Iran are the natural escape routes for Afghans fleeing their country. But officially, the Pakistan border is closed to refugees from Afghanistan, and both Pakistan and Iran say they have reached their limit of refugees and asylum seekers. Meanwhile, Turkey has redoubled its efforts to build a wall to keep out refugees from Iran. The UK has pledged to take 20,000 Afghan refugees, with priority given to women, children and those facing persecution.”

☐ **HOMESCHOOLING IS SURGING ACROSS AMERICA** - The following is excerpted from “Homeschooling,”

The Federalist, Aug. 19, 2021: “The last year and a half hasn't been easy on American school children. Between COVID-19 restrictions and fierce battles over curriculum, schools have become embroiled in political conflict as the future of education has been thrust into uncertainty. It should come as no surprise that homeschooling has dramatically spiked since the onset of COVID-19 and the lockdowns that followed. Census data reveals that by the Fall of the 2020-2021 school year, 11.1 percent of households with school-aged children reported homeschooling, double the amount of the previous year. Then, by May 2021, the percentage was 19.5. ... Maria Murray is the founder and academic director of a homeschooling community in Northern Virginia. ... When asked some of the main concerns she's hearing from parents, she responded, ‘The concerns I hear from inquiring families are things like requiring masks all day, the redefining of morality, and mostly wanting to be a part of a homeschooling community that primarily focuses on what education used to mean, which is reading, writing, arithmetic, a homeschooling environment where families can work together to focus on the basics.’ ... A press release from the Texas Homeschool Coalition reports that ‘interest in homeschooling is already outpacing the all-time records set by the enormous homeschool increase from 2020,’ before going on to note that ‘during the 2020 surge, THSC's weekly call and email volume exploded from families interested in homeschooling’ and reached an all-time high, but then the organization's call volume last week surpassed ‘the weekly record set in 2020 by nearly a factor of five.’ The president of the Texas Home School Coalition, Tim Lambert, said, ‘We are literally inundated with calls and emails from thousands upon thousands of families asking how they can begin homeschooling this fall.’”

