

AND THE PEOPLE CAME...

- Week of April 19, 2025 -

Sunday School	25
Sunday Morning Service	38
Sunday Eve. Service	16
Wednesday Eve. Service	12

AND THE PEOPLE GAVE...

- Week of April 19, 2026 -

<u>Undesignated</u> Tithes & Offerings	\$ 1,187.08
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 04/19/26:	\$ 1,187.08

- Week of April 12, 2026 -

<u>Undesignated</u> Tithes & Offerings	\$ 2,952.21
Auditorium A/C Replacement Fund	\$ 145.35
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 04/12/26:	\$ 3,097.56

- Week of April 5, 2026 -

<u>Undesignated</u> Tithes & Offerings	\$ 2,546.36
Love Offering, Dr. Phil Stringer	\$ 953.83
Auditorium A/C Replacement Fund	\$ 145.35
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 04/05/26:	\$ 3,645.54

- Week of March 29, 2026 -

<u>Undesignated</u> Tithes & Offerings	\$ 1,764.94
Auditorium A/C Replacement Fund	\$ 145.35
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 03/29/26:	\$ 1,910.29

- Week of March 22, 2026 -

<u>Undesignated</u> Tithes & Offerings	\$ 901.34
Auditorium A/C Replacement Fund	\$ 145.35
Love Offering, Dr. Phil Stringer	\$ 100.00
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 03/22/26:	\$ 1,146.69

Average amount of Undesignated Offerings needed for church operating expenses **EACH WEEK, as a minimum = \$ 1,700.00**



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.

LISTEN TO -



ABIDINGRADIO.ORG

SOUTH HEIGHTS BAPTIST CHURCH
23 EAST WELLS BOULEVARD
SAPULPA, OKLAHOMA
SOUTHHEIGHTSBAPTIST.COM

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES:

Sundays -

- 9:45 a.m. ----- Sunday School
- 10:50 a.m. ----- Morning Service
- 6:30 p.m. ----- Evening Service

Wednesdays -

- 7:00 p.m. ----- Evening Service

Bi-Monthly -

- 11:00 a.m. or 3:30 p.m. ----- Ladies Bible Study
- 1st & 3rd Thursday of each month

Church Directory

Todd W. White ----- Pastor
 Debra Carlton, Mickie Shatwell ----- Pianists
 Derek Quinnelly ----- Greeter
 Shirley White; Berdena Bergman/Debra Carlton; Daniel Avery/GiGi Avery; Derek Quinnelly/Larry Byars ----- Teachers
 Larry & Mary Byars ----- Outreach
 GinaMarie Shufelt ----- Ladies Bible Study/Flowers
 Seth White ----- Sound/Video
 Larry Byars, Derek Quinnelly, Daniel Avery ----- Trustees

REMINDER

America's Need

by the late Dr. Vance Havner



I heard of an old gentleman, 90 years old, who was starting on a trip around the world. And a friend of his went over to the airport and said, "I declare you just oughtn't to try this." "Well," he said, "I may never see you again." "No," he said, "that's right, you may be dead when I get back."

So that's the way we want to face it. I don't know of any better. I went up to Moody Church.

The Fourth of July brings this to mind - I was to speak there that night at a patriotic religious rally. Then, it went on the wake all next week. I came down with some kind of an ailment. I thought I could make it when I got up. But the farther I flew, the worse I felt when I got up there. I said to Warren Wearsby, "You get a doctor and see what he says." And the doctor said, "Go back home and have yourself checked." So, I went, and spent five days in the hospital.

So my Fourth of July - this one I won't forget. But it was quite a day and is quite a day, whatever year it comes in. What has been called the star-spangled bonanza has sort of played out by now. And we've put away a lot of the decorations and taken down the banners and lowered the flags, and life is getting back to abnormal again. I don't say normal because never will be normal again.

Subnormal or abnormal, take your pick. And we've had the big birthday. Somebody has said that birthdays tell how long you've been on the road, but they don't tell how far you've traveled. The big question is, *how far has America traveled? Where are we going?*

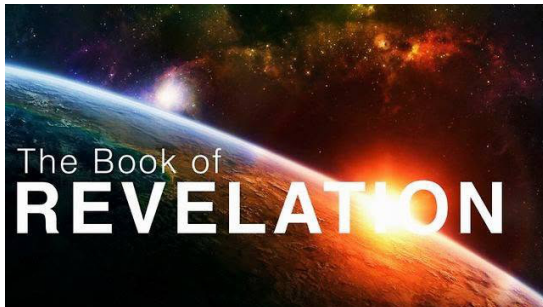
Because we are America, I wouldn't want to paint any brighter halo around the brow of those founding fathers than they deserve. But they were a pretty good mixture - and they did have a mixture. They had a mixture of the faith of the pilgrims and the philosophy of Tom Paine and Tom Jefferson, Christian faith and deism, Puritanic austerity on one side, and the belief in the perfectibility of man on the other. We did not inherit an unmixed blessing, but God overruled it somehow, and they laid the foundations with the recognition of the place of providence in the affairs of man.

Today, America stands alone in a hostile world that marvels at the way we're hanging ourselves with our own rope. There is corruption everywhere, in the government, the breakdown of the home, pagan education, and moral putrefaction. I used to say that civilization was going to the dogs but quit out of respect for the dogs. I wouldn't want to insult the canine kingdom with any such remark as that because plenty of people are doing things today beneath the dignity of any dog.

Of course, all Americans were not going to prayer meeting before the Revolution. Let's get it straight - there was sin and corruption then, just as there always has been. But, much of it was changed by what was called the *Great Awakening* - the great revival that preceded the Revolution. We ought to be commemorating *THAT*, but most Americans don't even know that it happened and couldn't care less than they do today. Those 56 gallant men who pledged their lives, fortunes, and sacred honor to sign the Declaration knew very well that if it didn't work, it might mean hanging for every one of them. In fact, Harrison of Virginia, who was a heavyset man, turned to Gary of Massachusetts, who was a skinny specimen like myself, and said, "Well, we may hang, but I'm heavy and will die instantly, and I imagine you'll dangle around for quite a while." That's the way they faced it. Of course, they had then the Olive Branch men, who wanted to work out a policy of peaceful coexistence with George III. They didn't call it that then, because the Communists invented that term, but they did want peace at any price, those fellows did, and we still have that crowd among us, like the Israelites in Exodus, who said, "We were better off under Pharaoh - we did have security then", and you hear it"

(continued inside)

DON'T FORGET TO BE HERE TONIGHT
AS WE CONTINUE TO STUDY -



today - “better red than dead.”

Everything seems to be geared to biological survival. Anything that will keep us here a little longer: the obsession to stay alive at any cost.

Somebody asked a boy the other day, a little fellow, “What do you want to be when you grow up?”, and he said, “Alive.” I can understand that in an atomic age like this. “Peace at any price” they say, “Better than no peace, and life at any price is better than no life.”

But, it looks to me like we’re willing to risk our honor to save our hides, and the way we’re going, we’re going to end up with neither hides nor honor. We tell the world that America is a place with two chickens in every pot, and two cars in every garage, and a fairyland of plastics and gadgets and giveaway shows, and every other man with his hand stuck out toward Washington for a handout. If that’s all we’ve got to offer this world, in America, we’re out of date. We ought to tell what it really means to be an American, and the price our fathers paid in blood, sweat, and tears to make this the land of the free and the home of the brave. George Washington’s foot-sore soldiers did not stain the snow of Valley Forge to create a politician’s paradise, and Abe Lincoln didn’t walk the floor of the White House night after night just to pass the time away.

It costs a plenty to purchase this freedom, and it’ll cost a great deal more to keep it. This is no time to despise our birthright and make light of our liberty.

One good way to appreciate this country is go to some other and visit it. Then, when you get back, you welcome the Statue of Liberty and the sound of familiar voices. We’re living in an epidemic of mudslinging and muckraking and character assassins, having a field aid defaming some of the great souls of our land, and some of them think it’s better somewhere else. I’d like to see that crowd get up to New York, and I’d like to see them take off for the land of their heart’s desire, and I’d like to wave at them just as long as I can see them. I like it over *here*.

This is the best touch of dirt I know anything about. That’s right. So we have those who are defaming the dead and the living, even vultures feed only on the dead. Every great American from Paul Revere on down has been vilified and scandalized. It’s become a disease. It’s about time we had a kind word about some of our forefathers and what’s right in this country.

There’s still some things right here. I’m not going to waste my time on this smelly business of specializing in scandal, because if you get into that, it rubs off on you. A bulldog can whip a skunk anytime, but it’s not worth it.

It boils down to this: *We do not have a better America, but we have better Americans.* That means a better breed than many of **them** are. How are you going to have patriotism and honor and decency and integrity and morality and character when every man does not that which is **right** in his own eyes, but what he **wants** to do, whether it’s right or not. In his last days, Woodrow Wilson, broken and disillusioned, said, “The sum of the matter is that our civilization cannot survive materially if it is not redeemed

spiritually.” I think the Presbyterian in him came to the forefront when he said that. Douglas MacArthur said, “The problem is basically theological.” Now, think of that - said by one of the greatest of our soldiers.

It must be of the Spirit if we’re to save the planet. I think it’s significant that near the end of their careers, two of our greatest Americans, one of our top statesmen and certainly one of our top soldiers, carried out the decision that sounds like a preacher talking. The pattern is, the problem is, **theological**.

We hear a lot about freedom. Let freedom ring! And, of course, we’ve heard sermons galore on, “Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free.”

Now, I’m getting around to my text about halfway through the sermon, but I’m going to stay with it. There’s more to that passage, however, than that one verse. It’s a great mistake to take as a text for a sermon any verse that starts with “and”, and treat it as though God were saying all He means to say in that particular portion.

That verse, John 8, 32, begins with the word and - “*And ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free.*” Well, now, if we’re going to get all of this, we’d better start a little farther up. So you start with verse 13.

It says, “*As He spake these words, many believed on Him.*” Now, it was a superficial faith in this case, because just a few verses further on, He called them the children of the devil. It wasn’t real - but there **IS** real faith.

So we start, therefore, with faith. “*Then said Jesus to those Jews which believe on Him, if ye continue, if ye continue, in my words, then are ye my disciples. Indeed, and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.*”

Now, don’t you see what a difference that makes? It’s like Romans 12, 1 and 2. You hear sermons on be not conformed to this world, but transformed by the renewing of your mind. That’s a great verse, but the first word is “and” - and you know what’s in the verse before: “*I beseech you that you present your bodies living sacrifice, and be not conformed to this world.*”

So we ought to give it all.

And, if we may use the alliteration here to remember it by, I think you have here freedom through faith that follows. It doesn’t just start - it keeps on going. We have, first we believe, we continue in the Word, we become disciples, we know the truth, and we are set free, for if the Son shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.

The New Testament says so much about keeping it up, about continuing - there’s so much of what it tells in one place, patient, continuing: “If ye continue, here in my words”, James 1:25 - “*Whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein...*” Now, Pentecost was a great day, but they didn’t try to live on Pentecost the **rest** of their days - they had to come down the mountain, as it were, to where the need was, and so I read, the next thing they did after that wonderful experience of Pentecost is that they continued daily.

Now, THAT’S the test of a Christian experience: *Can you*

keep it up? I know that as it has been said, salvation is not spelled D-O, but D-O-N-E, and I know it’s a finished word, but our Lord said a lot about doing - “*Ye are my friends if ye do the things which I command you. If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them. He that doeth the will of my Father, the same as my brother, sister, and mother, why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say? He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me*”, and then he says, “*I’ll make myself known to that person*” (John 14:21).

“*He that heareth my words, and doeth them, should be like a man that buildeth his house on a rock. Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, but he that doeth the will of my Father in heaven. Rather blessed are they that hear the word of the Lord, and keep it.*”

“*Be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only*”, James says, “*deceiving your own selves.*” And many times over the country, I read the Great Commission, and on purpose, I leave out two words, and then I ask the folks what words did I leave out? And I’ve never had more than half a dozen who knew that I even left them out of the Great Commission. I think you’d run a little higher average here. I’m not going to try you out on it, but the two words that these churchgoers didn’t seem to miss were the words “*to observe*”...”*Teaching them to observe the things*” - *to DO them.* You haven’t taught your class anything if you haven’t taught them to DO it, and you haven’t learned anything if you haven’t learned to DO it.

Charles G. Finney, the great revivalist, said, “**Revival is a new beginning of obedience to God.**” I don’t know of any better definition of revival. Now, there’s nothing in that to hoop and holler about, and stomp your feet. Sounds very **un**emotional. There’s a place for being emotional, yes, but that’s exactly what a revival is - when people become obedient to God in their relationship to Him and to each other. We need a restructuring of our thinking about the country and the church. We’ve had enough oratory and celebration. It’s time to be American. It’s time to be Christians.

The word American or the word Christian is both an adjective and a **noun**. We say, “So-and-so’s an American”. That’s a noun. We say, “He’s an American man.” That is an *adjective*.

We need more adjective Christians today - more Christian Christians: Christian in their life, in their daily conduct. Jesus **didn’t** say, “**be** the salt of the earth” - He said, “*Ye are* the salt of the earth.” He didn’t say, “Go out and **be** the light of the world” - He said “That’s what you **are.**” He didn’t say, “**Be** my witnesses” - He said, “That’s what you **are.**”

Let the church be the church. Let Christians be Christians.

If we’re to see another revival, such as Finney was describing, it’ll be brought about, I think, by a persecuted minority scorning the values of this world and living by rigid discipline. Too many of our church folks are good at dress parade, but that’s about it. They’re interested in wearing medals and not scars - too much Americanism and too much Christianity. It’s like the Reubenites in the days of Deborah and Barak: They didn’t go to the battle,

you remember. They stayed at home and played. The Hebrew background text seems to carry the idea there that they made little reeds - little pipes/little flutes - out of the reeds that grew by the water, and they would play little tunes to pass away their time.

The picture here is that they were at home doing *that* while others had heard the trumpet call to the battle. There’s an awful lot of people doing just that today. By the water courses of Reuben, the scripture says, there was great, there were great searchings of heart.

They were patriotic, but they didn’t go to the battle. We have some of them in the church today - if they ever DO get shot on the field of battle, it’ll be in the back...you can be assured of that. They take the **light** jobs. You know - the folks when you start to move a piano, they want to carry the bench.

We have some of them in the church - they’re not going to get any scars out there in the battle. I sometimes get a little bit bothered when I see a comfortable congregation in the church, especially on a Sunday morning, singing “The Son of God Goes Forth to War” and “Onward Christian Soldiers”...I feel like saying, “Hold everything!” I want to go down and say, “That sounds good, but just what battles have you been in? Name a few.”

Amy Carmichael had it right - “You haven’t followed Jesus far if you have no wound, no scar. Because you won’t travel that long road alone because you’ll accumulate some marks of the battle. I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus.”

They were sure enough marks. I was down in Florida for 10 weeks this winter, preaching all the time. Too much to ever do it again. Didn’t use good sense, - eight or nine meetings in a row. I keep forgetting I’m not 50 anymore. Slightly past that...

Down at Cheryl Point, out of Fort Myers - that wonderful retirement home of the Christian missionary life, a fabulous paradise of a place - I preached there after the pastor was kind enough to tell me to “Come over and just be my guest for a week here, and you can take a room here and get over the flu.”, which I’d had, and we had a great time. I met a distinguished old general, 88 years of age, who liked my sermon on Sunday morning, and came over to talk with me. He had known every American president since Theodore Roosevelt. He was a walking encyclopedia. I tell you, I kept him talking all the time. And he told his story:

He said, “General George Patton and I were in the Battle of Normandy. And we were standing there one day, and here came a bunch of boys, 30-odd of them who’d been all shot up, and some of them would die in just a little while.” He said Patton went over to him and said, “Boys, how are you?” And everyone who could get his hand up to his head and saluted. They all said, “Fine, General” - yet some of them were just almost dead.

General Wilbur said, “We walked down the road a little ways, George Patton and I, and he never said a word, and I never said a word. Finally, I looked out of the corner of my eyes, and the tears were coursing down the face of old George Patton. They called him old blood and guts, but that got him. That got him.”

When I heard that, I said, “Lord, I wonder if we’re growing

that kind of boys now in America. If we have a nuclear war, you won't have time to find out, of course, but how many today, all shot up, can still say, 'It was for the country'?"

"I'm fine, General." We're growing a lot of Christmas and Easter Christians - Sunday morning time, fair weather types. But a long time ago, an old warrior wrote to a young recruit, and said, "Thou, therefore, endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ" (II Timothy 2:3).

Now, you talk about somebody that had been all shot up - old Paul had been. Five times beaten, thirty-nine stripes, three times dislodged, one time stoned, three times shipwrecked, the night and the day adrift in the deep, perils of waters, of robbers by his own countrymen, perils to the heathen, perils to the city, the wilderness, perils in the sea, perils of false brethren, weariness, painfulness, in watchings often, hunger, thirst, thirsting, cold and nakedness, and beside all that, the care of the churches - that's enough to kill a preacher sometime.

With all that, though, he didn't have anything much of this world's good. He had stocks and bonds - yes. His feet were in stocks and he had bonds around his wrists. He'd been shell-shocked and shot up as few preachers of the gospel have ever been. But I have a feeling that when the great General, and that makes me think about a chaplain who out in Corregidor with MacArthur, and the chaplain said, "The General never missed one of my services. One day I congratulated him on his faithful attendance and he said, MacArthur looks at me and said, 'Chaplain, I'm just the commanding General here. I press the button and give the orders. But one of these days I won't be here. I shall have gone the way of all flesh. Here today and gone tomorrow. Chaplain, thank God you're not serving that kind of a General. You are not serving an ordinary four-star General. You are serving the seven-star General in the book of Revelation. The seven-star General who is alive forevermore and whose kingdom endures forever. Chaplain, don't ever forget that."

You know, I hadn't thought about my Lord being a seven-star General, but that's what He is, and I tell you, beloved, the test of all this business of being a Christian and whether you're a good soldier, the test is *how can you take it?* Not when the bugles are blowing and the flags are waving, but when the fighting gets the hottest and your comrades have been killed around you and you're battling with the stub of a sword and you're shell-shocked and wounded and deserted. All men forsook me even as they did our Lord and even as they did Paul. That's the test, isn't it? Are you able to say, "It's all right, Lord - a lot of things I don't understand, but everything's okay."

Paul could do it. He said, "I fought a good fight, I finished the course, I've kept the faith, I've been faithful to the faith, I've been faithful to the fight, and I've been faithful to the finish." He said, "Now I'm waiting for my crown."

He didn't go out defeated. He went out invictus. He went out undefeated. He went out invictus. When some man tells me that he never has worried in 40 years and never has frowned in 30, and all the rest of his bragging, I begin to put my hand on my pocketbook when he tells me that.

I think of what an old Torrey said - he said that "There is a rest of faith, but there's also a fight in prayer as well as in effort, and those who would have us think that they have attained some sublime heights of faith and trust because they never know any agony of conflict or prayer have gotten beyond their Lord and the mightiest victors for God that Christian history has ever known."

Now, if you've been along the road long, you know that's true. You start out to live for Jesus Christ and the devil gets busy right away. Most of our church members don't give the devil enough trouble to even get his attention. But - if you really mean business, he's going to plot against you from then on. You're in trouble the rest of your days. But thank God it's invictus - IN VICTORY!

Oh beloved, it's a time in this bicentennial of renewed pledges of allegiance - there are too many faded documents and declarations that have grown dim. The old Declaration itself, is barely legible, some of it. Even John Hancock's bold signature may fade with age. But, the worst of it is not the fading of a paper: we're forgetting its original intent and its ultimate purpose.

We need more editions of the Declaration of Independence walking around in human flesh. We need to have a lot of marriage certificates shined up again, because, even in Christian circles, some of them fade - a million divorces last year. To say nothing of the others who still managed to hang together somewhere or other with no heart - no love. I heard of two old folks in a rest home some time ago and he thought he'd cheer her up a little bit. She couldn't hear well, but he said, "I'm proud of you", and she said, "Eh?", so he repeated, "I'm proud of you." She said, "I didn't get it." He said, "I said, I'm proud of you." "Oh," she said, "I'm proud of you too."

Well, anybody here in that fix this morning? Shame on you. Shame on you. You better renew the covenant. Sit with them this morning. Tell them - oh, you say she knows it. Well, I know, but tell her again. We never miss the water till the well goes dry. Let me say this morning, I speak from experience. It's not likely that you'll both go at the same time. It's a rare thing. And when one does, you will see today, if you really had it in there to begin with, that you'd give everything for just any old day. The most humdrum day you ever had, you'd give all you got for that. For the touch of a banished hand and the sound of a voice that is still.

Now, you quit taking your husband or wife or your parents, God's people, the church, the Bible for granted. Church members do it. Any other organization with no more loyalty to its founder, no more joy in its program, that uses as much raw material and turns out as poor a finished product as the average church would be out of business. If I were a non-Christian and dropped into some of these churches with a handful of church members trying to get some new recruits during a so-called revival, trying to get some more soldiers for the army of the Lord when most of the crowd they already had had gone AWOL, I'd feel like saying either Christianity is not what it's supposed to be, or you've been sold a brand, inoculated with a malform and immunized against the real thing. I believe with John, "Oh God," he said, "I'm tired of the heathen, the pagans, the world going by saying, 'Where's your God? Where's the God of Abraham and Isaac?'" They're

asking it of the church today - "Where's your God? You sing about Him, but where is He?"

We need to renew our vows of dedication.

Romans 7, verse 4 says you're married to Jesus Christ. He adores us and adores us, says James, and he wasn't talking about physical adultery alone there. Any church member who is a worldly Christian is living in spiritual adultery because he goes right on to say that if you love the world, the love of the Father is not in you, so whoever be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.

Not much is said about worldliness anymore. We never had more of it. There has never been a culture, and there never will be, since Christianity started, there has never been a culture in which a Christian, a New Testament Christian, could feel at home. Not one. You cannot feel at home in this world.

My dear wife liked good music and the finest type of music, but her favorite was one of those little quartets that you hear every once in a while - "This world is not my home, I'm only passing through..." And that's the way it is.

The church today is too often like those Jewish exiles in Psalm 137 over there in Babylon, saying, "How can we sing the Lord's song?" It's a strange thing - if there are preachers here this month, ah, the preachers need to renew their vows. Dr. Scofield used to say that every time he had a prayer with D. L. Moody, Moody would always say, "Lord, renew Scofield's credentials." He said, "I got so uneasy about that after a while. There are three things a preacher can do about those preaching orders and about his work: He can resign, and that's the easy way and the hard way out, but anybody can quit. He can become resigned to the situation and just get along with the status quo. Or he can be *re-signed*."

Let God put a fresh stamp of approval on him. He's not always a failure in some little church - he may be pastor of Ichabod Memorial Church down in the middle of town. Sardis had a name to be alive and was dead. Jesus said, "You don't look alive to me. I'm going to keep him and dress up a dead man and make him look more alive than he ever looked while he's living."

You can do that with a church sometimes - it's all gathered up in one all-inclusive commitment: *Make Jesus Christ Lord*, and when you do, you will be the American you ought to be, and you will be the citizen you ought to be, and you'll be the church member and the husband or the father or the mother or the young person you ought to be. You will be the businessman or whatever you are that you ought to be.

Making Jesus Christ Lord is very serious business - it must be **visible** before man. That's what Jesus said. I don't believe in this sneaky business thing. "Can I get saved back here on the backseat?" Well, you could, but Jesus said, "Before man, whoso will be ashamed of me, I'll be ashamed of him."

It must not only be **visible**, it must be *audible* with the mouth out loud. Many of our Christians today are like arctic rivers frozen at the mouth - they have no testimony.

And then it ought to be credible with the heart. Now, if it's those three, it's real, and it's time to renew it.

Now, I hope you won't take what I've said this morning, as is so often the case with comfortable churchgoers, and say in your heart, "I move we accept this as information and be dismissed." I get so tired of that - it was *intended* to disturb you. The hour we're living in ought to disturb us. If we aren't, then we're in bad shape ourselves. *There's one thing worse than not going to church or wherever God's word is preached, and that's going and not doing anything about what you hear.* That's worse because James says that if you hear it and don't do it, and I never hear anybody quote the rest of that verse - they always leave all celestial deceiving your own self.

So, you're on the spot this morning. We've not been talking Shakespeare. This is the Word of God, and I don't care how advanced you are and how far along you've been. We must constantly give account for what we've heard and what we know, and at a place like this, where much is given, much shall be required.

God help us to rise to the responsibility of it.

"Our father, we thank thee that thou hast made sublime in thy word the path of life. We complicate it, Lord. We get it all mixed up and make it harder than it is. And yet there is battle and there is persecution and there is opposition and there is the enemy. But help thy people this moment to find freedom through faith that follows, that keeps it up, that continues daily in the way of the Lord. Bless the truth to all our hearts in Christ's name. Amen."

NEWS OF INTEREST TO CHRISTIANS

☐ ***NUNS FACE JAIL TIME FOR REFUSING TO FOLLOW NEW YORK'S TRANS RULE*** - This situation reminds us that totalitarian wickedness has not gone away because of Donald Trump's presidency. The only protection is effectual prayer on the part of born-again believers who are on praying ground. The following is excerpted from "Nuns Sue New York," PJ Media, Apr. 8, 2026:

"A group of nuns in New York has taken legal action to, as the Washington Times reports, 'block a New York transgender-rights law that requires nursing homes to use pronouns, assign rooms and allow restroom access based on a patient's gender identity, or risk jail time.' The Dominican Sisters of Hawthorne is an order of nuns who care for indigent terminally ill patients.

... the State of New York threatens to shut down the ministry of the Dominican Sisters of Hawthorne, Rosary Hill Home, and the ministry of similar CBA members unless they violate their Catholic faith. New York's LGBTQ Long-Term Care Facility Residents' Bill of Rights, codified at New York Public Health Law § 2803-c-2...requires long-term nursing facilities to post a notice that assures the public that they do not discriminate based on sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or HIV status, and that every two years, employees go through 'cultural competency training.' If they don't comply, they will get hit with major consequences, which, according to the Washington Times, include 'fines of up to \$2,000 for the first violation and up to \$5,000 for repeat violations. Those engaging in willful violations of public health law are punishable by fines of up to \$10,000 or

one year in prison, or both.”

❑ ***N. T. WRIGHT SAYS GOD RAISED ADAM AND EVE FROM HOMINIDS*** - N. T. Wright, an influential Anglican theologian who has been called “one of the world’s pre-eminent New Testament scholars,” claims that man grew out of the ape kingdom. The following is from “N.T. Wright Says,” Protestia, Apr. 10, 2026:

“Fresh off of suggesting that abortion may be a tragic yet best allowable option in cases of rape, incest, or for the mental health of the mother, and that belief in the bodily resurrection of Christ is not necessary to be a Christian, famed New Testament scholar N.T. Wright has shared some thoughts on the origins of Adam and Eve.

On a recent episode of *Premiere Unbelievable?*, after being asked whether or not Adam and Eve literally existed, Wright opines: “The way that I’m inclined to see an original human pair, let’s put it like that, is to say that undoubtedly from all the historical evidence we’ve got, there were what we might call hominids, human-like creatures, and we might even call them proto-humans, for many generations, perhaps for many thousands of years before the time we’re now talking about. But that just as God called Abraham and Sarah and said, now I’ve got a special purpose for you. So it seems to me perfectly reasonable to suppose that God would say to one pair of proto-homidids, whatever we’re to call them,’ come with me. I’ve got a special purpose for you. I’m now going to enable you to reflect my image into the world. and reflect the praises of creation back to me. And your purpose will be to bring the, at the moment, rather random and chaotic world under my saving sovereign stewardship.’ So that it seems to me is a way of saying that if there was an original Adam and Eve, that would be what it was all about. Not, I mean, what we’re getting away from, of course, is any idea of seven periods of 24 hours. That’s certainly not what Genesis 1 is trying to communicate.”

CONCLUDING NOTE: There is **zero** evidence that man evolved from apes. The evolutionary story of man’s evolution is riddled with nonsense and fakery, including Ernst Haeckel’s apeman, Piltdown, Nebraska Man, Neanderthal, Ramapithecus, Oree Man, and Lucy.

❑ ***FEMALE “PASTOR” SAYS WE NEED A THIRD TESTAMENT BECAUSE THE BIBLE IS PROBLEMATIC*** - A prominent progressive pastor and presiding bishop has sparked a controversy by calling for a “Third Testament” and declaring that the Bible is not the Word of God.

Yvette Flunder, senior “pastor” of City of Refuge United Church of Christ in Oakland and Presiding Bishop of The Fellowship of Affirming Ministries, made those remarks during a recent message for the Center for Public Theology & Public Policy.

“This is a very dangerous thing that I’m about to say now. I’m of the opinion that we need a Third Testament because the Bible has become problematic.”

She cited passages about slaves obeying masters and women

remaining silent in churches as examples. When told that such texts are in the book, she replied, “Then we need to pull that page out.” Confronted with the claim that Scripture is the Word of God, Flunder responded, “No, it is **not** the Word of God. It is words **about** God.”

She identifies as a *womanist*. She is a proponent of liberation theology, and is married to a woman.

❑ ***TRANSVESTITE STATE REP CALLS ON ACTIVISTS TO STORM MORE CHURCHES*** - In January, 2026, at Cities Church in St. Paul, a pack of Antifa activists barged into the sanctuary, interrupted worship, and chanted anti-ICE slogans while congregants sat confused or walked out. Their target was a pastor they accused of being a field ICE director. That’s all it took to justify turning a church service into a circus.

And while the Department of Justice is investigating the incident under the FACE Act—which prohibits interfering with religious services—some Minnesota leaders aren’t just excusing the behavior. *They’re celebrating it.*

“Leigh” Finke, a transvestite state representative, took to Facebook to compare the church invasion to the 1989 ACT UP protest in St. Patrick’s Cathedral. He called the Cities Church action a form of “moral resistance,” praised the disruption on Martin Luther King Jr. Day, and openly called for more of the same.

❑ ***THE PAPACY AT THE TURN OF THE FIRST MILLENNIUM*** - The following is a description of the conditions existing at the turn of the first millennium AD:

“In the tenth century the dominion of the Roman pope had exceedingly obscured, and taken possession of, nearly all the churches in Europe, so that everything had to be done according to his pleasure, both in spiritual and secular governments; hence, great darkness prevailed at this time, in which but very few learned, virtuous, and celebrated men lived. For fear of the great tyranny, one dared scarcely speak the least word of the adulteration of the doctrine, or the abuses in the false worship, and the increase of the abominable blasphemies; for, as soon as those who knew better, and feared God, uttered the least word of opposition, the pope instantly thundered, with hail and lightning as it were, excommunications from the Roman chair, so that everyone was terrified, since also the secular lords were bewitched and controlled by him” (Martyrs Mirror, 5th English edition, p. 248).

❑ ***THE CORONATION OF POPE GREGORY IX*** - The coronation of Gregory IX (1227-1241) illustrates the character of the papacy in former times:

“On the day of his coronation he proceeded to St. Peter’s, accompanied by several prelates, and assumed the pallium according to custom; and after having said mass he marched to the palace of the Lateran, COVERED WITH GOLD AND JEWELS. On Monday, having said mass at St. Peter’s, he returned wearing two crowns, mounted on a horse richly caparisoned, and surrounded by Cardinals CLOTHED IN PURPLE, and a numerous clergy. The streets were spread with tapestry, INLAID WITH

GOLD AND SILVER, the noblest productions of Egypt, and the most brilliant colors of India, and perfumed with various aromatic odors” (George Waddington, A History of the Church from the Earliest Ages to the Reformation, 1834, p. 335).

❑ ***THE PAPAL CROWN*** - The authority claimed by the pope through the centuries is signified by the papal tiara. It is a white helmet-like crown made of gold and silver, ornamented with precious stones and pearls, encircled with three rings, with a small cross at the top. Thus, it was a crown of three crowns.

Crowns were worn by popes as early as the 8th century, but they had no rings or only one ring. The three crowns were added gradually. Pope Boniface VIII (1294-1303) added a second circle or crown. Benedict XII, who died in 1342, added the third crown. The triple crown is called the Triregnum (triple rule).

The pope was crowned with these words: “Receive the three-fold crown of the Tiara, and know that thou art the Father of princes and Kings, the Ruler of the round earth, and here below the vicar [representative] of Jesus Christ, to whom be Honor and Glory forever, Amen.”

It is said that the triple crown signifies the pope as “supreme pastor, supreme teacher, and supreme priest.” This is a blasphemous usurpation of Christ’s offices. Pope Paul VI (r. 1963-1978) was the last pope to wear the tiara, but it is still used to crown the statue of Peter in St. Peter’s Basilica each year and remains a part of the papal coat of arms.

❑ ***THE PAPAL BULL UNAM SANCTUM*** - An example of the pomposity of the popes in former times is the proclamation issued in 1302 by Pope Boniface VIII titled Unam Sanctum (One Holy). King Philip IV of France and Edward I of England, tired of papal meddling in their nation’s affairs, were resisting it. For example Boniface had issued a bull in 1296 forbidding kings to tax the clergy without papal permission.

After Philip had a bishop tried for treason and imprisoned, the pope responded with Unam Sanctum. He claimed that no one can be saved who does not submit to the pope as the supreme head of the church and demanded that kings and all earthly authority be subject to him. Following is an excerpt:

“Furthermore, we declare, we proclaim, we define that it is absolutely necessary for salvation that every human creature be subject to the Roman Pontiff.”

❑ ***ROME’S FORGERIES*** - There is no authority for the papacy in the New Testament, but this problem was solved with the forgery of official documents. There was the Donation of Constantine, the Decretals of Isidore, and other papal decretals. The Donation of Constantine was a shameless forgery claiming that Constantine I, emperor of Rome, gave the bishop of Rome supremacy “over all the churches of God in the whole earth.”

The Donation was supposed to be a reward from Constantine to “Pope” Sylvester for healing him of leprosy. It granted him a crown, royal robes consisting of a “purple mantle and scarlet tunic,” and “all the pomp of our imperial eminence and glory of our power.” It donated “the city of Rome, and all the provinces, places and cities of Italy and the western regions.” It gave Catholic

clergy the authority to ride on white horses and to wear white sandals like the Roman senators. This brazen lie was invented to strengthen the pope’s claim to northern Italy and his authority as both a civil and spiritual ruler. It was used by Pope Stephen III (752-57) to help convince Emperor Pepin of the Franks to take some 20 cities by force of arms from the Lombards and to hand them over to the pope. Pope Adrian I (or Hadrian) referred to the Donation in a letter in 774 to Charlemagne, Pepin’s son. The forgery was used by other popes until it was publicly exposed in the 15th century. It has never been renounced by Rome.

OOPS...

A young man was sitting next to a friend in one of the two chairs provided for men outside the ladies fitting room in our local department store. After 30 minutes and 6 changes of outfits, the fellow’s wife came out of the changing room one more time. He looked at her and immediately said, “That looks great on you! Get that one.”

“Honey,” she replied, “this is what I was wearing when we came in.”

THOU SHALT NO STEAL...

A gentleman who lives near Ontario, Canada, had a problem. The Seventy-six-year-old man’s house was just outside the city’s garbage collection area, and he had no way to satisfactorily dispose of his refuse.

One day, he came up with the rather novel idea of placing his table scraps, empty cans, coffee grounds and other waste particles in a small box, wrapping the container very attractively, then, setting it on the shoulder of the road which passed his neat little cottage. Watching from a hidden vantage point, in the process of time he saw an automobile coming down the road at a high rate of speed. The driver suddenly braked his car to a screaming stop, jumped out and looked both ways, then picked up the fancy box, got back into his automobile, and drove quickly away.

The plan worked so well that he now does it daily.

He said, “I have seen many a car stop, pick up the box and hightail it down the road and I haven’t had a box returned yet!” One can well imagine the surprise of those who “steal” the boxes, only to open them and discover that their larceny has merely gained them gift-wrapped garbage!

In a kindred manner, this is what the sinner discovers, to his great surprise, after he has stolen the forbidden fruit of sin. Oh, what senseless folly: eating the Devil’s slop!

Remember: “Sin will take you farther than you wish to go, keep you longer than you wish to stay and cost you more than you wish to pay...” ■