

**AND THE PEOPLE CAME...**

- Week of May 24, 2026 -

Sunday School .....	23
Sunday Morning Service .....	42
Sunday Eve. Service .....	16
Wednesday Eve. Service .....	11

**AND THE PEOPLE GAVE...**

- Week of May 24, 2026 -

<u>Undesignated</u> Tithes & Offerings .....	\$ 651.25
Auditorium A/C Replacement Fund .....	\$ 145.35
<b>TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 05/24/26:</b>	<b>\$ 796.60</b>

- Week of May 17, 2026 -

<u>Undesignated</u> Tithes & Offerings .....	\$ 2,782.20
Auditorium A/C Replacement Fund .....	\$ 145.35
<b>TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 05/17/26:</b>	<b>\$ 2,927.55</b>

- Week of May 10, 2026 -

<u>Undesignated</u> Tithes & Offerings .....	\$ 851.00
Auditorium A/C Replacement Fund .....	\$ 145.35
<b>TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 05/10/26:</b>	<b>\$ 996.35</b>

- Week of May 3, 2026 -

<u>Undesignated</u> Tithes & Offerings .....	\$ 1,760.28
Auditorium A/C Replacement Fund .....	\$ 145.35
<b>TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 05/03/26:</b>	<b>\$ 1,905.63</b>

- Week of April 26, 2026 -

<u>Undesignated</u> Tithes & Offerings .....	\$ 1,526.03
Auditorium A/C Replacement Fund .....	\$ 145.35
<b>TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 04/26/26:</b>	<b>\$ 1,671.38</b>

Average amount of Undesignated Offerings needed for church operating expenses **EACH WEEK**, as a minimum = \$ **1,800.00**



**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 -**



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**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  
 - 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> 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
Hannah Dietrich .....	Flowers
Seth White .....	Sound/Video
Larry Byars, Derek Quinnelly, Daniel Avery .....	Trustees

**SOUTH HEIGHTS BAPTIST'S WEEKLY**

**REMINDER**

Volume XXXII

May 31, 2026

Number 20



America's Greatest Need

by B.R. Lakin

The following sermon by Dr. B. R. Lakin entitled "America's Greatest Need" was read into the Congressional Record by the Honorable Congressman William Jennings Bryan Dorn of South Carolina on October 3, 1968.

Many distinguished political leaders, ministers and members of the Mission Board were present to hear the following outstanding and timely address of Dr. B. R. Lakin of Fort Gay, West Virginia.

**"The Lord liveth, in truth, in judgment, and in righteousness; and the nations shall bless themselves in him, and in him shall they glory" (Jeremiah 4:2).**

In these days of national strife and international confusion, when the seeds of hatred are being cultivated in the hotbeds of communism and radicalism, let us throw back our shoulders, double up our fists, rough with the calluses of honest toil, and stand up for true, fundamental, godly Americanism. The Bible teaches patriotism, and patriotism was the light that burned in the hearts of the faithful in the midnight gloom of the dark ages.

It was the torch that lit the fires of the Reformation. It was the rock upon which Western civilization survives the onslaught of the Red Scourge, it will be Christian patriotism that will fuel the lamps of truth and provide morale for the fight for freedom. America has many privileges, but it also has great responsibilities. Our freedom was obtained at a great price. Our first responsibility is to God, but we are duty bound to our beloved country.

**"Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God" (Romans 13:1).**

Sir Walter Scott struck a note of true Christian patriotism when he wrote--Breathes there a man, with soul so dead, who never himself hath said,

*This is my own, my native land!  
 Whose heart hath ne'er within him burn'd,  
 As home his footsteps he hath turn'd  
 From wandering on a foreign strand?  
 If such there breathe, go mark him well;  
 For him no minstrel raptures swell;  
 High though his titles, proud his name,*

*Boundless his wealth as wish can claim--  
 Despite those titles, power and pelf,  
 The wretch, concerted all in self,  
 Living, shall forfeit fair renown,  
 And, doubly dying shall go down  
 To the vile dust from whence he sprung,  
 Unwept, unhonor'd and unsung.*

With manmade creeds forgotten, we find common ground in the sublime truth of the "Old Book" and in the spirit of those brave men who crossed the seas in search of a free land in which they could worship their God according to the dictates of their hearts.

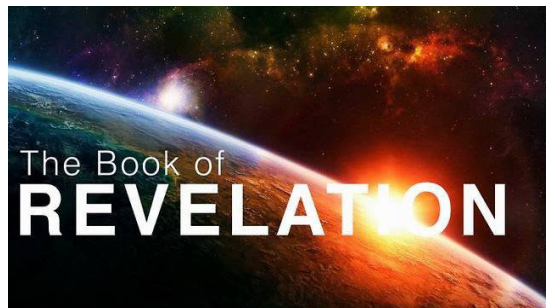
WE enjoy the benefits of a land founded in faith, baptized in blood and dedicated to the freedom of worship. I would like, by the help of the Spirit, to revive within our hearts some of the great ideals that have made America the "Hub," the very center upon which the world revolves. I would like to stir up our souls with a renewed national zeal and a closer walk with God, without whom no nation can succeed.

**1. We Need A Sense Of Gratitude -**

One day in every year we celebrate Thanksgiving, but one day out of 365 is not enough. Americans should thank God every day that we live in "the land of the four freedoms." Every day we should thank God for the sacrifice of blood, sweat, privation,

(continued inside)

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



even death, on the part of the multiplied thousands of out heroic dead. Had it not been for their standing between us and the iron hand of fascism and Nazism, we might not be commemorating their sacrifice. Instead, we might be goose-stepping at the heels of storm troopers and taking our orders from them instead of the Bible being read in our beloved homes. Mein Kampf might now be our textbook. Instead of blending our free voices in the singing of “*My Country, ‘Tis of Thee,*” we might be “*Heiling*” and saluting the swastika. Let us bow our heads in humility and our hearts in reverence and gratitude to a merciful God who has brought us national deliverance.

A. We should be grateful for the righteous birth of our native land. Other nations were born in the blood of plundering conquest, but not America. Our nation was conceived in the noble hearts of courageous, righteous men. She was born in the throes of holy prayer at Plymouth Rock, cradled by the strong hand of stalwart faith, nourished at the bosom of living, vital, sincere religion, fed on the wholesome food of the highest ideals and developed to her towering stature under the smiling approval of Almighty God. America stands today a fortress of freedom, loved by all free men, respected by the liberty-loving peoples of the earth, feared by the enemies of God and human liberty. With the shadows of communism deepening upon every continent, America holds high the torch of faith, light and hope for the downtrodden peoples of the world.

B. We should be grateful for our natural, industrial and scientific resources with which we have been blessed. Because of our giving God His rightful place at the outset of our national life, God smiled--and gold poured from the rocky crags of the Gold West. God smiled--and wide acres of grain sprang from the soil of the Middle West. God smiled--and the picturesque hills of the East yielded black gold in ample abundance to warm our hearths and turn the wheels of industry.

God smiled--and the automobile, the airplane and a thousand and one industrial miracles took place before our eyes. God smiled--and has seen to it that Old Glory has never dipped her colors to any atheistic, God-hating, man-enslaving country. God smiled--and our scientists brought into being the atomic and nuclear bombs, which are destined to be those paradoxical instruments of destruction to save men from destruction.

Today, we stand in a precarious position in regard to our national life. We as a nation must do nothing to invoke the frown of Almighty God. Our course must be such as to keep Heaven’s smile upon our beloved country.

We stand at the crossroads. To the left lie the bogs of extreme liberalism, socialism and the inevitable drift into communism. To the right lie the timeworn swamps of ultra-conservatism, which leads to monopolies of certain groups at the expense of other groups. We must keep in the middle of the road and prayerfully seek the guidance of God or our nation will go the way of all their nations in past history--into oblivion. It is the approval of God that makes a country great, not the genius of statesmen, not merely the form of government not the energy of its people, but the level of the national morals and the depth of

national faith in God.

*Not serried tanks with flags unfurled,  
Not armored ships that gird the world,  
Not hoarded wealth nor busy mills,  
Not cattle on a thousand hills,  
Nor sages wise, nor schools nor laws,  
Not boasted deeds in Freedom’s cause--  
All these may be, and yet the state  
In the eye of God be far from great,  
That Land is great which knows the Lord,  
Whose songs are guided by His Word;  
Where justice rules, ‘twixt man and man,  
Where love controls in art and plan;  
Where, breathing in His native air,  
Each soul finds joy in praise and prayer--  
Thus may our country, good and great,  
Be God’s delight -man’s best estate.*

C. We should be thankful for our homes. Though many of our citizens have brought reproach on the American home by their selfish and loose living, it still remains our greatest heritage. The meaning of the word home is so foreign to some peoples of the world that the equivalent of the word is not even in their language. The American traveler abroad, when he sees the condition existing in some foreign families, comes into a new appreciation of our home life in this country.

Henry Van Dyke once wrote after a trip abroad, so it’s home again, and home again, America for me! My heart is turning home again, and there I long to be, In the land of youth and freedom beyond the ocean bars, Where the air is full of sunlight and the flag is full of stars. Thank God for a part in guiding the American home in spiritual things! For years, every morning a radio poll showed I spoke to 800,000 people over the Nation’s Family Prayer Period. People from all walks of life gathered before their radios at the beginning of the new day to look into His face and listen to His Word. We need a revival of interest in spiritual matters today.

### ***2. We need a Greater Consciousness of Our Responsibility -***

Our greatest sin as a nation is the sin of complacency. Smugness is the forerunner of indifference, and indifference is the predecessor of national deterioration. As the old saying goes, “A chain is no stronger than its weakest link.” It can be truthfully stated that America is no stronger than her weakest citizen. This truth puts a tremendous responsibility upon every of us. The forces of anti-Americanism and anti-Christianity are at work in our beloved land. Most of their work is sinister and under cover; but like leaven, they seek to eventually leaven the whole lump of our way of life and supplant regimented, centralized totalitarianism for old-fashioned, red-blooded, stalwart Americanism. This leaven of atheism is found in high places as well as low. No nation ever survived a moral collapse. When Rome was in the zenith of her power and glory, sin started to eat like a canker at the heart of her national morals. Her politicians became weak, flabby and spineless. She became morally weak and spiritually depraved. One night while the Roman politicians were engaged in a shameful,

drunken orgy in the resort town of Pompeii, the fires of God’s judgment were raging not far distant in the bowels of famous old Mt. Vesuvius, the volcanic mountain. As the night wore on, the sin and debauchery became more pronounced in Pompeii. There came a weird, sickly rumbling from the adjacent mountain. For years Vesuvius had been quiet and asleep, but the hour of God’s judgment had arrived. As the revelers continued their sinful indulgence, Vesuvius quivered with a mighty quake, and the top of the volcano was blown completely away as a surging river of flaming, molten rock poured down the mountain in a death-dealing torrent. There was no hope of escape. The door of God’s mercy was closed for these Roman renegades. As the lava swiftly overwhelmed the city, 25,000 people were buried beneath the flood of molten rock. This was the beginning of Rome’s end as a nation. It all began when sin and lust supplanted the love for God and when gratification of the lower appetites took the place of noble character.

Egypt was once the center of world culture, and their scientists were way ahead in scientific knowledge and research. But Egyptian civilization floundered upon the rocks of immorality and depravity, and today she is leagues behind other nations which have striven to give God His rightful place in their national development. One has only to walk the streets of Cairo and note the lust and the sin on every hand, to see the reason for her utter lack of national prosperity and integrity. A nation can rise no higher than the moral level of her average individual. Every American, in these days of confusion and moral crisis, has an individual responsibility to God and his country. Not only do we have our own souls to save, but we have a great country to protect from the fate which has overtaken other civilizations just as strong as ours.

### ***3. America Needs a Higher, Nobler and a More Sincere Faith in God -*** ***“Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people” (Proverbs 14:34).***

What we are as a nation we owe to our underlying faith in God: the Pilgrims at Plymouth Rock on their knees; Washington at Valley Forge praying for guidance and strength in the crisis of battle; Lincoln calling the country to national repentance in the midst of civil conflict. These are memorable portraits of our basic faith in God as a nation. If we have any success as a nation, we must attribute the glory, the honor and the praise to a benevolent God who has guided, with omnipotent hand, the course and destiny of our fair land. In most of our wars, many of our greatest generals were professed Christians, and their decisions and strategy were mingled with sincere prayer and dependence upon Almighty God. It is significant that our enemies, as far as I know, could not boast of one Christian general in their military personnel. Japan with her warlords and Germany with her atheistic Nazi leaders did not have one military commander who sought the wisdom of God in their military endeavors. Today, as far as I know, none of our enemies are Christians. Could any fair individual say the prayers offered by devoted mothers and by the churches all over America had nothing to do in bringing about

victory for our armed forces? Suffice it to say, the enemy forces, which refused to honor God by seeking His wisdom through prayer, went sown into bitter defeat and their systems vanished into oblivion as all civilizations have which left God out of their program. Abraham Lincoln struck a keynote when he said, “The important thing is not that we have God on our side, but that we make sure we are on His side.”

Faith in God often becomes the balance of power when two matched forces are joined in combat; or, more often, the victory often goes to inferior forces when God’s power and blessing are upon their efforts. As Moses said,

***“How should one chase a thousand, and two put ten thousand to flight, except their Rock had sold them, and the Lord had shut them up?” (Deut. 32:30)***

When as a lad David dared to face the giant Goliath, he trusted not in swords and staves but in the Lord. He faced the towering giant of the Philistines undaunted, unafraid and said,

***“Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied. This day will the Lord deliver thee into mine hand; and I will smite thee, and take thine head from thee; and I will give the carcasses of the host of the Philistines this day unto the fowls of the air, and to the wild beasts of the earth; that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel” (I Samuel 17:45.46).***

We need to know as a nation that adequate equipment is insufficient to win a war. Germany had superior planes, tanks and men, but they lost the last war. WE must not become smug and complacent. The atomic bomb, without the blessing of God upon our nation, could never win a war. The most potent weapon in existence is the inward conviction that we are on God’s side and that our cause is just and right. We not only need a greater faith in God as a nation but we, as individuals, need to know God in a personal Christian experience. Lieutenant Whitaker, speaking of his experience, said,

“At forty years of age, I had never been inside a church for any reason whatsoever; but our there on a raft in the middle of the Pacific I met God. I heard Bill Cherry pray, and a rain cloud that had passed us turned around and came back over us and drenched us with water when we were about to die of thirst. It was there I saw God and learned to say, ‘I believe.’”

These words are from a hardened military man who found God the hard way. Afterwards, he traveled throughout the land telling the marvelous story of how he met God. Many of us will never have the unique experience of meeting God under those unusual circumstances, but we can know Him nevertheless.

We can prove His adequacy in the crucible of human experience and know that He is the Christ of every crisis. We can learn to say with Paul,

***“I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day” (II Timothy 1:12).***

I would rather the citizens of our beloved America should

know Christ personally than for America to have the greatest military might in the world. I would rather have it said that we are a people who love God and worship Him than for America to have the security of the atomic bomb. I would rather that Americans should be reverent and humble in their attitude toward Jesus, the Son of God, than to have the rest of the world acclaim us as the mightiest of the nations. I want to close in the spirit of that touching little poem.

**“I MET THE MASTER.”**

***I had walked life’s way with an easy tread,  
Had followed where comforts and pleasure led;  
And then one day in a quiet place,  
I met the Master, face to face.***

***With station and rank and wealth for a goal;  
Much thought for the body, but none for the soul;  
I had thought to win in life’s mad race,  
When I met the Master, face to face.***

***I met Him and knew Him and blushed to see  
Those eyes full of sorrow were turned on me;  
And I faltered and fell at His feet that day,  
While all my castles melted away--  
Melted and vanished, and in their place  
I saw nought else but the Master’s face;  
And I cried aloud, “Oh, make me meet  
To follow the steps of the wounded feet.”***

***And now my thoughts are for the souls of men;  
I’ve lost my life, to find it again,  
E’er since that day in a quiet place  
I met the Master, face to face.***

- Author Unknown

## **NEWS OF INTEREST TO CHRISTIANS**

□ **PRIESTS ARRESTED FOR OFFERING PENTECOST BREAD ON TEMPLE MOUNT** - On Friday, May 22, Israeli police arrested 13 people, including Levitical priests, who were attempting to present the biblically prescribed bread offering on the festival of Weeks or Pentecost. It is the only regular Levitical sacrifice that was offered with leaven. **“Ye shall bring out of your habitations two wave loaves of two tenth deals: they shall be of fine flour; they shall be baked with leaven; they are the firstfruits unto the LORD” (Leviticus 23:17).** The two loaves depict Jews and Gentiles brought nigh to God through Christ (Eph. 2:11-16). The fine flour depicts the new Christ nature in the believer, whereas the leaven depicts the old nature which remains in this present life (the “old man” and the “new man,” Eph. 4:22-24). The loaves are “the firstfruits unto the LORD” (Lev. 23:17), which is the church. Compare Romans 8:23; James 1:18.

The offering was waved before the Lord and is holy to the Lord (Le. 23:20), signifying Christ as the accepted of God and believers accepted in Christ on the basis of his atonement. A burnt offering, a meal offering, a sin offering, and a peace offering accompanied the feast of weeks (Le. 23:18-19), signifying Christ as everything the believer needs for forgiveness, reconciliation, and peace. See 1 Corinthians 1:30. The Levites that are in training for the Third

Temple do not accept New Testament revelation and therefore do not understand the Messianic significance of the offerings nor the reality of the church. After gaining control of east Jerusalem and the Temple Mount on the last day of the Six Day War (June 7, 1967), Israel returned control of the Temple Mount back into the hands of the Jordanian Muslim Waqf. “[D]espite the law requiring Jews to have freedom of worship, the Israeli police remove any Jew who tries to exercise that right. That is the status quo that Israeli governments across the political spectrum have maintained for 58 years” (“13 Arrested on Temple Mount,” Israel365News, May 24, 2026). Israel is back in the land in fulfillment of Ezekiel 37:1-14, which describes a return in two stages: first, in a spiritually dead condition (“but there was no breath in them,” v. 8); second, spiritually converted (“and the breath came into them and they lived,” v. 10). We are witnessing the first stage, which is for the purpose of signing a peace covenant with the Antichrist and building the Third Temple which will be occupied by the Antichrist, as prophesied in Daniel 9:27.

□ **REDEDICATE 250: PRAY FOR AMERICA BUT DON’T JOIN HANDS WITH FALSE CHRISTIANITY** - Rededicate 250 was “a national jubilee of prayer, praise, and thanksgiving” on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. on May 17. It was in recognition of approaching America’s 250th anniversary.

Speakers included, among others, Franklin Graham, Southern Baptist pastors, Trump’s pastorette Paula White-Cain, Catholic Cardinal Timothy Dolan and bishop Robert Barron, Rabbi Meir Soloveichik, and Catholic actor Jonathan Roumie who plays Jesus in the Mormon-produced series The Chosen. Christian rock, the soundtrack for end-time apostasy, was provided by Chris Tomlin.

How can men who preach a false gospel which is cursed of God effectually petition God for blessing? Rome teaches a gospel of salvation by sacraments and works, beginning with the regeneration of baptism.

**“I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed” (Galatians 1:6-9).**

God’s redeemed people are commanded to pray for the nation (1 Timothy 2:1-6), but they are also commanded to mark and avoid those who cause divisions contrary to the doctrine they have learned from God’s Word (Romans 16:17).

□ **JEW’S GOING HOME** - The following is excerpted from *“Within a decade,” Israel Today, May 21, 2026:*

“[According to a new report by the London-based Institute for Jewish Policy Research] the global Jewish population currently stands at around 15.8 million--fewer than the population of the Netherlands. Of these, almost 7.8 million already live in Israel, representing roughly 49 percent. The trend is unmistakable: while

Jewish communities in the Diaspora are shrinking or stagnating, Israel continues to grow steadily. At the beginning of 2026, Israel surpassed the 10 million population mark for the first time, with Jews making up 76.3 percent of the population. The main driver is Israel’s exceptionally high birth rate. Even in secular Tel Aviv, the average number of children per family is higher than in any European country. The median age in Israel is just 29.3 years --far below Germany’s 47 years or the United States’ 38 years. This is accompanied by continuing waves of immigration. Most recently, 250 members of the Bnei Menashe community from India celebrated their arrival at Ben Gurion Airport--a symbol of the ongoing fulfillment of the Zionist vision: the return of Jews from all over the world.”

□ **IRAN PARLIAMENT PUTS PRICE ON PRESIDENT TRUMP’S HEAD** - The following is excerpted from *“Iran’s parliament,” Israel365News, May 20, 2026:*

“A senior Iranian lawmaker announced Thursday that Iran’s parliament is advancing legislation to offer a €50 million (\$58.13 million) government reward for the assassination of President Donald Trump. Ebrahim Azizi, chairman of the parliament’s National Security and Foreign Policy Committee, told Iranian state television that the bill is part of a broader package of military and security countermeasures developed since the outbreak of the March war.

... Azizi named two additional targets alongside Trump: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and the commander of US Central Command. This is a formal legislative proposal, advanced by the chairman of the parliament’s national security committee, broadcast on state television, and framed as both state policy and religious duty. Iran has been running active assassination campaigns against Trump since January 2020, when Trump ordered the drone strike that killed Qassem Soleimani, commander of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps’ [IRGC] Quds Force. The documented plots are numerous and specific. In November 2024, the US Department of Justice unsealed criminal charges against Farhad Shakeri, an Afghan national whom prosecutors said was directed by the IRGC in September 2024 to surveil and kill Trump.

... Shakeri is believed to be in Iran and remains at large. In August 2024, Brooklyn federal prosecutors charged Asif Merchant, also known as ‘Asif Raza Merchant,’ a trained IRGC operative who traveled to New York specifically to hire hitmen for political assassinations, including Trump. Undercover FBI agents posed as the hired killers.

... A federal jury convicted him in March 2026 of murder for hire and attempting to commit terrorism. He faces up to life in prison.

... In 2024, the Justice Department also filed a criminal complaint against an Afghan national who the IRGC allegedly instructed to put together a plan within seven days to surveil and kill Trump. The plot was foiled before any attack could be carried out. ... Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth confirmed last week that the leader of a covert Iranian unit that had planned to assassinate Trump was killed in a recent military strike.”

□ **NC REPUBLICANS INTRODUCE LEGISLATION, CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT DEFINING PERSONHOOD AT FERTILIZATION** - For more than fifty years, America legalized the slaughter of her own children while calling it everything from “healthcare” to “compassion for women.” The blood soaked into the floorboards of the republic while judges in black robes patted themselves on the back for their enlightened jurisprudence.

Tens of millions of children dead. Not theoretical children. Not “potential life.” Not vague tissue floating around in some abstract philosophical soup. Sons. Daughters. Human beings with beating hearts, developing limbs, fingerprints, nervous systems, DNA distinct from both mother and father from the very first moment of fertilization.

Roe was overturned, and rightly so. The ruling itself was legal nonsense stitched together out of invented constitutional fantasies. But the ending of Roe did not end abortion. The slaughter continues. The machines still function at full speed. The murder mills still operate.

That is why North Carolina House Bill 1232 matters. Not because it will be easy. It won’t. Not because it is politically safe. It absolutely is not. This bill declares what should never have been controversial in the first place—that a distinct and separate human life begins at fertilization. It recognizes that child as an individual person entitled to the equal protection of the laws of the State of North Carolina from fertilization until natural death. It calls the intentional destruction of innocent unborn life what it actually is: murder.

Not “reproductive healthcare.” Not “terminating a pregnancy.” Not “women’s empowerment.” Murder.

House Bill 1232 also does something else modern America despises. It restores moral clarity. The legislation openly states that the State has a duty to defend innocent persons from willful destruction. Imagine that. The government acknowledging that its purpose includes protecting innocent life instead of facilitating its destruction.

The bill proposes amending the North Carolina Constitution itself. That’s huge. Ordinary legislation can be chipped away, reinterpreted, stalled in courts, or quietly gutted by activist judges and bureaucratic termites. ■

## **CRIMINAL INVASION: DISRUPTION OF BAPTIST WORSHIP SERVICE DEMANDS SWIFT JUSTICE**

On January 18 of this year, my family and I gathered in worship on the Lord’s Day—singing hymns of praise, hearing the preaching of God’s Word, giving our offering, and fellowshiping with brothers and sisters in Christ—peacefully and without interruption. However, social media footage made clear that this was not the experience of all believers in America.

However, in Minneapolis, an aggressive group of leftist rioters marched into a church during its worship service,

shouting, protesting, and deliberately sowing chaos. Their actions disrupted the service, forced parishioners to flee, and ultimately brought worship to an abrupt end. Video footage captures a father attempting to comfort his terrified child, women and children trying to escape while being followed to their vehicles, and a pastor accosted at the altar as he sought to protect and shepherd his congregation.

Such conduct is utterly indefensible. Houses of worship must remain inviolable. The freedom to gather for religious worship is a cornerstone of our nation and must be protected without hesitation. The FACE Act—so often weaponized against peaceful individuals praying outside abortion facilities—also applies to religious institutions. Authorities must treat these felonious acts for what they are: serious criminal offenses.

Al Mohler, president of The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, rightly stated, “...the unspeakable evil intrusion of a leftist mob into a Christian worship service today in Minneapolis must be called out for what it is—and federal authorities should be fast and effective in response.”

Likewise, White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt affirmed, “President Trump will not tolerate the intimidation and harassment of Christians in their sacred places of worship. The Department of Justice has launched a full investigation into the despicable incident that took place earlier today at a church in Minnesota.”

Pastors and church leaders must take sober notice of the times in which we live:

The world is growing increasingly hostile toward God, the gospel, objective truth, and law and order.

While conservative Christians labor to preserve life, liberty, faith, family, and freedom, the political left is actively working to dismantle these foundations.

This incident is likely not isolated. The attention generated by such disruptions will encourage copycat actions, increasing both their frequency and severity.

Christian leaders must be vigilant and prepared. Develop a plan. Coordinate with law enforcement. Train and equip security teams to protect congregations from those intent on disrupting the work of God.

This is not a moment for timidity or retreat. Now is the time for followers of Christ to stand firm with courage, conviction, and resolve in defense of our faith and our values. The future of our families—and our nation—hangs in the balance. May we be found faithful.

- Z. Scott Colter

## ***Occult Influence Growing in Culture and Youth***

As the face of Hogwarts’ magical world, Emma Watson now openly praises witchcraft in real life. Her millions of followers are paying attention—and embracing the shift.

In an Instagram post, she thanked the “witches in my coven” for helping shape her identity. She even calls them her personal “Avengers” and credits them for inspiring and empowering her. At the BAFTA Awards, she declared, “I’m here for all the witches.”

“Hollywood both reflects our culture and reinforces it,” said youth culture expert Walt Mueller. “It’s impossible to say exactly how one influences the other—but the connection is undeniable.” A young star who grew up playing a witch now finds a spiritual home in witchcraft.

### ***#WitchTok: Billions of Views, Millions of Souls***

And that’s just the start. Beyond Watson, witchcraft continues to become more prominent in entertainment and culture. Streaming services like Netflix maintain a dedicated “Witchcraft & the Dark Arts” genre. Tarot cards, crystals, and books on astrology are welcomed into homes as nonchalantly as DIY knitting kits.

TikTok has become the occult’s fastest-growing platform by far. Hashtags like #WitchTok have racked up billions of views and feature influencers casting spells, reading tarot cards, and selling sorcery as self-care.

Jenny Weaver, a former witch turned Christian leader, states, “Media has done a good job of pushing [witchcraft] to the point where it’s now normalized. We have shows as early as day care age promoting witchcraft and sorcery.” She warns that these platforms subtly introduce occult practices to a wide audience, including churchgoers unaware of the spiritual dangers.

### ***Pop Stars Push Mystic Agenda***

In the music world, Taylor Swift, Ariana Grande, and Lana Del Rey aren’t just topping charts—they’re weaving witchy themes into their music, style, and public personas. The result? A glamorized version of the occult that’s especially appealing to young, impressionable fans.

Speaking on astrology and tarot cards, Grande says its “kind of a tool to help us hear what we need to hear sometimes, and kind of look forward with hope and awareness.”

Former medium-turned Christian, Jenn Nizza warns that celebrities make these practices look empowering—but they lead people away from truth and toward spiritual danger. “The enemy only needs a foothold,” she stated on her podcast, Ex Psychic Saved. “You give him that and he opens the door to oppression, confusion, and destruction.”

### ***Dreams Become a Doorway***

On that same podcast, Nizza featured Ashley, a former lucid dreamer who now warns about the dangers of occultic practices. Ashley shared how what began as a trauma coping mechanism spiraled into full-blown spiritual entanglement. Eventually, the

practice of mind control and reality bending led her to astral projection, divination, and even praying to idols.

“Lucid dreaming becomes your idol, your therapy, your secret little world, and that removes the need for real healing through Christ. I never wanted to wake up.” She cautioned that what many perceive as harmless psychological exploration can quickly become a “slippery slope” into spiritual danger.

It wasn’t until she cried out to Jesus that she experienced true freedom and healing from past trauma. “Now, I give my dreams to the Lord,” she said. “He’s sovereign even over the night.”

### ***Biblical Warnings and the Call for Spiritual Vigilance***

As paganism rises—expected to triple in the U.S. by 2050—families must stay alert. What mainstream media peddles to children and young adults as entertainment or self-care is actually barely disguised neo-paganism and witchcraft.

Now more than ever, Christian parents, pastors, and youth leaders must guide the next generation with biblical clarity and spiritual courage. There is no better way to do that than to stay in the word of God and read it daily together. Expose the children and youth you know to gospel tracts and spread the gospel as far and wide as you can.

Many parents even keep a variety of Chick tracts and comic books in their homes, so their kids grow up on spiritual truth. Providing biblical reading material works as a great insulator against the creeping influence of the occult.

- Chick Publications



## ***RONALD REAGAN ON THE KING JAMES VERSION***

*Radio address aired September 6, 1977*

What would you say if someone decided Shakespeare’s plays, Charles Dicken’s novels, or the music of Beethoven could be rewritten & improved?

Writing in the journal “The Alternative”, Richard Hanser, author of ***The Law & the Prophets and Jesus: What***

***Manner of Man Is This?***, has called attention to something that is more than a little mind boggling. It is my understanding that the Bible (both the Old & New Testaments) has been the best selling book in the entire history of printing.

Now another attempt has been made to improve it. I say another because there have been several fairly recent efforts to quote, “make the Bible more readable & understandable”, unquote. But as Mr. Hanser so eloquently says, ***“For more than 3 1/2 centuries, its language and its images, have penetrated more deeply into the general culture of the English speaking world, and been more dearly treasured, than anything else ever put on paper.”*** He then

quotes the irreverent H. L. Mencken, who spoke of it as purely a literary work and said it was, ***“probably the most beautiful piece of writing in any language.”***

They were, of course, speaking of The Authorized Version, the one that came into being when the England of King James was scoured for translators & scholars. It was a time when the English language had reached it’s peak of richness & beauty.

Now we are to have The Good News Bible which will be in, “the natural English of everyday adult conversation.” I’m sure the scholars and clergymen supervised by the American Bible Society were sincerely imbued with the thought that they were taking religion to the people with their Good News Bible, but I can’t help feeling we should instead be taking the people to religion and lifting them with the beauty of language that has outlived the centuries.

Mr. Hanser has quoted from both the St. (sic) James Version & the Good News Bible some well known passages for us to compare. A few thousand years ago Job said “How forcible are right words!” [Job 6:25] The new translators have him saying “Honest words are convincing.” That’s only for openers.

There is the passage [Eccl. 1:18], ***“For in much wisdom is much grief: and he that increaseth knowledge increaseth sorrow.”*** Is it ***really*** an improvement to say instead, ***“The wiser you are, the more worries you have; the more you know the more it hurts.”*** ?

In the New Testament, in Matthew, we read ***“The voice of the one crying in the wilderness. Prepare ye the way” (Matthew 3:3).*** The Good News version translates that - ***“Someone is shouting in the desert. Get the road ready.”***

It sounds like a straw boss announcing lunch hour is over.

The hauntingly beautiful 23rd Psalm is the same in both versions, for a few words, “The Lord is my shepherd” but instead of continuing ***“I shall not want”*** we are supposed to say “I have everything I need.”

The Christmas story has undergone some modernizing but one can hardly call it ***improved***. The wondrous words ***“Fear not: for; behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy”*** has become, ***“Don’t be afraid! I am here with good news for you.”***

The sponsors of the Good News version boast that their Bible is as readable as the daily paper – and so it is. But do readers of the daily news find themselves moved to wonder ***“at the gracious words which proceeded out of his mouth”***? Mr. Hanser suggests that sadly the ***“tinkering & general horsing around with the sacred texts will no doubt continue”*** as pious drudges try to get it right.

***“It will not dawn on them that it has already been gotten right.”***

This is Ronald Reagan. Thanks for listening.

— aired September 6, 1977