

AND THE PEOPLE CAME...

- Week of May 31, 2026 -

Sunday School	23
Sunday Morning Service	42
Sunday Eve. Service	18
Wednesday Eve. Service	12

AND THE PEOPLE GAVE...

- Week of May 31, 2026 -

<u>Undesignated</u> Tithes & Offerings	\$ 2,130.37
Auditorium A/C Replacement Fund	\$ 145.35
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 05/31/26:	\$ 2,275.72

- Week of May 24, 2026 -

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

- Week of May 17, 2026 -

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

- Week of May 10, 2026 -

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

- Week of May 3, 2026 -

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

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
 - 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
Hannah Dietrich	Flowers
Seth White	Sound/Video
Larry Byars, Derek Quinnelly, Daniel Avery	Trustees

REMINDER



Dr. David L. Allen

America at the Crossroads

by Dr. David L. Allen

I write these reflections as someone whose convictions have been shaped over nearly seven decades of watching America change - sometimes for the better, sometimes, in my view, for the worse. My perspective is unapologetically rooted in a conservative and Christian understanding of culture, morality, and national identity, and I recognize that readers of a more liberal persuasion will take issue with some of what follows. That disagreement is neither unexpected nor unwelcome. But the intensity

of my language arises not from hostility toward those who differ, but from a deep concern for the trajectory of a nation I love and a desire to speak plainly about what I believe to be urgent challenges facing our Republic. I am grateful that most of the things I articulate below are being said today in various venues and with varying intensity. I want to go on record in adding my voice to these concerns. The issues are so titanic as to warrant the warning of danger, even destruction, that might lay ahead for the good ship "America."

American culture has changed profoundly in my 68 years of life. Our sense of reality has grown confused. We have drifted from a world that honored heroes to one that exalts celebrities - from travelers committed to a journey to tourists obsessed with snapshots. Somewhere along the way, some have lost the ability to distinguish what truly matters. For the Fabian and the feckless among the American public, Noah's flood was little more than a spring shower.

The historian's hindsight can help, but it can also mislead or occasionally deceive. Living people are nearly always myopic. The present cannot be severed from the past without jeopardizing the future. Knowledge endures and expands, yet ignorance continually challenges it. The horizons of what we know merely illuminate the frontiers of what we do not. We may know more than the dog—but we seem not to have a dog's chance of solving our problems.

The "city upon a hill" is slowly sinking toward the swamp of Hell's Half-Acre. Among us live those who do not love this country, who march to the siren song of all that is antithetical to our heritage, and whose minds are darkened by the evil one. Ominous signs of the times are everywhere.

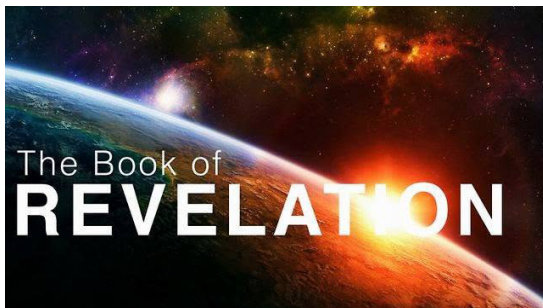
Despite attempts by a thousand imperious pundits and virulent pseudo-scholars to deny it, the disorder and chaos now unraveling our civilization is a clear and present danger. Progressive soil is thin and seldom produces anything but anemic and bitter fruit. Some liberals must depart cloud-cuckoo-land, regain their bearings, and recognize that in a headlong pursuit of progress, they have mistaken sunset for sunrise. I am weary of hearing progressive ultracrepidarian schlockmeisters repeat their shibboleths when silence would better suit them. *I would as soon listen to a gangster lecture on honesty.*

Expurgating American history is a double-edged sword. The nation must be understood in both its past and its present, warts and all. Slavery was an ugly part of our racist past; abortion is an ugly part of our national present. One cannot heap moral opprobrium on the former while supporting or standing with those who support the latter. We all need a healthy dose of consistency. Slavery is gone (except in its sexual forms), yet racism endures among some people - of every color.

The attempt to conjure up Nazism and hang it around the necks of ordinary conservatives—who simply wish to curb electoral banditry by praetorian politicians and seek equal justice under the law - is itself a Nazi mindset, or perhaps a Nazi mind trick. No one is a Nazi for believing that criminals belong behind bars rather than walking the streets. No one is a Nazi for believing that no person is above the law and that anyone who breaks it—regardless of race, face, or place - should be held accountable. Strafing political opponents with scorn irrespective of their actions or views is no path forward.

While acknowledging diversity among progressives and their motives and distinguishing between scholars who happen to lean
(continued inside)

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



liberal but operate in a more conventional academic way, it is beyond question that many progressive scholars and politicians are motivated by ideological transformation. Many of our colleges and universities have become cesspools of progressive, anti-American ideology. As a PhD student at the University of Texas at Arlington in the 1980s, I remember hallway doors in the Humanities Department plastered with anti-Reagan and pro- Castro propaganda. That now seems a Sunday school picnic compared to today’s “America haters,” who are given virtual free rein to wreak academic havoc by ravaging the minds of students with indoctrination instead of education. Winston Churchill’s words to the House of Commons on October 28, 1948, were never truer of many American university professors today when he spoke of “the race of degenerate intellectuals” who awake each day “to see what they could find to demolish, to undermine, or cast away.”

Many educators aim to reshape institutional priorities for progressive ideological transformation centered around race, gender, diversity, suppression of dissent and moralistic denunciation. Some data scientists see their role not just in building algorithms, but in actively shaping social justice outcomes and structural transformation - in the image and likeness of progressivism, of course. A University of Minnesota’s website warns against a “whiteness pandemic” and provides resources on how to halt and reverse the issue.

When unborn children are destroyed by the truckload; when a nation permits its children to undergo mutilating sex-change procedures; when some cannot define what a woman is; when elementary school students in Alaska receive copies of the U.S. Constitution and Declaration of Independence adorned with a sticker reading, “The Anchorage School District does not endorse these materials or the viewpoint expressed in them;” when six Democratic members of Congress post videos suggesting that orders by the current Commander-in-Chief are unlawful and that members of the American military should refuse to carry out the orders; when rogue members of the judiciary render decisions based on their progressive ideology rather than on the law of the land . . . we are a nation adrift. As Oxford historian Arnold Toynbee observed, civilizations more often commit suicide than suffer murder.

Some people are little more than political hacks and hoodlums. A biased legacy media against conservatives is the bane of journalism in America. Walter Cronkite was a self-identified liberal, but he did not parade his liberal bias as the anchor of the CBS Evening News and maintained his objectivity while on air. Interestingly, he was considered “the most trusted man in America.”

For many years, the relentless salvos of negativity in the media, in academia, and the perpetual propping up of all things liberal in the culture by cultural elites has warped the minds of many.

When will we learn that Communism is unworthy to unloose the latches of Capitalism’s shoes? When will we learn that violence leads nowhere? When will we walk the killing fields of Pol Pot, revisit Solzhenitsyn’s Gulag Archipelago, tour Hitler’s

death camps, and hear again the echo of six million Jewish voices—reminders of the sheer evil behind socialism, communism, and Nazism? The foolishness of seeking socialism over democracy, communism over capitalism, criminals over police, globalists over America, Wall Street over Main Street, and illegal aliens over citizens, is a poison infecting and weakening the body politic—and given time and the right circumstances, could lead to our nation’s demise. America may even now be somewhere between the ICU and the morgue.

We must reject the therapeutic culture that excuses wrongdoing by over-contextualizing it while showing little compassion for victims. Prioritizing factors like homelessness, transgender status, race, or any other personal circumstances as automatic mitigations for violent crime - rather than pursuing justice and holding offenders fully accountable - must come to an end.

There is a difference between declaring war on the social order and declaring war on the evil within it. Those who persist in a deliberate attempt to foment a civil war should be branded for what they are: treasonous characters. Home-grown terrorists, just like imported terrorists, must be stopped at all costs.

Every war is won at great cost. Yet some wars must be fought. The American Revolution had to be fought and won. The Civil War had to be fought and won. The First and Second World Wars had to be fought and won. Now many seem to have lost not only the will to win but the will to fight at all. False equivalency never works; it never knows when to fight, where to fight, or what to fight for.

Political party platforms will either align with the principles of the Judeo-Christian ethic or they will not. Though no party aligns completely with said ethic, it is clear the time has come in American politics where one party is clearly opposed to much of that ethic. It is incumbent upon people of faith to align with those principles and therefore with the platforms that best reflect them. National good or decay can be hastened or delayed by those in power and by the rear-guard efforts of those in opposition. Few politicians have the virtue to withstand the highest bidder. Politicians will legislate for good or ill. Pray they choose the good. But make no mistake: political power is not the tool for advancing the Kingdom of God. The state is not the savior. Our national salvation will not ultimately come from any political party. It will come only with the arrival of the Prince of Peace.

Lest I sound like a crepehanger, let me add that optimism should outdistance pessimism. Many Americans are demonstrating that they refuse to be hornswoiggled. In a Republic, the feet of good citizens must always walk toward the polling place. Yet optimism should be tempered by realism - and by an awareness of error. The study of error shortens the road to truth. As Georges Bernanos wrote, “In order to hope in that which does not deceive, we must first lose hope in everything that deceives.” That is a prescription many Americans need to fill - and note the fine print: “May not be substituted for a generic brand.”

We do not need to repair the Constitution. We need only to follow it to repair the Republic. Surface-level maintenance cannot

fix the cracks in a collapsing structure. Some clamor for change. Change is sometimes necessary. But not everything must be changed. Conservation of the principles that made us a great nation is as necessary today as change itself.

For some, America has become an “everything goes and nothing matters” nation. Yet we all stand before an “everything matters, therefore obey Him” God. Daniel could believe in God despite what happened to him and his people - because he believed in God before what happened, and because of what happened.

America’s foundations rest on Christian truth. It is ignorance—willful or otherwise—to deny it. Today’s nai’ve American public is often uninformed, ill-informed, or misinformed about the threats we face. Our national complacency and confusion reveal forgotten founding values.

Russia, China, North Korea, and Iran are stark reminders that socialism, communism, and dictatorial regimes are alive and well. Europe is rapidly moving toward civilizational collapse. Some socialists, communists, and Muslims are attempting to use America’s freedoms as a cloak for conquest in their effort to remake the nation in their ideological image. They must be stopped. Captain Jean-Luc Picard delivered the pivotal line in Star Trek: First Contact when he refused to sacrifice the Enterprise after humanity’s many compromises with the Borg: “A line must be drawn here!” The last hope of the free world is the United States of America.

America must reach that mic-drop moment spoken by Solomon at the end of Ecclesiastes: “***Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man***” (Ecc. 12:13). Do this, and by God’s grace we may survive as a nation. Ignore it, and the light of Lady Liberty’s torch will flicker and die—leaving behind a lightless lamp and a once-great nation swept into the dustbin of history.

- Dr. David L. Allen is founder of PreachingCoach (preachingcoach.com), a ministry dedicated to equipping pastors and ministry leaders to communicate with clarity, competence, and confidence. Dr. Allen is Distinguished Professor of Practical Theology and Dean of the Adrian Rogers Center for Biblical Preaching at Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary in Memphis, Tennessee.



*Has the Bible Been
Corrupted as Muslims
Claim?*

by Evangelist David W. Cloud

The following is excerpted from Northern Storm Rising: Russia, Iran, and the Emerging End-Times Military Coalition against Israel by Ron Rhodes (2008) -

Muslim apologist Ajjola asserts this position:

‘The first five books of the Old Testament do not constitute the original Torah, but parts of the Torah have been mingled up with other narratives written by human beings and the original guidance of the Lord is lost in that quagmire. Similarly the four Gospels of Christ are not the original Gospels as they came from the prophet Jesus...The original and the fictitious, the divine and human are so

intermingled that the grain cannot be separated from the chaff. The fact is that the original Word of God is preserved neither with the Jews nor with the Christians.’

Muslims believe, then, that what ***used to be*** the Word of God in the Bible has been so adulterated by human hands that it is now hardly distinguishable from the word of man. ...

Muslims claim that they are the true and rightful heirs to the promises made to Abraham through Ishmael (who, they claim, gave rise to the Arab nations) and that the Jews, for personal gain, concocted a story that Isaac became Abraham’s heir of the Palestinian land promises. In this Jewish version, Ishmael and his descendants became outcasts and thus have no right to the land. The original Old Testament, we are told, did not have this concocted story. Palestine, by divine right, thus belongs to the Muslims and not to the Jews.

The Folly of Muslim Reasoning -

Arguing that the Bible became corrupted during or after Muhammad’s time is unreasonable. By Muhammad’s time, hundreds of thousands of copies of the Bible were dispersed over a large part of the world. To successfully corrupt the Bible, ***all*** these copies would have to be meticulously gathered (assuming people around the world would be willing to surrender them, an impossible scenario) and changed.

Another scenario is that hundreds of thousands of Bible-owning people from around the world met together and colluded to make the changes. But most of these people were true believers, so would they have been likely to tamper with a book upon which they were basing their eternal salvation? Would such collusion even be physically possible?

Moreover, hundreds of years before Muhammad was even born, the Bible had already been translated into a number of languages. Would Muslims have us believe these various translations were identically altered all over the world so they would have a uniform corruption? Of course, this would have been impossible.

Further, could both Jews and Christians have been involved in corrupting the Bible, as Muslims claim? Jews and Christians of that time were hostile to one another, and if either party tried to alter the biblical text, the other party would have cried “foul!” and exposed the misdeed by producing the accurate manuscripts.’

Further, many dissenting Christian sects existed during this time. An alteration of the biblical text by any one of these sects would have brought immediate condemnation by the others. Still further, if the Jews had corrupted their Scriptures, wouldn’t they have changed all the horrible things we read about them in the Torah-such as their total unfaithfulness during the wilderness sojourn and their participation in idolatry?

Likewise, if Christians corrupted the New Testament, wouldn’t they have removed unflattering episodes about Christians, like Peter denying Christ three times and the disciples scattering like a bunch of faithless cowards when Christ was arrested?

The early Jews had meticulous rules to ensure that the scribes accurately copied the text of the Hebrew Scriptures. This text was

then handed down to the Massorettes.

‘The Massorettes, in turn, numbered the verses, words, and letters of every book. ... The Massorettes were indeed anxious that not one jot or tittle--not one smallest letter nor one tiny part of a letter--of the Law should pass away or be lost.’

The previous is excerpted from Northern Storm Rising: Russia, Iran, and the Emerging End-Times Military Coalition against Israel by Ron Rhodes (2008)



THE DEAD SEA SCROLLS

The Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered between 1947

and 1956 in 11 caves near the northwest shore of the Dead Sea, 13 miles southeast of Jerusalem. The first cave contained two Isaiah scrolls, including the nearly intact Great Isaiah Scroll.

The scrolls were preserved by the exceedingly dry climate of the caves, which are 1,300 feet below sea level.

Four-fifths of the scrolls are written in Hebrew, and 25% are books of the Bible. There are parts of every Old Testament book except Esther, thus confirming the traditional canon of Scripture. There are 15 copies of Genesis, 17 of Exodus, 13 of Leviticus, eight of Numbers, 29 of Deuteronomy, two of Joshua, three of Judges, 21 of Isaiah, six of Jeremiah, six of Ezekiel, 36 of Psalms, two of Proverbs, and four of Ruth.

Advanced dating tests in the early 1990s confirmed that the biblical scrolls date to the two centuries before Christ (George Bonani, “Carbon-14 Tests Substantiate Scroll Dates,” Biblical Archaeology Review, November/December 1991).

The Dead Sea Scrolls contain powerful evidence for the authenticity of the Masoretic Hebrew text that was the basis for the great Reformation Bibles such as the German Luther, the King James in English, and the Reina Valera in Spanish. The Masoretic text was preserved by the meticulous labor of Hebrew scribes prior to the invention of printing by moveable type in the 15th century. (The first printed Hebrew Bible appeared in 1488.)

The differences between the conservative Dead Sea scrolls and the Masoretic text are extremely minor, largely pertaining to spelling or grammar, the omission or addition of a word, or the mixing of Hebrew letters. For example in Isaiah 7:14, Immanuel is two words in the Masoretic text and one word in the Great Isaiah Scroll, but it is the same name.

The Great Isaiah Scroll’s (1QIsaa, meaning Cave 1 Isaiah a) agreement with the Masoretic text, is called “striking” by Dr. Ernst Würthwein and “extraordinarily close” by Adolfo Roitman (Würthwein, The Text of the Old Testament, 1979, p. 144; Roitman, The Bible in the Shrine of the Book, 2006, p. 43).

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NEWS OF INTEREST TO CHRISTIANS

❑ **PREVIOUS GENERATIONS OF IMMIGRANT AMERICANS** - We are witnessing the first generations of uncontrolled, unsupervised immigration in America, the first generation of immigrants (broadly speaking) treated to free everything, the first generation that expects to break the nation’s laws with no consequence, the first generation not educated in the nation’s unique principles, the first generation intent on remaining isolated in separatist, non-English speaking communities, the first generation allowed to keep their own anti-American judicial system. It seems insane, but it is actually genius. It is a major part of a definite plan to destroy the old America and create a new one. And it will doubtless eventually succeed, unless the entire public school system from kindergarten to university is revamped, and the Leftists who control the nation’s law schools, state bar associations, and judiciaries are evicted, and several generations of brainwashed citizens are effectively re-educated, and the Democrat trifecta states are evicted from the Union, and a new generation of spiritually powerful New Testament churches is raised up, at the very least.

The impossibility of this is one reason why we are focused like a laser on Great Commission/New Testament church business, which is God’s main business today. Consider the immigrants of former times. They were not scofflaws; they entered legally and obeyed the nation’s laws; they learned English; they worked hard; and they were educated in and committed to American principles.

The following window into those times is from Michael Auslin, National Treasure: How the Declaration of Independence Made America, 2026:

“A surge in immigration from 1880 to 1920 had brought over 20 million newcomers to America, many from Scandinavia and southern and eastern Europe. From a population of 50 million in 1880, the country had shot up to 106 million four decades later. High birth rates combined with waves of immigrants who settled in the new territories and packed into rising metropolises like Chicago, Cleveland, St. Louis, and Kansas City. With the foreign-born now 15 percent of the population, turning these immigrants into patriotic Americans became a priority for politicians, employers, and educators. Mandatory elementary school and civics classes were designed to imbue them with American values and to teach them about the principles of self-government. Community groups also played a key role.

The Educational Alliance, founded in 1889 on East Broadway as one of New York’s original settlement houses, gave tens of thousands of Jewish immigrants from Russia and Eastern Europe ‘that practical understanding of American government, institutions, and ideas which alone can make them real Americans.’ During World War I, the National Americanization Committee, headed at one point by Thomas Edison and Mrs. Cornelius Vanderbilt, distributed thousands of copies of a forty-eight-page Citizenship Syllabus to ‘train our foreign-born population for good, efficient and devoted American citizenship.’

In 1922, the Ford Motor Company began advertising

educational films on ‘Civics and Citizenship’ aimed at public schools. Meanwhile, the country’s founding documents were translated into immigrants’ native languages” (Auslin, National Treasure, pp. 189-190). Henry Ford established schools to educate immigrants in English and the principles of good citizenship, with the goal of assimilating them as Americans.

❑ **QUALIFIED FOR CIVIL LIBERTY** - The following is excerpted from Edmund Burke, Letter to a Member of the National Assembly, 1791:

“Men are qualified for civil liberty in exact proportion to their disposition to put moral chains upon their own appetites,--in proportion as their love to justice is above their rapacity,--in proportion as their soundness and sobriety of understanding is above their vanity and presumption,--in proportion as they are more disposed to listen to the counsels of the wise and good, in preference to the flattery of knaves. Society cannot exist, unless a controlling power upon will and appetite be placed somewhere; and the less of it there is within, the more there must be without. It is ordained in the eternal constitution of things, that men of intemperate minds cannot be free. Their passions forge their fetters.”

❑ **THOMAS JEFFERSON AND SLAVERY** - “How could the man who wrote that ‘All men are created equal’ own slaves?

This, in essence, is the question most persistently asked of those who write about Thomas Jefferson, and by all indications it is the thing that contemporary Americans find most vexing about him.

... The question carries a silent assumption that because he practiced slave holding, Jefferson must have somehow believed in it, and must therefore have been a hypocrite. My belief is that this way of asking the question ... is essentially backward, and reflects the pervasive PRESENTISM of our time.

Consider, for example, how different the question appears when inverted and framed in more historical terms: How did a man who was born into a slave holding society, whose family and admired friends owned slaves, who inherited a fortune that was dependent on slaves and slave labor, decide at an early age that slavery was morally wrong and forcefully declare that it ought to be abolished? Though stating the same case, these are obviously different questions, focusing on different things, but one is framed in a historical context and the other ignores historical circumstances. The rephrased question reveals that what is truly remarkable is that Jefferson went against his society and his own self-interest to denounce slavery and urge its abolition” (Douglas Wilson, “Thomas Jefferson and the Character Issue,” The Atlantic Monthly, November 1992).

❑ **U. S. HOUSE SELECT SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT ON CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC** - The following is excerpted from John West, Endowed by Our Creator: The Bible, Science, and the Battle for America’s Soul:

“At the end of 2024, the US House Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic issued a 557-page report. It was scathing. It faulted government science officials for spreading

misinformation about the origins of COVID-19, exaggerating the power of COVID-19 vaccines, and employing ‘Undemocratic and Likely Unconstitutional Methods to Fight What It Deemed to Be Misinformation.’

The report also determined that ‘There Was No Quantitative Scientific Support for Six Feet of Social Distancing,’ and ‘The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Relied on Flawed Studies to Support the Issuing of Mask Mandates.’

Regarding the extended lockdowns imposed throughout America, the report concluded that ‘Unscientific COVID-19 Lockdowns Caused More Harm Than Good,’ itemizing their severe impacts on the economy, mental health, children, and young adults. When it came to vaccine mandates, the report concluded that they too ‘Were Not Supported by Science,’ and ‘Caused Massive Collateral Damage and Were Very Likely Counterproductive.’”



Beth Moore Scolds Southern Baptist Men - Again

Recently, Beth Moore emerged from whatever cave she has been hiding in since abandoning her Southern Baptist church several years ago and unleashed a lengthy social media tirade aimed at Southern Baptists who continue to believe that God’s Word means what it says regarding the office of pastor.

Predictably, the thread was greeted with applause from the usual crowd, including Kay Warren, who quickly rushed to her defense with a response that may have inadvertently revealed more about the true nature of this controversy than Beth’s entire manifesto.

Here is an excerpt from what she wrote:

“Those in the SBC who think I no longer should have anything to say about the SBC profoundly underestimate the power of love. I’d served southern Baptist women for 40 years by the time I left. And when I left, I left directly on their behalf because it became disturbingly clear to me that the SBC as an entity was more interested in protecting shepherds than the sheep entrusted to their care. When protecting the pulpit from women becomes a far greater priority than protecting women (& children) from an abusive pulpit, something is wrong. Which has been the greater problem: women trying to become your senior pastors or pastors misusing or abusing women?”

Now, the more I read Moore’s lengthy lament over Southern Baptists defending the Scriptures, the more convinced I become that we are not actually debating theology anymore. We are

debating representation and demographics. We are debating whether the church will submit to the authority of Scripture or surrender itself to the same identity politics that have infected every other institution in the West.

The foundation and the premise of their entire argument is that women make up at least half of the membership of churches. That is the lens through which this entire controversy is being framed.

Notice what is absent - they do not appeal to Scripture. They do not appeal to church history. They do not appeal to the qualifications for elders found in First Timothy or Titus. They don't even attempt to argue that Southern Baptists have misinterpreted the relevant texts.



Instead, they appeal to demographics and identity.

The implication is obvious. If women constitute half the church, then any restriction placed upon the pastoral office must somehow be unfair, unjust, exclusionary, or oppressive. The argument is fundamentally political. It is the logic of representation. It is the logic of constituency

groups. It is the logic of modern activism dressed up in church clothes.

Yet, the apostles never argued this way. For crying out loud, even Phoebe, Deborah, Aquila—the women of Scripture—they never even argued this way.

Women were half the church when Paul wrote First Timothy. Women were half the church when Titus was instructed to appoint elders. Women were half the church when the qualifications for overseers were established under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

The demographic reality has not changed. What *has* changed is the cultural zeitgeist through which people read the text.

It's the same lens that permeates Beth Moore's argument. This is her central complaint:

“When protecting the pulpit from women becomes a far greater priority than protecting women (& children) from an abusive pulpit, something is wrong.”

At first glance, to those who don't actually know what's going on, that may sound compelling. It is designed to sound compelling. But when you slow down and examine it, the argument collapses.

Why Are These Presented as Competing Priorities?

Who says churches must choose between removing “abusive pastors”—which has been demonstrated thoroughly as a feminist-led witch hunt—and maintaining biblical qualifications

for the office of pastor? Who says Southern Baptist churches cannot aggressively discipline abusers while simultaneously affirming what Scripture teaches regarding eldership?

The entire argument depends upon a false dilemma. It assumes that concern for one issue necessarily comes at the expense of concern for the other. It is the rhetorical jiggery-pokery Beth Moore has mastered, which is designed to place complementarians on the defensive before the discussion even begins.

The reality is that the SBC's recent controversies surrounding women pastors were not driven by a desire to protect abusive men. They were driven by churches openly placing women into pastoral offices while claiming to remain within confessional boundaries. Those are entirely separate issues.

Beth then attempts to bolster her case by comparing the debate over women pastors to the controversy surrounding Critical Race Theory:

“My biggest concern is that what happened with the CRT witch-hunt will happen now in regard to women.”

Again, the comparison falls apart under even modest scrutiny. Southern Baptists did not reject preaching against racism. Southern Baptists rejected the Marxist identity-politics that had gained a stronghold within its churches and entities through certain bad actors who clearly had ulterior motives. The controversy existed because most Southern Baptists eventually saw this and believed these secular ideological categories were being imported into the church and used to reinterpret biblical doctrine.

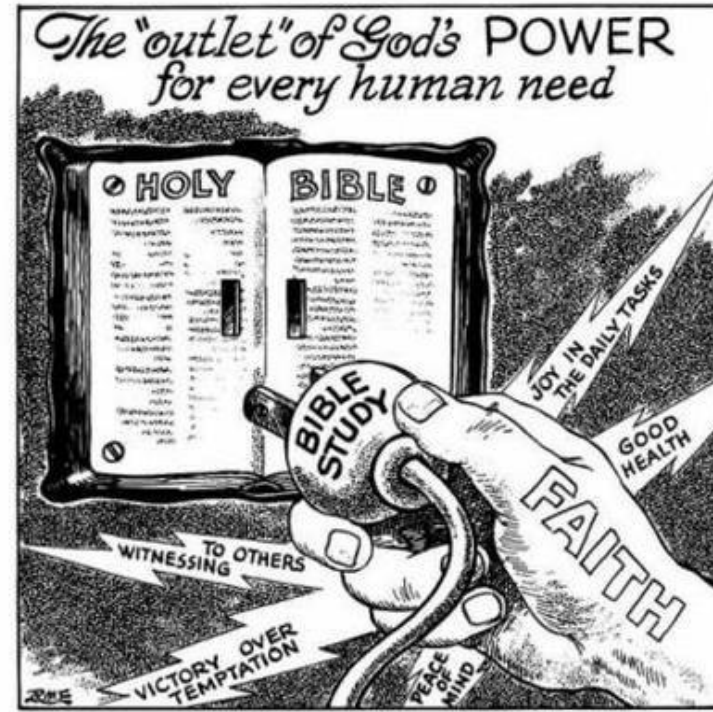
Ironically, that is precisely what is happening now.

The question before Southern Baptists has historically been straightforward - What does Scripture teach concerning the office of pastor? Yet, Beth repeatedly shifts the discussion away from office and toward influence. Away from qualifications and toward opportunities. Away from theology and toward perceived fairness.

- She asks what women can do.
- She asks whether women can pray over people.
- She asks whether women can counsel.
- She asks whether women can teach.
- She asks whether pastors might eventually decide women are acting “too pastorally.”

Notice what is happening. If you're familiar with the Law Amendment that has been presented before Southern Baptists multiple times, and is scheduled to be voted on at the Southern Baptist Convention next week, it is designed to limit fellowship with churches who openly rebel against the biblical teaching of the pastor office.

- Period.
- The Law Amendment never addressed prayer teams.
- The Law Amendment never addressed women teaching women.
- The Law Amendment never addressed counseling.
- The Law Amendment never addressed women's ministry.
- The amendment addressed pastors and the pastoral office.



That was the issue.

The reason so many hypothetical scenarios have to be introduced into the discussion is because the actual language of the proposed-but-formerly-failed amendment is actually remarkably clear.

The amendment was not vague - its supporters favored it because it clarified what the Baptist Faith and Message already taught.

What emerges from both Beth's statement and Kay Warren's endorsement is a *consistent pattern*. The discussion is continually shifted **away** from the authority of Scripture and **toward** the emotional experience of women who feel restricted by Scripture's teaching.

That carries devastating consequences.

Once representation becomes the governing principle, every biblical qualification becomes vulnerable. Every office becomes negotiable and every distinction established by God becomes subject to demographic pressure. After all, if “half the church” becomes a valid argument regarding eldership, why stop there? Why should demographics not govern every office, every role, every structure, and every institution established by God?

The answer, of course, is that Christ never organized His church according to demographic representation - He organized His church according to divine revelation.

What is most troubling about all of this is the profoundly divisive nature of this rhetoric. Both women, and this entire movement in the SBC, have repeatedly framed faithful pastors and

church leaders as obstacles standing in the way of women flourishing in ministry. The men are framed as gatekeepers. The men become the problem. The men become obsessed with control.

The women, of course, become “victims” of an oppressive system.

Sound familiar?

That narrative poisons churches. It teaches women to view faithful pastors with suspicion. It encourages Southern Baptists to interpret biblical leadership through the lens of power dynamics. It imports worldly categories of grievance and oppression into relationships that Scripture describes in terms of service, sacrifice, responsibility, and stewardship.

The result is **not** greater unity. The result is resentment. And resentment has always been one of the enemy's favorite tools.

Ultimately, neither Beth Moore nor Kay Warren are offering a different interpretation of the relevant biblical texts. They are offering a different way of thinking about authority itself. Their argument does not begin with Scripture and arrive at a different conclusion - it begins with modern assumptions about representation, influence, and fairness, then seeks to pressure Scripture into conformity with

those assumptions.

That is why the phrase “half the church” is so revealing. It exposes the real battlefield.

The question is **not** whether women are gifted. Nobody disputes that. The question is not whether women are valuable. Scripture repeatedly affirms that they are.

The question *is* whether Christ has the right to order His church according to His wisdom rather than our preferences. That is the question beneath all the noise. And *that* is the question Beth Moore never actually answers.

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