NURSERY MINISTRY WORKERS FOR THIS WEEK

Sunday School ---------- *Mary Byars & Volunteer Needed*
10:50 a.m. Service ---------- *Mary & Larry Byars*
6:30 p.m. Service ---------- *Hannah & Brenda White*
Wed. Evening Service ---------- *Volunteers Needed!*

AND THE PEOPLE CAME...

- Week of November 1, 2026 -

Sunday School ---------- 15
Sunday Morning Service ---------- 36
Sunday Eve. Service ---------- 26
Wednesday Eve. Service ---------- 10

AND THE PEOPLE GAVE...

- Week of November1, 2026 -

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings ---------- $ 2,180.75
Auditorium A/C Replacement Fund ---------- $ 125.93
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 11/01/26: $ 2,306.68

- Week of October25, 2026 -

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings ---------- $ 1,619.22
Auditorium A/C Replacement Fund ---------- $ 125.93
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 10/25/26: $ 1,745.15

- Week of October 18, 2026 -

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings ---------- $ 1,588.87
Auditorium A/C Replacement Fund ---------- $ 130.00
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 10/18/26: $ 1,718.87

- Week of October 11, 2026 -

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings ---------- $ 1,698.54
Auditorium A/C Replacement Fund ---------- $ 125.93
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 10/11/26: $ 1,824.47

- Week of October 4, 2026 -

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings ---------- $ 1,398.60
Auditorium A/C Replacement Fund ---------- $ 125.93
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 10/04/26: $ 1,524.53

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

SOUTH HEIGHTS BAPTIST'S *WEEKLY*

REMINDER

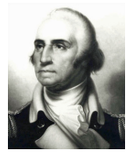
Volume XXXII **November 8, 2026** **Number 43**



What the Founding Fathers Said About 21st Century America

by Evangelist David Cloud

"Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people" (Proverbs 14:34).
"The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God" (Psalm 9:17).
"This is thy lot, the portion of thy measures from me, saith the LORD; because thou hast forgotten me, and trusted in falsehood" (Jeremiah 13:25).



George Washington, in his first inaugural address in 1789, said: ***"The propitious smiles of heaven can never be expected on a nation that disregards the external rules of order and right, which Heaven itself has ordained."***



John Adams, second president of USA, said in1798: ***"We have no government armed with power capable of contending with human passions unbridled by morality and religion. ... Our Constitution was made for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other."***



James Madison (1751-1836), our fourth president, said: ***"To suppose any form of government will secure liberty or happiness without virtue in the people is a chimerical idea."***



Patrick Henry (1736-1799), famous for the declaration, "Give me liberty or give me death," post-colonial governor of Virginia: ***"Bad men cannot make good citizens. It is when a people forget God that tyrants forge their chains. A vitiated state of morals, a corrupted public conscience, is incompatible with freedom. No free government, or the blessings of liberty, can be preserved to any people but by a firm adherence to justice, moderation, temperance, frugality, and virtue; and by a frequent recurrence to fundamental principles."***



BEAUTIFYING TRUTH

by Dr. Angel Martinez

"Not purloining, but shewing all good fidelity; that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour . . ." (Titus 2:10).

Paul was always concerned with the spiritual growth of new Christians. Everywhere new churches were springing up, and many were being converted from pagan and heathen environments. Making the transition from the former life to the life in Christ was often difficult and confusing. The new converts needed a great deal of instruction along with a lot of patience on the part of the teachers. Habit is a difficult thing to change. Many of the converts were older people, and paganism had gripped their beings in every realm of life. Paul is concerned about this. Perhaps reports had come to him that some of the converts had new hearts, but they were not showing it. Many of the epistles reflect his specific teachings on problems that were prevalent in that day. We still have many problems produced by a materialistic environment, and the relevance of these epistles is refreshing.

Among the new converts were those who worked for pagan employers. In that day particularly, the laboring man was horribly underpaid. In that day, as in our day, the employee would often supplement his meager salary by stealing from the employer. The employers knew this, and this polite thievery was prevalent everywhere. But Paul is appealing to the new converts; he is asking them not to continue in this practice. Virtually, he is saying to them, "Don't steal anymore. I know that you are underpaid, but stealing is sinful, because when you steal from the employer, you steal honor from yourself and you steal glory from God. Let the employer know that if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature. Let the employer be stunned by the difference that now is manifest in you by virtue of your new-found love for Christ. And when you do this you will be beautifying truth; you will be adorning the doctrine."

It is true that the carnal man knoweth not the things of God. As Christians our task is to interpret spiritual truth by allowing it to become incarnate in our personalities. The word must become flesh. Naked spiritual truth terrifies the unsaved man. The job of every Christian is to adorn the doctrine. For when we live in our lives the principles of Christ, we are making truth attractive to the unbeliever. The carnal mind is enmity against God. It is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can it be.

But this condition can be changed and God has made us co-laborers with Him in this transforming project. Our task is to adorn the doctrine, to beautify truth by the way we live. We are to be the links between what God can do and what man needs done for him.

Doctrines by themselves are difficult for the unsaved man to absorb. They scare him; they are unattractive to him. To the unsaved man, these great and precious promises which mean so much to us terrify him. They are like skeletons. A skeleton is very essential; it forms the support and mobility of the body. A mass of flesh without a skeleton would be useless. So doctrines and spiritual laws and truths are the support of the Christian faith. But skeletons by themselves, frighten people; the flesh on them makes the skeleton attractive and winsome. So in like fashion our task is to put flesh on the skeleton, on the doctrine, and we do this by living for Christ in our sphere of influence. The natural man knoweth not the things of the Spirit. It is up to us to interpret spiritual life by the way we live and witness.

An old preacher once said, *"My people believe the Gospel, but many of them do not behave the Gospel."* I am convinced that this is so with many of us. Admiring spiritual truth is not enough. We must appropriate it to the problems of living. Doctrine and duty ought to go side by side. Belief and behavior, creed and conduct; should never be separated. The world will not accept our witness simply through our lips. Our lives must match our profession if we are going to make an impression upon the people of our day. A tremendous revival would erupt in Christendom if we would take these words to heart.

This is the thesis that I want to present to you. Every great doctrine in the Bible, precious and true, makes a practical demand on your life and mine. If we say that we believe, then it behooves us to obey the truth that we affirm. I am going to mention five great doctrines in the Bible, and then show haw belief in each one places a responsibility upon our daily living.

First, the Bible is the Word of God; the practical application is to read it. Second, Christ is God in the flesh; the practical application is to make Him Lord in our lives. Third, Christ died for sinners; the way to adorn this truth is to pick up our cross and follow Him. Fourth, men must be born again; the way to adorn that doctrine is to live like God's children. Fifth, Christ is coming again; the way to adorn that doctrine is to be a witness for Him.

I. THE BIBLE IS THE WORD OF GOD

This is one of the great doctrines in Christendom. The Bible is not the book of the month; it is the Book of the ages. God chose devoted men and inspired them to put His message in a Book. While they were inscribing the message, God kept them free from error. Though these men were fallible, the message that God gave them was infallible.

As in the case of Mary, the mother of Jesus, she was a human with all of the limitations and faults of human life. But the Spirit of God overshadowed her, and she produced the perfect Son of God in her womb. In like fashion, God overshadowed the minds of the writers of the Bible and they produced the perfect record of His Word.

The Bible has had many enemies.

Men have tried to lift words out of verses and verses out of chapters and chapters out of books and books out of the Bible. But when the battle was over and the smoke cleared, every book was right back in the Bible, every chapter was back in the book, every verse was back in the chapter, and every word was back in the verse. Men may come and men may go, but the Word of God goes on forever. It is indestructible because you cannot destroy that which is eternal. Heaven and earth may pass away, but His word shall never pass away. The psalmist was right when he said,
"For ever, O Lord, thy word is settled in heaven."

To be sure, there are many mysteries in the Bible. But this reveals its divine authorship. Billy Sunday used to say, *"If I could understand everything in the Bible, then it would be a good proof that someone with no more sense than I have wrote it."* Mark Twain once said, *"It is not the mysteries in the Bible that perplex me, but it is those parts that I understand and won't obey."*

Many years ago an eloquent infidel named Bob Ingersoll toured the country delivering anathemas against the Bible. He rented large halls, and people paid to hear him lecture against the Word of God. He had a famous talk entitled, *"The Mistakes of Moses,"* and he would charge two dollars per person. I didn't live in Ingersoll's day, but if I had, I would not have paid two dollars to have heard him lecture on the mistakes of Moses; but I would have paid two hundred dollars to have heard Moses lecture on the mistakes of Bob Ingersoll.

The Bible is the Word of God. Every true believer would say "Amen" to that statement. But the way to adorn this doctrine is to read the Bible. The Bible is the best seller, and yet the poorest read book. As I see it, there is a fourfold attack against the Bible today.

- First, the attack of the modernist or liberal; he takes away from the Bible.
- Second, the atheist; he denies the Bible.
- Third, the Roman Catholic; he adds to the Bible the dogmas of popes and makes them infallible.
- And fourth, the true believer; he does not read the Bible.

If we believe the Bible is the Word of God, we ought to read it over and over again until we can say with David, ***"Thy word have I hid in my heart, that I might not sin against thee."*** For surely the Bible will keep us from sin, or else sin will keep us from the Bible.

Many defeated Christians who find it difficult to live as they should, owe their failure to not reading the Bible. I find this true among so many of the Lord's people.

II. CHRIST IS GOD IN THE FLESH

This is a great doctrine in the Christian faith. The Jehovah's Witnesses try to deny it by saying that Christ was a God, but not the God, and that He is not co-equal with the Father. The Bible teaches that Christ was God in the flesh. At Bethlehem the Infinite became an infant; salvation was wrapped in swaddling clothes. Jesus was the Word made flesh and dwelt among us. Paul tells us that in Him dwelleth the fulness of the Godhead bodily. His name was Emmanuel, which means "God with us."

The Philippian letter tells us that the God who made the world stooped and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. We know that His human and divine nature functioned side by side.

- One day He wept by the grave of Lazarus, signifying His humanity, but a moment later He raised Lazarus from the dead, signifying His divinity.
- One day He slept in a boat like a human being; a moment later He stilled a storm like a God.

How ridiculous for anyone to say that Christ was not God, but only a good man. How can a good man be a liar of the magnitude of Christ who Himself said that He was God. He told His disciples that He and the Father were one. When one of them said to Him, "Show us the Father," Jesus replied, "You are looking at Him. When you see Me, you see God."

Thirty-one times in the four gospels Christ by His own lips claims to be God. If He is not God, He is the biggest liar that ever walked across the stage of human history. Buddha was the founder of Buddhism, but he did not claim to be God. Lao-tzu, the founder of Taoism, didn't say that he was God. Neither Zoroaster, nor Confucius claimed to be God. Jesus said, "I am He [God]."

In psychiatry, there is an illness known as "paranoid states." Like all psychotic illnesses, it is an attempt to flee from reality and find peace in a mental Utopia. The main result of this illness is delusions. The person imagined himself to be some great personage. Often they think that they are Napoleon or some contemporary person who is famous. If Jesus claimed to be God and He was not, then He was deluded and we would have to diagnose Him as being a paranoid. But then we would have a difficult time explaining His beneficent influence upon the world. How could a liar or a paranoid inspire the famous masterpieces of art? How could a deceiver like Christ move men to build hospitals for the sick, homes for the aged and schools for the ambitious? We conclude with heart and mind that He was God in the flesh.

How can we adorn this doctrine? By making Him Lord, or boss, in our lives. Multitudes of Christians who believe that He is God are not willing to trust Him with the whole of their lives.

- With many of us, the Lord is resident, but He is not president.
- With many of us, the Lord boards in the heart, but He does not boss in the heart.
- In the hearts of many, Christ is Saviour but He is not Lord.

If we can trust Him with our hearts, then we ought to be willing to trust Him with our social life, with our domestic life, with our business life. I am sure that too many of us are partially Christian. We touch religion with our fingertips. We are suburban Christians; we love out on the edge, on the fringe, but we never move into town.

It is useless to attempt to convince unbelievers about the deity of Christ if we are not willing to give Him the key to every room in our lives. If He made the world and this vast universe, and we are told that all things were made by Him, and without Him was nothing made that was made, then it seems to me that we should submit our entire life to Him. Make Him Lord in your life. Put Him in the driver's seat. You will never regret it.

He knows how to order your life better than you do. He not only knows your life, but He knows the future as well as the past. He is equipped to make your life meaningful and powerful.

III. CHRIST DIED FOR SINNERS

This is another great doctrine to which every Christian gives ready assent. Christ's death was not exemplary; it was expiatory.

Christ did not die because He had to die; He died to redeem us from our sins. He took your place and mine on the cross of Calvary. So He died not only for me, but He died as me. The crown of thorns should have been on my head. The nails in His hands should have been on my hands. The stripes that He bore should have been on my back, but Jesus paid it all. We didn't deserve His death, but out of infinite love He condescended to do for us what we could not do for ourselves.

We are not redeemed by corruptible things like silver and gold. We are redeemed by the precious blood of Jesus Christ as a lamb without blemish and without spot. He who knew no sin became sin for us that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him. By His crucifixion He made it possible for sinful human beings to become members of the family of God. The miracle is beyond human description, but its reality is proven every time a sinner becomes willing to accept the death of Christ. God has decreed that anyone that is willing to accept the death of Christ for the payment of His sins will be a member of God's family forever. There could be nothing more simple than that, and its simplicity is excelled only by its brilliant beauty.

But how could the death of man become the basis for the salvation of the world? Well, how can one television broadcast in a studio go out and fill a million sets with the same thing that is going on in the studio? The stream of redemption has not lost its power. Its strength never dies; it never fades nor fails. This is God's way of redeeming sinners and retaining His own righteousness. By the death of Jesus, God is just and the justifier of them which believe in Christ.

Now how can we adorn that doctrine? By taking up our cross and following Him. He said in Matthew, ***"If any man come after me, let him pick up his cross and follow me."*** It is easy to be saved, but becoming a good Christian involves a crucifixion. The Christian life has never been easy.

Paul said, ***"Put on the whole armour of God."***

- You are not going to a feast, you are going to a fight.
- You are not going to a banquet, you are going to a battle.
- You are not going on a picnic, you are going on a pilgrimage.

Paul said, "They that live godly shall suffer persecution." Paul never got paid for preaching; he made tents on the side to pay expenses. The only purse that Paul ever got for preaching was persecution, and he got plenty of that. I think that Christians often confuse a cross and a burden.

I hear someone say, "I suffer poor health, that's my cross." No, that isn't your cross, that's your burden. Someone says, "I have an unsaved husband, and that's my cross." No, that's not your cross, that's your burden. A burden is something that is imposed on you and you have to endure. A cross is something that you pick up voluntarily. When you take up suffering for Christ and you do it voluntarily, then you are bearing the cross.

Paul could say, ***"I am crucified with Christ."*** But remember that crucifixion is a kind of death that cannot be self-inflicted. Somebody else must do it to you. You can kill with a gun, and be killed with one. You can drown a person, and you can drown yourself. But you cannot crucify yourself. For if you nail the feet and one hand, the other hand remains loose. Paul was simply stating that Christians must submit to Christ. There is no way out. The Christian who wants to live his life to the fullest must imitate the Master in crucifixion.

IV. MEN MUST BE BORN AGAIN

This is another great doctrine of the Christian faith. We are clearly taught in the Bible that men cannot save themselves; that salvation comes by the goodness of God. A man can no more save himself than a flat tire can fix itself. A flat tire can be fixed, but someone else must do it. A man can be saved, but Someone else must do it for him. This is the meaning of the crucifixion, for if man can save himself, the effort on the cross was useless. But Calvary stands as a mute reminder that man cannot save himself in part or in whole.

God requires a new creation. ***"If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature."*** We are not saved by reformation, we are saved by a transformation. The Bible teaches that the works of man may be acceptable to man, but in the sight of a perfect God, they are as filthy rags. Man has never understood the fact that God hates human righteousness when it is used as a substitute for salvation. The new birth is totally different from anything that man is or that man can do. There is no substitute for this transaction which God demands of every human being when He says, ***"Ye must be born again."***

Even religion can be no substitute, for religion is what man does for God; Christianity is what God in Christ has done for man.

You will notice that all the pagan religions revolve around what the devotees do for their gods.

One of the plans of salvation in Hinduism is to slay 609 animals in succession, concluding with the famous horse sacrifice. But David told the truth in Psalm 51 when, in trying to appease God with his offerings and sacrifices, he finally said, ***"But a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise."*** And only as men come to Christ with a heart that understands that only the cross can atone for our sins, can salvation become a reality within the framework of human existence. So quitting this or that and turning over a new leaf will not bring the benefits of the cross to your soul. Calvary is not a minus, it is a plus.

Now, how can we adorn this great doctrine of the new birth? What practical demand does it make on our lives? I say that if we believe this truth with all of our hearts, we are going to adorn it by living like children of God in the midst of this crooked and perverse generation.

In the twenty-fourth Psalm David raised the question, ***"Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord, or who shall stand in his holy place?"*** He answers, ***"They that have clean hands and a pure heart, who have not lifted their soul to iniquity, nor sworn deceitfully."*** It is true that the pure in heart shall see God. But when we are pure in heart, others will see God.

Let us remember that the grace of God imposes some great responsibilities upon the life of the Christian. We have gained our freedom through Christ, and even though we are not in danger of hell, the love of Christ constrains us.

- We are to live soberly and righteously and godly in this present world.
- We are to interpret the love of God to the world through our daily living.
- We are not only to have old time religion, we are to have all time religion.
- We are to act like Christians on the job, on the school ground, among our social set, and in our neighborhood.

And our contribution is not only to be a moral one, but also a spiritual one. We are not only to refrain from sin, but we are to promote love and humility and friendliness. We are to refrain from revenge, and we are to introduce forgiveness and be as merciful with others, even as Christ has been with us.

This new life should manifest itself in the home. For the real test of your religion is not how you act at the Lord's Table, but how you act at the breakfast table. Many people save their sullenness and their vindictiveness for the home circle. And although they look pretty good to the outsiders, they are unchristian in their attitudes in the home. May God give us the courage and the wisdom to live like God's children. This is the prayer that I pray for myself.

V. CHRIST IS COMING AGAIN

This is a great truth to which every Christian adheres.

- We know that Jesus came the first time; that is a matter of history.
- We know that He is coming a second time and that is a matter of prophecy.
- He came the first time to save the soul. He is coming the second time to save the body.
- He came the first time to save the individual; He is coming a second time to save society.
- He came the first time to a crucifixion; He is coming the second time to a coronation.
- He came the first time to a tree; He is coming the second time to a throne.
- The first time He came, He stood before Pilate; the second time He comes, Pilate will stand before Him.

The Bible clearly teaches that man is the architect of his own doom and collapse. The human race tried to construct a united nations with the Tower of Babel, and God came down to confuse their tongues. That is why Jesus must come again. He alone can turn the sword into a plowshare and turn the spear into a pruning hook. He alone can teach man how to make war no more. When He returns, the lion and the lamb shall lie down together, and a little child shall lead them. Then the knowledge of God will cover the earth like the waters cover the sea.

We know that He has not yet returned. As long as the cemeteries remain intact, Jesus has not appeared. There are some sects that say that He is already here and we are now in the tribulation period, and this era will soon end with the Battle of Armageddon. But don't you believe it. When some come and say to you, "Lo here, lo there, Christ has already returned," get in your car and go to the cemetery, and if the graves are in order, remember, Christ has not returned. For when He comes, the first thing on the agenda, according to the Scriptures, is that the dead in Christ shall rise, and we which are alive and remain shall be caught up in the air, and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

Now, how can we adorn this doctrine? By being witnesses for Him. This is the task of every believer. You remember how, in the book of Acts, just before He ascended, the disciples came with questions. Did you know what they had on their minds? They wanted to discuss politics. They asked, "Will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" Jesus said, "It is none of your business. It is not for you to know the times and the seasons that the Father has placed in His own hand." Jesus said, "But here is your job between now and my return: Be my witnesses." Notice, He didn't say, "Be my lawyers."

"Don't argue the case, just tell your neighbors and your loved ones and your business partners and your friends what I have done for you. Tell them how I have given you wisdom in the hour of decision. Tell them how I have given you power in the hour of temptation. Tell them how I have given you mercy in the hour of defeat."

Christians, this is our main job. The church has forgotten the Great Commission. The unique contribution of the church is to win others to the grace of God. We are busying ourselves with too many substitutes. It is all right to entertain the members with recreation and to engage in organizations to alleviate social suffering, but these are sidelines with the church. Our main task is to get the church out of the church. The purpose of the church is to make Christians unselfish with the grace of God. Sharing His redemptive love with others is the main job of the church. And we must go after the lost. There isn't one verse in the Bible that tells sinners to go to church; but there are a hundred verses that tell the church to go to sinners.

So we are to adorn these great doctrines with Christian living. I return to my thesis, that every great doctrine makes a practical demand of your life and mine. If the Bible is the Word of God, let's read it. If Christ is God, make Him Lord of your life. If Christ died for sinners, take up your cross and follow Him. If men must be born again, live like God's children. If Christ is coming again, then let's rescue the perishing and care for the dying. ■

NEWS OF INTEREST TO CHRISTIANS

❑ ***FALSE FRIENDS AND TRUE ENEMIES: COUNTERING MARK WARD -*** **<u>False Friends and True Enemies</u>** by Bill Fortenberry refutes Mark Ward's misguided attack on the King James Bible. Fortenberry "demonstrates that the same words modern critics challenge as 'false friends' are still used in contemporary literature with the exact same meaning they had in 1611 and exposed the flawed methodology and deceitful scholarship behind the 'false friends' argument." Fortenberry writes, "Ward's 'long game' is to convince those who use the KJV that men who vehemently oppose and publicly ridicule their views are actually really great guys that KJV readers should listen to and follow. In other words, Ward's primary tactic for turning people

away from the TR is to distract them from the main point of conflict [the underlying Hebrew and Greek texts], convince them their opponents are really their friends, and then undermine their stand from a position of trust. ... What Ward proposes instead of discussing the differences between the TR and the critical text is the 'strategy' of convincing KJV readers that their Bible is full of 'unintelligible words hiding in plain sight.' ... To put it more plainly, Ward wants to sow doubts in the minds of KJV readers and convince them they can't really know what God said unless they use a different translation" (False Friends and True Enemies, p. 50). Fortenberry's book is available on Amazon.com.

❑ ***AMERICA'S AWFUL MARIJUANA ADDICTION*** **-** The following is excerpted from "America's awful," Fox News, Oct. 29, 2026: "Not only is cannabis use skyrocketing in this country, with close to 70 million users every year, but parents are increasingly subjecting their children to wafting, intoxicating smoke. A new study from the University of California San Diego, a school based in a state with a big marijuana problem, shows that nationwide approximately 6 million children are living with a parent who uses cannabis most days. ... Cannabis use has more than doubled in the adult population over the past two decades (it's now over 8%), according to data from the National Center for Biotechnology Information. Cannabis is highly addictive, and the THC content has increased greatly in all its forms, making it more and more dangerous. Edibles now typically contain up to 10 mg THC per serving, and concentrates and vape cartridges contain 50% to 95% THC (the psychoactive chemical in cannabis). The buds and flowers used for joints, vapes, edibles and concentrates are now 15 to 25% THC--a few decades ago, the amount was just 1 to 2%."

❑ ***BERKELEY MATH PROFESSOR STOPS GRADING HOMEWORK DUE TO AI*** **-** (Friday Church News Notes, November 6, 2026, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from "California Math Professor," The Washington Times, Oct. 26, 2026: "A math professor at University of California, Berkeley, says there is 'no point' in grading his students' homework because they all use artificial intelligence to solve the problems. Richard Borcherds told the Daily Californian that he currently grades based on completion rather than correctness, since AI is so widespread that all of his pupils have access to it. ... 'If AI continues to improve at present rate, then, in a few years, there'll be nothing human mathematicians can do that AI can't do better,' Mr. Borcherds said. Mr. Borcherds, who won the prestigious Fields Medal in 1998, said the rapid advancement of AI could mean massive disruptions for his field. ... Mr. Borcherd's stance follows OpenAI's announcement that its artificial intelligence solved a 90-year-old Navier-Stokes equation. The problem demands mathematicians to predict the behavior of fluids and gases under extreme conditions."

❑ ***THE POPE AND THE HEAD OF THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND*** **-** The one-world "church" is making splendid progress in preparation for the full-blown Mystery Babylon of Revelation 17.

In 1521, Martin Luther was excommunicated by Pope Leo X and the Protestant Reformation began with Lutheran churches spreading across the German states and Scandinavia. In 1525, Ulrich Zwingli broke from Rome in Zurich, Switzerland, and led the Protestantism of that region. In 1530, John Calvin broke with Rome and six years later published *The Institutes of the Christian Religion* which became the doctrinal foundation of Presbyterian and Reformed Protestant churches. In 1534, King Henry VIII broke with Rome and founded the Church of England with himself as the head. Between 1545-1563, the Roman Catholic Council of Trent hurled 125 anathemas (eternal damnation) at all non-Catholic Christians, including those who believe that salvation is by God's grace alone without works.

Since the 20th century, we are witnessing a **reversal** of the Reformation and the ecumenical unification of Protestants and Rome. The following event is the latest step in the Church of England's reconciliation with Rome. It is excerpted from *"The King of England bestows an honor," Zenit News, Oct. 23, 2026:*

"Pope Leo XIV has accepted an honorary title at St George's Chapel in Windsor Castle, completing a symbolic exchange of brotherhood with King Charles III that highlights the gradual improvement in relations between the Catholic Church and the Anglican tradition. The announcement was made on October 23, 2026, by the Dean and Canons of Windsor, with the approval of the British monarch and the support of the Archbishop of Canterbury. The Pope has been named a Papal Confrater of the College of St George, a gesture described by the Royal Household as a visible expression of spiritual communion, ecumenical friendship and Christian brotherhood. The appointment came exactly one year after Charles III and Queen Camilla's historic state visit to the Vatican on October 23, 2025, when the royal couple met Leo XIV and visited several important religious sites, including the Sistine Chapel and the Pauline Chapel. During that visit, the King was welcomed as a Royal Confrater of the Papal Basilica of St Paul Outside the Walls, with the Pope's approval. The new honor reciprocates that gesture, turning mutual respect into a public symbol of the two institutions' shared commitment to Christian unity."

❑ ***PALESTINIAN FLAGS FLY OVER FRENCH RIOTS*** **-** The following is excerpted from "Paris synagogue ransacked," Israel365News, Oct. 20, 2026:

"A synagogue in Paris was ransacked and Jewish-owned shops in Marseille were set ablaze over the weekend as cost-of-living protests across France erupted into the country's worst riots in decades, marked by Palestinian flags and chants of 'Intifada.' ... In Marseille, home to one of Europe's largest Jewish communities, the head of the local Jewish umbrella organization called for a state of emergency and the deployment of the army. The weekend of October 17–18 brought some of the worst urban violence France has seen in decades. The Interior Ministry reported nearly 2,400 arrests on Saturday alone and almost 1,000 police officers and gendarmes injured, seven seriously. ... France's Retail and Trade Federation estimated that around 1,500 businesses were damaged, with losses in the hundreds of millions of euros. ... The demands were economic, but the imagery told a different story. The Jewish Telegraphic Agency reported that Palestinian flags and keffiyehs were a recurring motif in most of the violent protests, vandalism, and looting. ... In Marseille, Bruno Benjamin, president of the Marseille-Provence branch of CRIF, the umbrella body of French Jewish institutions, reported that many marchers carried Palestinian flags and chanted 'Intifada,' the Arabic word for 'uprising' and the name given to the two waves of Palestinian terror that began in 1987 and 2000, which included suicide bombings, shootings and stabbings. ... The banners say bread, fuel, and teachers. The chants say 'Intifada.' The cardboard sign in Paris says the quiet part out loud. Hatred of Jews has always borrowed the clothing of whatever grievance is fashionable that season: the treasury in Shushan, the economy in Weimar Germany, Gaza in Paris. The disguise changes. The target stays the same. French Jews are reading the signs the same way. More than 4,000 have moved to Israel so far this year, the highest pace in a decade."

❑ ***THE SOCIALIST'S IGNORANCE*** **-** The following is excerpted from Frank-Christian Hansel, "*Paradise from the Wall Socket," American Greatness, Oct. 21, 2026:*

"In February 2025, Germany's Die Linke—the direct legal successor of the East German communist party—became the strongest party among voters under 25, taking 27.3 percent of their votes. In November 2025, Zohran Mamdani, a self-described democratic socialist, won the mayoralty of New York City with three-quarters of voters under 30, carrying renters by wide margins and winning six in ten voters who named the cost of living as the city's biggest problem. Commentators on both sides of the Atlantic reached for the usual explanations: TikTok, charisma, a tired establishment, the housing crisis. All true, all insufficient. Because the same pattern is showing up in countries with different housing markets, different media, and different politicians. Something deeper is at work, and it has less to do with what the young are being told than with what they have never had to learn. Electricity comes from the wall socket. Money comes from the ATM. Food comes from the store, the pension from the government, the apartment from the landlord. The water runs, the heat works, the ambulance arrives. Nothing about this needs to be understood in order to be used. You are born into it, and it is simply there. ... What is available merely needs to be fairly distributed. And whatever does not flow equally to everyone is a scandal. ... So prosperity becomes a pile to be divided. The question 'how does this come into being?' disappears behind the question 'why doesn't everyone get the same amount?' And with it disappears the half of reality on which the other half stands. Nothing in that pile is unconditional. Behind it stand generations of work, invention, investment, and capital formation. It rests on property that can be pledged, contracts that hold, firms that take risks, markets that signal scarcity, and an energy supply without which no industrial division of labor exists. Wealth is produced inside a legally ordered world. It does not fall from the sky. ... The arithmetic is simple and merciless. Money can be redistributed; goods and services have to be produced. A legislature can raise pensions, but the economy still has to produce the nurses. It can borrow, but scarcity does not vanish; it is merely moved into the future. A city council can freeze rents, but it cannot freeze the cost of building, and the apartments that are never built do not appear on any ballot. Whoever does not know these preconditions cannot protect them. He can tax capital until nobody invests, price energy until industry leaves, regulate construction until nothing gets built—and remain convinced, at every step, that he is creating justice."

❑ ***IRAN VOTES TO WHIP CITIZENS WHO SPREAD THE GOSPEL*** **-** The following is excerpted from "Iran Votes," Israel365News, Oct. 15, 2026:

"An Iranian convert who goes on a Christian satellite channel to tell how he found faith may soon pay for it with 31 to 74 lashes. Last week Iran's parliament approved Article 22 of a bill titled 'Countering the Infiltration of Foreign Intelligence Services and Governments or Entities,' which makes it a crime for Iranian citizens to give interviews to, or hold conversations with, any media outlet or 'media figure' that the Ministry of Intelligence has publicly designated as hostile. That list already names the leading Persian-language Christian broadcasters. ... The bill must still clear further legislative steps, including Guardian Council approval, before it becomes law. The vote puts teeth in a list the Ministry of Intelligence made public in July, naming the evangelical networks Sat-7, Nejat, Seven, and Mohabat TV alongside BBC Persian and Iran International. Iran Alive reports that its channel was also designated. Any 'cooperation' with listed outlets, including sending them photos or videos, can already be prosecuted under the espionage law passed after Iran's 12-day war with Israel in 2025. At least five Christians have been charged under that law, receiving combined sentences of more than 40 years in prison. The law's official title names the target: the 'Intensification of Punishment for Espionage and Cooperation with the Zionist Regime and Hostile States.' It classifies cooperation with Israel and the United States as 'corruption on earth,' a capital offense." ■

