

AND THE PEOPLE CAME...

- Week of February 5, 2023 -

Sunday Morning Service	-----	37
Sunday Evening Service	-----	28
Wednesday Eve.,02/08/23 Service	-----	23

AND THE PEOPLE GAVE...

- Week of February 5, 2023 -

<u>Undesignated</u> Tithes & Offerings	-----	\$ 2,701.93
Foundation Piering Fund	-----	\$ 130.00
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 02/05/23:		\$ 2,831.93

- Week of January 29, 2023 -

<u>Undesignated</u> Tithes & Offerings	-----	\$ 998.00
Foundation Piering Fund	-----	\$ 120.00
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 01/29/23:		\$ 1,118.00

- Week of January 22, 2023 -

<u>Undesignated</u> Tithes & Offerings	-----	\$ 1,469.35
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 01/22/23:		\$ 1,469.35

- Week of January 15, 2023 -

<u>Undesignated</u> Tithes & Offerings	-----	\$ 1,643.02
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 01/15/23:		\$ 1,643.02

- Week of January 8, 2023 -

<u>Undesignated</u> Tithes & Offerings	-----	\$ 2,713.06
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 01/08/23:		\$ 2,713.06

- Week of January 1, 2023 -

<u>Undesignated</u> Tithes & Offerings	-----	\$ 2,122.48
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 01/01/23:		\$ 2,122.48

Average amount of Undesignated Offerings needed for church operating expenses EACH WEEK, as a minimum = \$ 1,600.00



FOUNDATION PIERING FUND -

Amount Received, Week of 02/05/23:	\$ 130.00
Amount For Entire Project	----- \$13,600.00
50% Deposit Needed by 04/03/23	----- \$ 6,800.00
Amount currently on hand for Deposit	----- \$ 4,250.00
Amount Still Needed For Deposit:	\$ 2,550.00
Total Still Needed To Pay Off Entire Repair:	\$ 9,350.00

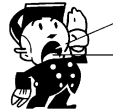
ABSENT FROM THE BODY -

- PRESENT WITH THE LORD:

- Toby Dale, 02/08/23

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE SAVED

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



THANK YOU For Your Continued Faithfulness In Giving!

During the early part this pandemic, we were unable to meet in the church-house. But - that did not mean that the expenses of having a church-house were suspended. We still had bills to pay - electricity, gas, water, trash pickup, phone, internet, facility insurance, copier lease, office supplies, etc., and, praise the Lord, His people kept praying, watching online, & supporting their church with their giving.

Sadly, some people only give when they are in attendance at church - sort of like paying for "services rendered" - but the truth is that they are robbing THEMSELVES of God's blessings when they withhold their tithes and offerings and only give when they are here (see Malachi 3:10). Thankfully, most of our people have remained faithful, in so many ways, during this crisis, including financially.

WE HAVE 3 WAYS YOU CAN GIVE:

1. By mail - 23 East Wells Blvd., Sapulpa, OK 74066
2. Drop it off - call the Church Office to arrange it. 224-1924
3. Online - Go to the link below and give electronically:

<https://tithe.ly/give?c=433047>

WE ARE GLAD WE CAN NOW GATHER TOGETHER TO PRAISE GOD & STUDY HIS WORD TOGETHER IN THE CHURCH-HOUSE! YOUR FAITHFUL AND GENEROUS GIFTS WILL HELP US KEEP UP WITH THE BILLS AND CONTINUE OUR RENEWED OUTREACH EFFORTS!

Church Directory

Todd W. White	-----	Pastor
Debra Carlton	-----	Pianist
Mickie Shatwell	-----	Evening Pianist
Derek Quinnelly	-----	Greeter
Larry & Mary Byars	-----	Outreach
LeAnna White	-----	Custodian
GinaMarie Shufelt	-----	Flowers
Seth White	-----	Sound/Video
Larry Byars, David Smith, Derek Quinnelly	-----	Trustees

REMINDER



Special Instructions for Super Bowl Sunday!

1. GET A COPY OF THE TV SCHEDULE TO MAKE SURE YOU KNOW THE EXACT TIME AND STATION THE SUPERBOWL WILL BE APPEARING ON.
2. FIND YOUR VIDEO RECORDER'S OPERATOR'S MANUAL, AND RE-ACQUAINT YOURSELF WITH THE PROGRAMMING FUNCTIONS OF IT.
3. PROGRAM YOUR VIDEO RECORDER TO RECORD THE GAME.
4. SET THE RECORDER TO BEGIN RECORDING THIS AFTERNOON AT 5:00, OR EARLIER IF YOU WANT TO RECORD THE PRE-GAME SHOWS.
5. SIT DOWN AND START WATCHING THE GAME.
6. AT 6:10 P.M. THIS EVENING, GET YOUR BIBLE AND HEAD FOR CHURCH - You'll only miss an hour or so - and the game WON'T turn out any different if you don't watch the entire game live and in person!
7. ENJOY THE ETERNAL BENEFITS OF BIBLE STUDY & FELLOWSHIP AT CHURCH, THEN GO HOME KNOWING YOU DID THE RIGHT THING, AND ENJOY THE REST OF THE GAME GUILTLESS!

SEE YOU TONIGHT IN CHURCH!



The Chosen TV Series: Ecumenical, Heretical and Blasphemous

The Chosen is a phenomenally popular TV series which purports to be about the life of Jesus. It has been described as “a global phenomenon” and “the most successfully crowdfunded series of all time”. It has been translated into dozens of languages. And it has earned multiplied millions of dollars.

But is it biblical? This is the all-important question, to which the answer is a straightforward **No. It is not. Far from it.**

Alarm bells should immediately ring when one learns that the series is praised by both professing Christians and those who make no such profession at all. But in today’s ecumenical, interfaith, warm-and-fuzzy-feelings world, where anything resembling discernment is completely lacking, multitudes of those who call themselves Christians see nothing wrong with it and in fact think it is a wonderful series.

Dallas Jenkins, the Creator of the Series

Dallas Jenkins is the creator, director, and co-writer of the series. He is the son of the novelist Jerry B. Jenkins, who wrote the *Left Behind* series of “Christian fiction” – some of the most blatantly unbiblical novels ever. So perhaps the reader should not be surprised at what you are about to learn concerning his son.

A Man Portraying Jesus

This immediately makes the series unbiblical: the fact that a man pretends to portray the Lord Jesus Christ, the sinless Son of God. I go into this in my book, *Trappings of Popery*. No sinful man could ever accurately portray Christ the Lord, nor should he even try. No one knows what Jesus looked like, and therefore any portrayal of Him is inaccurate and puts a false image in the mind of the viewer when he prays to the Lord, which is idolatry; but even more than that, the actor can only portray the human nature of Christ, not His divine nature. Yet, to portray only one of His natures is to present an **inaccurate** and **incomplete** portrait of Him! This is as sinful as an artist depicting what He claims is a picture of Jesus.

If there was no other error in the series than this, it would be enough to reject it outright. But there is much, much more that is very wrong with *The Chosen*.

Adding To and Changing the Biblical Account

Dallas Jenkins claims to believe that the Bible is God’s Word and needs no improvement. **BUT** - the series adds a whole lot of subject matter to the biblical characters, and adds events which are not found in the Bible at all – showing that Jenkins does **not** truly believe that the Bible is God’s Word and that it is all-sufficient, despite what he claims. There are many examples of this. Here are just a few:

Jenkins constantly puts words in Jesus’ mouth which He did **not** say, and would never have said. For example, in John 3, there is the account of the meeting between Jesus and Nicodemus. In *The Chosen* “Jesus” is shown asking Nicodemus, “**What does your heart say?**” These words are not to be found **anywhere** in the biblical text. Furthermore, Jesus would **never** have asked such a foolish question, given that His own Word says of the human heart, “**The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?**” (*Jeremiah 17:9*). But this kind of question – “What does your heart say?” is so typical of modern western confusion today. “Listen to your heart” is pop psychology. It is what people say to one another all the time, but this is not the teaching of the Bible as the heart is deceitful and wicked, and since men cannot know it truthfully or fully, listening to it is very, very bad advice.

At one point the actor supposedly portraying Jesus says, “**If we are going to have a question and answer time every time there is something you are not used to, we will have a very annoying time for all of us.**” Jesus becoming annoyed over such a trifling matter? This is utterly **contrary** to what the Scripture reveals about the holy Son of God.

At another point he says, “**Get used to different.**” Would the Lord Jesus Christ have said such a thing? **Absolutely not.**

What about “*I’m here to start a revolution*”? Again, **No**. He did **not** speak this way, nor did He come for such an earthly and sinful purpose.

Jenkins makes the disciple Matthew to have had Aspergers’ Syndrome (i.e. to be autistic), James the lesser to have had cerebral palsy, and Peter to have broken the Sabbath by going fishing. There is **nothing** in all the Bible to support these things. They are utterly fictitious inventions of Jenkins’ imagination.

Jesus is even shown as dancing at a party in one episode! This kind of sinful portrayal of the Lord and Saviour resonates well with the worldly, but is blasphemous.

Journalist Sean O’Neal wrote, “*Whether or not you believe he was actually our Lord and Savior, The Chosen does a pretty good job of suggesting why so many people wanted to follow this guy around.*” Except that the Lord Jesus was not “one of the boys”, a “party animal” who was followed by His disciples for this reason. He called people **out** of the world and its ways.

In one episode, one of the disciples asks Jesus to make the disciple Andrew a better dancer, to which the actor portraying Jesus replies, “**Some things even I cannot do.**” Not only would the Lord Jesus **never** have taught His disciples to dance, but to make Jesus say there are things He is **unable** to do is blasphemous!

Luke 5:18 says, “**And, behold, men brought in a bed a man which was taken with a palsy: and they sought means to bring him in, and to lay him before him.**” But in *The Chosen*, He is shown as being carried by **WOMEN** - Mary Magdalene and a woman named Tamar! It was obviously of no concern to the creators of the series to ignore what the New Testament says and do things their own way. Doubtless this was done as a nod to the

feminist agenda.

Feminism is promoted subtly in the series. For example, “Jesus” is seen asking **Mary Magdalene** to lead in prayer and the reading of Scripture. This was **never** done by Jews in the first century, nor do we read of the Lord Jesus Christ ever requesting such a thing. It is, in a word, a lie.

In addition, Jesus and His disciples are made out to be very humorous. Sean O’Neal in the *Texas Monthly* wrote: “*Yeah, but was [Jesus] funny? Scholars argue that, yes, Jesus actually had a great sense of humor and a droll sense of irony that’s often overlooked. Still, you’ve likely never seen a Jesus as sitcom-witty as the one portrayed in The Chosen, the hit streaming series filmed right here in Texas. This Messiah and his disciples have a quippy, lightly teasing banter.... Take this exchange from the show’s second season: Jesus’ followers John and Big James call on him to smite some unruly Samaritans, so Jesus cocks an eyebrow and deadpans, ‘You wanted to use the power of God to bring down fire to burn these people up?’ John takes a beat. ‘Well... it sounds a lot worse when you say it that way,’ he says. All that’s missing is a choir of angels to supply the heavenly laugh track.*”

O’Neal also stated: “*The show... presents Jesus and his disciples as real, vaguely neurotic people, busting free of the stained-glass images that have long enshrined them. They bicker and fall in love. They struggle with insecurities and jealousies. A lot of them are just plain rude to one another.*” *He describes them as “a bunch of hothead doofuses as they jockey for power around their famous friend.*”

And the characters are made to speak as if they are living in the twenty-first century, with Romans and Pharisees etc. saying things like, “freaked out”, “that’s not a good look”, etc. All done, no doubt, to attract young viewers. After all, that’s what it’s all about: attracting viewers. That’s how money is made. Who cares about the truth or accuracy?

It Goes Beyond Entertainment

It would be bad enough if *The Chosen* was nothing but entertainment. But it is even worse than that. Dallas Jenkins has been involved in writing **study guides** and **devotionals** in the light of his fictional characters (they are fictional, for they are not accurate portrayals of Christ or the disciples). This means that churches and individuals will actually use these materials of his as they watch the series, thinking it is all enabling them to grow in their spiritual walk. They have been deceived.

Trotting Out the Testimonies

There are always those who claim to have been positively affected by a show like this, and because of these testimonies we are expected to endorse it, praise it and even be thankful to God for it. But this is a huge error. When someone says, “I came to know Jesus better through this show”, we have to ask: how could a TV series of any sort, and even more so one which is so inaccurate biblically, do that in a person’s life which their reading of the Word of God did not do? One comment was, “*I feel like I’ve been reading my Bible in black and white all these years and*

now it’s in colour”; the implication being that until *The Chosen* came along this viewer was unable to truly benefit from God’s Word. But does such a person truly know the Lord, or the Word of the Lord? Very clearly not. How come Holy Scripture is explicitly declared to be “**profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, and for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works**” (*II Timothy 3:16,17*) – and has indeed been completely sufficient for all the Lord’s people through the centuries – **but now all of a sudden it’s not?** The answer is evident: viewers such as this one want thrills, they want excitement, they want motion and action, they want “colour” – they find Scripture to be dull, boring, and they derive no profit from it. The Bible was a dead book to them until this TV series came along to liven everything up!

Jenkins on the Son of God

Dallas Jenkins told the *Wall Street Journal* that he “was inspired by secular if similarly impassioned shows such as *Friday Night Lights*, *The West Wing*, and *The Wire*, and wanted to make a show with a similar naturalistic bent that delved into the people and the politics of Jesus’ time. That meant less emphasis on the divine and more focus on the human – Jesus included.” So in order to understand Jesus and His message in the twenty-first century, we need a TV series inspired by – the Word of God? **Er, no – by secular and stupid TV shows!** Even if it means presenting a “Jesus” who is **not** the Jesus Christ of the Bible.

Jenkins on the Holy Scriptures

Jenkins claimed in an interview that he “*felt like God was saying that ‘this will be the definitive portrayal of My people and this is what people are going to think of around the world when they think of My people. And I’m not going to let you screw it up.’*” Yet this man also claimed *The Chosen* is **not** a replacement for Scripture! He cannot have it both ways. If it really is **not** a replacement for Scripture, why would God supposedly tell Jenkins (according to Jenkins!) that it will become the definitive portrayal of God’s people? **The Bible gives us the definitive portrayal of the people of God!** What’s really sad is that **Jenkins exalts his own TV series as being more definitive than the Bible he claims to believe!**

In fact, considering how close Jenkins is to the Mormon cult (see below), his justification for the series – *that it does not replace Scripture while at the same time claiming God is behind the project* – sounds chillingly similar to an advertisement used by the Mormon cult to promote their *Book of Mormon*. The advert says, “*Like the Bible, the Book of Mormon is a special book that teaches about Jesus Christ. It doesn’t replace the Bible. As you study both books, you can gain a deeper understanding of Jesus’ gospel and draw closer to God.*” Substituting *The Chosen* for the *Book of Mormon*, Dallas Jenkins could have written this advert himself, his own position is so very similar to it!

Jenkins claimed that he was “trying to tell God’s stories in a fresh way”, and “enhancing Scripture”. This is blasphemous. Firstly, God’s “stories” (they are not fictional, of course) do not **need** the help of any **man**, and certainly do not need to be

“freshened up”. They have served the elect of God perfectly well ever since they were written down by men moved by the Holy Spirit. Secondly – “enhancing Scripture”? II Timothy 3:16 categorically states that Scripture is perfect *as written*. It is all-sufficient and needs **no** enhancing! To attempt to “enhance” it is to sin greatly.

Jenkins on Roman Catholicism and Ecumenism

Jenkins is on record as stating that Roman Catholicism and Mormonism have only minor theological differences with his own version of “Christianity”. In fact, he has called them simply “different perspectives” which are “exciting to explore, not dangerous”. After writing each episode of *The Chosen*, he consults a Roman Catholic priest, a Jewish rabbi and a so-called Evangelical to make certain that what he has written is “biblically accurate”!

In an interview, he *admitted* that he incorporated the religious views of Roman Catholics, Jews and Evangelicals into the series. And he admitted that he was particularly concerned to appease Roman Catholics!

Now why would that be? In a word – money. No religious institution has more of it than the Roman Catholic institution. He said he was “a little nervous from a Catholic perspective. Would they be comfortable seeing Mary as worried, as even incorrect?” He also was at pains to promote the false Roman Catholic teaching that “Hail Mary” prayers supposedly point the person to Jesus.

In another interview, Jenkins said, “[*The Chosen*] is really focused solely on the stories of Jesus. Which means that a lot of people from a lot of different tribes all love it. LDS [Mormons], Catholic, Greek Orthodox, whatever. And they don’t disagree about the show, which makes a lot of people nervous because they’re like, wait a minute, we are supposed to disagree...supposed to be angry at each other.”

A few points from this brief statement by Jenkins:

First, his series is not focused on the true accounts of Jesus, because those are found in the Gospels and many of Jenkins’ stories are **extra**-biblical. **Second**, the fact that people from false religions and cults love the series shows that the “Jesus” being presented in the series is **not** the Jesus of the Bible. There is only one true Jesus Christ and only one true Gospel, but there are many, many false Christs and false gospels which are proclaimed by false preachers and teachers (II Cor. 11:4; Galatians 1:6-9). **Third**, yes, true Christians certainly disagree with the false gospels presented by such false Christians as Papists, Mormons, Greek Orthodox, etc.; but we are certainly **not** filled with anger! Rather, we are filled with sorrow that the devil has blinded their minds (II Cor. 4:4), and we seek to persuade them of the true Gospel of Jesus Christ that they may be saved.

Jenkins is particularly fond of Mormonism, as explained below. It is not just Mormons, however. “Mr. Jenkins partners with far more than the LDS church. He partners with NAR-connected (New Apostolic Reformation) worship leaders who sing on set and participate in the show. Individuals like

Bethelite Sean Feucht, Elevation Church-connected Cody Carnes and Kari Jobe, Hillsong, Chris Tomlin, and Phil Wickham. Mr. Jenkins also partners with catholic *Matt Maher* and progressive Christian *Dan Haseltine*. All of this is seen on The Chosen Facebook page” (interview in *The Christian Post*, May 22, 2022). In other words, Jenkins is happy to partner with almost any and every false Christian and proclaimer of false gospels, from Romanists to Mormons to Charismatic prosperity doctrine liars to false Charismatic prophets.

Jenkins on Mormonism

Jenkins gave an interview on a Mormon radio show and this is what he said:

“So I can honestly say, it’s been one of the top three most fascinating and beautiful things about this project – it’s been my growing brother and sisterhood with people of the LDS [Latter-day Saints, the official name of the Mormon cult] community that I never would’ve known otherwise and I learned so much about your faith tradition and realizing... for all the stuff that maybe we don’t see eye to eye on... that all happened, that’s all based on stuff that happened after Jesus was here. The stories of Jesus we do agree on, and we love the same Jesus. That’s not something you often hear... sometimes it’s like, oh they believe in a different Jesus than we do. **No, it’s the same, I mean I’ll sink or swim on that statement.** I know that’s controversial and I don’t mind getting criticized at all for the show, and I don’t mind being called a blasphemer, I don’t like it when my friends are. I made it very clear that if I go down, I’m going down protecting my friends and my brothers and sisters and so I don’t deny we have a lot of theological differences but we love the same Jesus.” He has also said that he has Mormon friends who believe in “Jesus of Nazareth, the Jesus of the Gospels, the Jesus that I’m portraying in the show, and I do believe and do stand by that statement.”[ibid]

Jenkins has attempted to justify his very pro-Mormon stance. In a YouTube video he said he had been asked to respond to statements such as, “Dallas Jenkins says Mormons, LDS and Evangelicals love the same Jesus”, and “LDS are Christians.” Here is his reply: “Is it true that I said that? The answer is no, I did not.”[ibid] This was an outright lie!

Trying desperately to excuse such blatant support for Mormons as his brothers and sisters who “love the same Jesus”, he went on: “I think it’s fair to say that this is one where I don’t take back what I said, but I could have given it a little more clarity.”

Then he said: “I think we can agree that words matter, nuance matters, and I probably could have given more context and clarity.” Oh, so now it’s all a matter of words and nuances, is it? How like a lying politician he sounds, for they always say, “I was quoted out of context.”

He then said: “I think it’s also true that it would be a problem if I actually said those words definitively.” Not only is it true that he did say those words definitively, but in addition the true Christian reader will be utterly perplexed by his reasoning: “That would be a problem, and here’s why: Not because there aren’t

LDS folks who aren’t Christians [so he actually re-affirms his belief that Mormons are Christians – at least some of them] and not because there aren’t LDS and Evangelicals who love the same Jesus [so he re-affirms his belief that they “love the same Jesus”], but because it would be wrong of me to ever say that any one group believes any one thing altogether. That is just a level of arrogance I don’t have.” To which we would not be at all surprised if the true Christian reader responds with: “**Huh?**” If that’s the best he can do to justify lying, and to justify his heretical statements about Mormons being Christians and “loving the same Jesus”, then he is a master at saying a whole lot about nothing, or at using words to confuse rather than to make his meaning clearer!

And just to add evidence to evidence of Jenkins’ love affair with Mormonism: he signed on as the executive producer of *The Shift*, written and directed by Mormon Brock Heasley, which promotes the heresies of Mormonism! And justifying himself for doing so, this spiritually blind man said: “The message of The Shift is so important.... There is an umbrella over it of spiritual importance. Something is being said about our universe and who created it. That is what The Shift is about. That is what The Chosen is about.” Equating his *Chosen* series with this openly Mormon *Shift* film tells us **EXACTLY** what we need to know about Dallas Jenkins and Mormonism.

Conclusion

What is Jenkins’ general response when facing criticism for his series? He said, “**Get used to different.**” But why should we? Should we not be content with what the Bible reveals about the Lord Jesus Christ? Why must we now “get used to different” just because this man bursts onto the scene, claims to be a Bible teacher, and tells us to? This is not a biblical response at all. It is a cop-out, and it is heretical in itself.

True Christians will never “get used to different”. When it comes to biblical matters, “different” is always heretical. We will cleave to the “old paths” (Jer. 6:16); the “ancient landmarks” (Deut. 19:14; Prov. 22:28). We reject with abhorrence that which is “different” in doctrine, practice, or worship. This is the devil’s trick, and Dallas Jenkins and *The Chosen* are serving him, not Christ.

*- by Shaun Willcock (edited)
Bible Based Ministries*

NEWS OF INTEREST TO CHRISTIANS

☐ **HILLSONG APPOINTS NEW “GLOBAL SENIOR PASTORS”** - The multi-million dollar Hillsong empire has appointed another husband-wife team - Philip and Lucinda Dooley - as the new “global senior pastors.” This follows the dismissal of former global senior pastors Brian and Bobbie Houston. In March 2022, Brian stepped down after the church sent a letter to its members exposing him for “inappropriate behavior” with two women.

Hillsong churches have been inundated with moral scandals. In 2021, Hillsong Dallas was shut down due to the worldliness of its leaders, husband-wife “pastor team” Reed and Jess Bogard, who were “using church money to fund their lavish lifestyle”

(“*Hillsong Caving in on Itself*,” Reformation Charlotte, Apr. 12, 2001).

On March 25, 2022, *The Christian Post* reported that “an internal investigation commissioned by Hillsong Global showed that the married father of three [Bogard] was accused of rape by a junior female staffer with whom he had a months-long affair while serving at Hillsong NYC years earlier.”

In November 2020, Carl Lentz was fired as pastor of Hillsong New York City after having an affair with a Muslim fashion designer.

In 2019, Yelp identified Hillsong Los Angeles as one of the top ten “gay friendly churches” in the city.

In 2017, Lentz and pop star Justin Bieber were photographed in New Zealand drinking heavily and partying in a tavern. Lentz had baptized Bieber in the bathtub of a pro-basketball player.

In February 2016, former Hillsong pastor Pasquale “Pat” Mesiti pleaded guilty to assaulting his second wife and was awaiting sentencing (Christian Headlines, Feb. 29, 2016).

In May 2016, Hillsong New York City hosted a Hillsong Women’s Conference that featured, among other things, scantily-dressed ‘cheerleaders,’ an Elvis impersonator, and a “naked cowboy” wearing only a cowboy hat, boots, and a guitar.

According to the *New York Times* for October 17, 2014, a homosexual couple, Josh Canfield and Reed Kelly, sing in choirs at Hillsong New York City, and Canfield is a volunteer choir leader.

In a 2014 interview with *Christianity Today*, Laura Lentz, Hillsong NYC co-pastor, said, “It’s not our place to tell anyone how they should live, it’s--that’s their journey” (“Hillsong New York Pastor Carl Lentz,” Christian Today, June 6, 2014).

☐ **DID JESUS SAY ANYTHING ABOUT HOMOSEXUALITY?** - In a 2014 interview with *Christianity Today*, Carl Lentz, who was then co-pastor of Hillsong New York City with his wife Laura, said, “*I am still waiting for someone to show me the quote where Jesus addressed it [homosexuality] on the record in front of people*” (“Hillsong New York Pastor Carl Lentz,” Christian Today, June 6, 2014).

Perhaps we can help him out with his query. What Jesus did say in regard to homosexuality was three things. **First**, Jesus exalted the law of Moses as God’s holy law. “**Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled. Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven**” (*Matthew 5:17-19*). The law of Moses that Jesus exalted as God’s holy law says, “**Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it is abomination**” (*Leviticus 18:22*).

Second, Jesus limited marriage to one man and one woman as in the beginning of creation (Matthew 19:3-9). This completely

destroys the biblical legitimacy of “same-sex marriage.”

Third, Jesus said that His Spirit would lead the apostles into all truth (John 16:13). The canon of Spirit-taught truth is the New Testament Scriptures, where we find the strongest statement against homosexuality in the entire Bible (Romans 1:24-28). To separate the authority of the Gospels from the authority of the apostolic Epistles is rank heresy, for we are told that **“all Scripture is given by inspiration of God” (II Timothy 3:16-17).**

Obviously Jesus left no room for homosexual Christianity and “same sex marriage,” and His teaching on this was very public.

The Hillsong churches are so “culturally relevant” that they are traitors to the truth of God’s Word, yet their music is influencing large numbers of Baptists and biblical fundamentalists. When asked by a reporter why Hillsong is so successful, Brian Houston of Hillsong Sydney replied, *“We are scratching people where they are itching”* (“The Lord’s Profits,” Sydney Morning Herald, January 30, 2003). That is right out of II Timothy 4:3, which is a warning of **apostasy**. It describes people who itch for a new kind of Christianity, and heaps of preachers who will scratch this illicit itch. **“For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears.”**

That describes Hillsong to a “T.”

☐ **MURDERER SELF-IDENTIFIES AS “INFANT” IN BRITISH PRISON** - It is difficult to know who is nuttier in this case, the “infant” or the British government. The following is excerpted from “Killer now identifies as an infant,” *Daily Mirror*, Jan. 28, 2023:

“A killer who transitioned from male to female while in prison has demanded that guards hold her hand while outside her cell because she identifies as an infant. Sophie Eastwood, 36, was named Daniel when she was jailed for life in 2004 after using shoelaces as a garrote to strangle her cellmate. Eastwood, who has lived as a woman in Her Majesty’s prisons for the past four years, has been described as ‘attention-seeking’ and ‘manipulative’ by sources inside the jail. The murderer has now told chiefs at Polmont prison in Brightons, Scotland, that she identifies as a tot, and should be allowed to wear diapers and have her meals pureed like baby food. Prison bosses are taking Eastwood’s requests seriously and have already supplied her with a dummy [a pacifier], sources tell the Daily Record.”

☐ **PARENTS WANT TO RAISE ETHICAL KIDS, NOT NECESSARILY RELIGIOUS ONES** - Most parents say they want their children to be honest and hardworking as adults. But they’re not nearly as concerned that their children grow up and embrace their same religious beliefs.

A Pew Research study on parenting asked U.S. parents a host of questions about how they are aiming to raise their kids, what their top worries are, and what’s most important to pass on to the next generation.

The vast majority of parents say it is extremely or very important that as adults their children will be honest and ethical (94%), hardworking (88%), someone who helps others in need

(81%), accepting of people who are different from them (80%), and ambitious (65%). Far fewer see it as similarly important that as adults their children have similar religious beliefs (35%) or political beliefs (16%) as them.

U.S. parents are twice as likely to say it’s at least very important for their children to become ambitious adults (65%) than to say the same about their children having similar religious beliefs as them (35%), according to Pew.

Certain religious and ethnic groups place more emphasis on passing on their faith. Black (40%) and Hispanic parents (39%) are more likely to say it’s extremely or very important their children share their religious beliefs than white or Asian parents (32% each). White evangelical Protestant parents (70%) are by far the most likely to express a strong desire for their children to follow in their religious footsteps. More than half of Black Protestant parents (53%) agree. Fewer Catholic (35%) and non-evangelical Protestant parents (29%) prioritize their children sharing their religious beliefs. Only 8% of the religiously unaffiliated say it’s important to them.

Passing on religious faith to the next generation is proving difficult for many parents. A Lifeway Research study found 66% of young adults who attended church regularly as teenagers stopped attending for at least a year after high school. Seven in 10 young adults who dropped out of church say it wasn’t an intentional decision to stop attending church. They simply stopped seeing it as an important part of their lives. Some church dropouts return - 31% currently attend twice a month - but more attend rarely (39%). And almost as many no longer attend at all (29%).

Lifeway Research also conducted a study of churchgoing Protestant parents to determine the spiritual status of their adult children and their spiritual practices as children. While 85% of their children identify as Christian as adults, most are not currently engaging in many observable spiritual practices.

Parents engaging in spiritual disciplines like reading the Bible increased the likelihood their children grew up to be spiritually healthy adult believers. Additionally, children being engaged in many of those same disciplines as kids also increases the chances of maintaining their active faith into adulthood.

Additionally, the Pew Research study asked parents about their priorities for their children as adults and their experiences as parents.

Modern parents are most likely to place a high priority on their child growing up to be financially independent (88% say this is extremely or very important) and having a career they enjoy (88%). Around 2 in 5 (41%) say it’s extremely or very important for their child to earn a college degree. Far fewer place a high importance on their kids eventually getting married (21%) or having children themselves (20%).

Most parents (62%) say parenting is at least somewhat harder than they expected. But slightly more say they are a very good or excellent (64%) parent. Even more say being a parent is at least one of the most important aspects of who they are (87%).

U.S. parents are around twice as likely to say parenting is enjoyable (82%) or rewarding (80%) at least most of the time, compared to it being tiring (41%) or stressful (29%), according to Pew Research.

Parents are split as to whether they are trying to raise kids similarly to their own upbringing (43%) or trying to do things differently than their own parents (44%). Specifically, most (63%) say they want to instill similar values and religion as their own upbringing. And just 13% want to change those things for their children. Parents are most likely to say they want to change the love and relationship they experienced growing up (44%). They are nearly split on whether they want to discipline similarly to (29%) or differently than (32%) their parents.

Overall, parents are around twice as likely to say parenting is enjoyable (82%) or rewarding (80%) at least most of the time, compared to it being tiring (41%) or stressful (29%).

☐ **GENDER NEUTRAL GOD? CHURCH OF ENGLAND TO LAUNCH LITURGICAL PRONOUN PROJECT** - The increasingly woke Church of England is set to begin a project looking into using more gender neutral language for God in order to supposedly create a more inclusive understanding of the deity.

Bishops at the Church of England are planning on launching a project “on gendered language” surrounding God later this year, which could see phrases such as “Our Father” scrapped in favour of neutral or feminine alternatives after some within the church have claimed that associating God with men has resulted in sexism within the religion.

The latest woke endeavour was spurred by a request from Rev. Joanna Stobart who asked Church leaders if there was a way “to develop more inclusive language in our authorised liturgy”.

She went on to ask bishops “to provide more options for those who wish to use authorised liturgy and speak of God in a non-gendered way, particularly in authorised absolutions where many of the prayers offered for use refer to God using male pronouns.”

In response, the Rt. Rev. Michael Igrave, the Bishop of Lichfield and the vice-chairman of the Liturgical Commission said per The Telegraph: “We have been exploring the use of gendered language in relation to God for several years, in collaboration with the Faith and Order Commission.

“After some dialogue between the two commissions in this area, a new joint project on gendered language will begin this spring.”

The move was criticised by Rev. Ian Paul, who serves in the General Synod as well as the Archbishops’ Council of the Church of England. Rev. Paul claimed that while the use of male pronouns for God should not be interpreted as implying God is a male, he noted that the Bible primarily uses masculine pronouns for God for a reason and that “male and female imagery is not interchangeable.”

“The fact that God is called ‘Father’ can’t be substituted by ‘Mother’ without changing meaning, nor can it be gender-neutralised to ‘Parent’ without loss of meaning. Fathers

and mothers are not interchangeable but relate to their offspring in different ways.

“If the Liturgical Commission seeks to change this, then in an important way they will be moving the doctrine of the Church away from being grounded in the Scriptures.”

Yet, the move does fall in line with the left-wing leanings of Archbishop Justin Welby, who has himself previously declared that God is “gender neutral“. To the chagrin of more conservative practitioners, Welby has frequently inserted himself in the political debates of the day, particularly on issues such as illegal immigration and climate change.

The announcement of the pronoun project comes ahead of a vote in the General Synod, the elected governing body of the Church, to determine whether priests can bless same-sex marriages in the country. While the vote would not allow for churches to officiate homosexual weddings, the rule change would allow a priest to offer “God’s blessing” for civil partnerships or marriages in a church.

Commenting on the gender-neutral God project, a spokesman for the Church of England said: “This is nothing new. Christians have recognised since ancient times that God is neither male nor female, yet the variety of ways of addressing and describing God found in scripture has not always been reflected in our worship.

“There has been greater interest in exploring new language since the introduction of our current forms of service in contemporary language more than 20 years ago.

“There are absolutely no plans to abolish or substantially revise currently authorised liturgies, and no such changes could be made without extensive legislation.”

NATIONAL SKIP CHURCH DAY



Oh, Yes, Tell Me How Much You Love God Because -



* You Spend More Time Talking About God Than Football
* You Spend More Time In Prayer Than Watching Football
* You Would Rather Be In God's House Than At The Super Bowl

“THOU SHALT HAVE NO OTHER GODS BEFORE ME.”

- Exodus 20:3