

AND THE PEOPLE CAME...

- Week of March 19, 2023 -

Sunday Morning Service	31
Sunday Evening Service	31
Wednesday Eve., 03/22/23 Service	11

AND THE PEOPLE GAVE...

- Week of March 19, 2023 -

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings	\$ 1,102.90
Foundation Piering Fund	\$ 325.00
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 03/19/23:	\$ 1,427.90

- Week of March 12, 2023 -

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings	\$ 1,727.07
Foundation Piering Fund	\$ 170.00
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 03/12/23:	\$ 1,897.07

- Week of March 5, 2023 -

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings	\$ 2,418.00
Foundation Piering Fund	\$ 310.00
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 03/05/23:	\$ 2,728.00

- Week of February 26, 2023 -

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings	\$ 4,788.44
Foundation Piering Fund	\$ 560.00
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 02/26/23:	\$ 5,348.44

- Week of February 19, 2023 -

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings	\$ 1,180.97
Foundation Piering Fund	\$ 183.00
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 02/19/23:	\$ 1,363.97

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 03/19/23:	\$ 325.00
Amount For Entire Project	\$13,600.00
50% Deposit Needed by 04/03/23	\$ 6,800.00
Amount currently on hand for Deposit	\$ 7,798.00
Amount Still Needed For Deposit:	\$ 0.00 !!!
Total Still Needed To Pay Off Entire Repair:	\$ 5,802.00

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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, Mickie Shatwell, Lois Mae Floyd	Pianists
Derek Quinnelly	Greeter
Larry & Mary Byars	Outreach
LeAnna White	Custodian
GinaMarie Shufelt	Flowers
Seth White	Sound/Video
Larry Byars, David Smith, Derek Quinnelly	Trustees

SOUTH HEIGHTS BAPTIST'S WEEKLY REMINDER

Volume XXIX

March 26, 2023

Number 12



Should Christians Celebrate Easter?

Many Christians are unaware of the origins of Easter, which is actually a pagan festival held in honor of idols. In fact, Easter was celebrated hundreds of years before the birth of Jesus Christ. It wasn't until at least 300 years after the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and the establishment of Roman Catholicism that the official celebration of his resurrection began to be intermingled with the pagan practices of Easter.

Here are some interesting facts:

The Word "Easter" and the Goddess it Represents -

The word "Easter" is derived from "Eostre," the pagan Anglo-Saxon goddess, and/or "Eostare," the Norse pagan festival of spring. When God gave the law to the Israelites in the Old Testament, He clearly instructed them to refrain from even uttering the name of other gods (*Exodus 23:13*). Names like Aphrodite, Asherah, Ashtoreth, Astarte, Diana, Eostre, Ianna, Ishtar, Isis, Ostara, Semiramis, Venus, . . . call her what you will, but she is one and the same - a false goddess, an idol, worshiped by pagans, and God declares that she is detestable.

Asherah is mentioned in the Old Testament quite frequently (*Ex. 34:13; Deut. 7:5; Deut. 12:2-4; Deut. 16:21; etc.*). Ashtoreth (the Babylonian goddess of the woods and nature) is also mentioned by name in the Bible (*Judges 2:11-13; I Samuel 7:3; I Kings 11:5, 33*). In every instance, she is an idol which greatly angers God. Inanna, the Sumerian patron of the temple prostitutes (also considered the merciful mother who intercedes with the gods on behalf of her worshipers), is represented with a star inscribed in a circle. There are several scriptures which clearly show that worship of any of the celestial elements (sun, moon or stars) is forbidden by God (*Deut. 17:2-5; II Kings 21:3-7, II Kings 23:4-15; Ezekiel 8:15-16*). Ishtar [pronounced "Aes-tar"] (the Babylonian/Chaldean goddess of love and war) and Semiramis (an Assyrian goddess) were both known as the "Queen of Heaven." And the "Queen of Heaven" is specifically mentioned in the Bible (*Jer. 7:18; 44:19, 25*).

What, other than the obvious connection of the words "Easter" and "Eostre" does this goddess have to do with the modern celebration of Easter? Plenty.

❑ **Spring and Nature.** Diana (the Ephesian goddess of sex, fertility, virginity and motherhood) was said to be the source of nature. Eostre (an Anglo-Saxon/Teutonic goddess) was the goddess of the sunrise and spring. Ostara (a Norse/Saxon goddess) was the maiden goddess of spring.

❑ **Sunrise Services.** The book of Ezekiel shows rather clearly what God thinks of sunrise services: ". . .there. . .were about five and twenty men, with their backs toward the temple of the LORD, and their faces toward the east; and they worshipped the sun toward the east" (*Ez. 8:16*). We know that the sun is only in the east at sunrise. God will not spare those who observe this practice, look upon them with pity, or even listen to them (*Ez. 8:1-18*). Besides, if it is the Christian's intent to observe the resurrection of Jesus Christ, one should take note that he arose before, not during, sunrise (*John 20:1*)!

❑ **Bunnies and Eggs.** According to Teutonic myth, the hare was once a bird whom Eostre changed into a four-footed creature. Thus, it can also lay eggs. The hare is also the sacred companion and sacrificial victim of Eostre. Astarte (a Phoenician/Syrian goddess), on the other hand, was believed to have been hatched from a huge egg which fell into the Euphrates.

❑ **Good Friday.** Did you ever wonder why Good Friday is recognized as the day Jesus died and Sunday as the day He arose, but yet had trouble explaining how he could thus be buried for three days and three nights (*Matt. 12:40; 27:63; Mark 8:31; 9:31; 10:34*)? The answer is simple: He didn't actually die on "Good Friday." The Chaldeans offered cakes to Ishtar on the equivalent of the day we know as Good Friday. When the Roman Catholic Church wanted to appease the paganistic people in order to "convert" them to Christianity, they moved the dates accordingly! He was actually crucified on a Wednesday.

❑ **Hot Cross Buns and Fires.** Cakes bearing a cross-like symbol representing the pair of cow-horns on the moon goddess, Isis, (continued inside)

were offered by ancient Egyptians. The cakes which Greeks offered to Astarte and other divinities were called *bous* or *boun*, from which the word “bun” is derived. The Babylonians/Chaldeans offered similar cakes to the “Queen of Heaven.” Fires were lit on top of mountains and had to be kindled from new fire, drawn from wood by friction. The fire was then used to bake cakes in sacrifice to Semiramis, the “Queen of Heaven.” This practice, along with burning incense, was used in conjunction with baking the cakes and is mentioned specifically in the Bible (***I Kings 11:8; II Kings 17:7-16; 18:4; 23:4-15; Isaiah 17:8***). In addition to the cross imprinted on these cakes representing the horns of the goddess, it also sometimes represented the four seasons or four phases of the moon. Cakes were also offered to or eaten in honor of Apollo, Diana, Hecate, and the moon (also Diana’s symbol).

❑ **Lent.** The word “lent” is of Anglo-Saxon origin meaning “spring.” Lent developed from the pagan celebration of weeping, fasting, and mourning for 40 days over the death of Tammuz (one day for each year of his life). Tammuz (the son/husband of the Babylonian idol Ishtar) was killed by a wild boar and then allegedly resurrected. This mourning of Tammuz is specifically prophesied by Ezekiel in the Bible and is characterized by God Himself as being detestable (Ez. 8:13-15).

❑ **Lily.** Asherah (a Sidonian goddess) was frequently represented as a nude woman bestride a lion with a lily (symbolizing grace and sex appeal) in one hand and a serpent (symbolizing fecundity) in the other.

❑ **New Clothing.** The tradition of wearing new clothing for Easter comes from the superstition that a new garment worn at Easter means good luck throughout the year.

❑ **The Festival.** The timing of the festival of “Eostar” (the festival of spring) predates the birth of Jesus Christ, and the festival was always celebrated in conjunction with pagan idol worship. In 325 A.D., it was conveniently linked to the full moon on or following the spring or vernal equinox, March 21, when nature is in resurrection after winter. This is also when Easter is celebrated in modern times. Of course, there isn’t anything wrong with remembering and observing the death, burial, and resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

❑ **Who celebrates Easter?** Witches, who base their celebrations (including Halloween) on the phases of the moon, celebrate Easter. Christians, however, are clearly forbidden from observing this pagan celebration (***Deut. 12:30-31; Luke 4:8; I Cor. 10:20-22; Eph. 5:11***). There is a good reason why the early church never spoke of Easter and why there is absolutely no indication of the observance of the Easter festival in the New Testament (***NOTE: in the KJV, “Easter” is mentioned in Acts 12:4, not as a Christian observance of the Resurrection, but as a reference to the pagan holiday that was about to be observed by the people in the area at the time***).

SO - SHOULD CHRISTIANS CELEBRATE EASTER? If it means having Easter egg hunts, bunnies, and such, **NO**. But we **CAN** use this specific day to remember and celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ! In truth, we do that every time we

get together on Sunday - **for EVERY Sunday is RESURRECTION DAY!**

Like Christmas, the Bible-believing Christian must be diligent to **“Abstain from all appearance of evil!”** (***I Thess. 5:22***). **Unlike Halloween, Christmas and Easter have almost totally lost their original, pagan meanings, and it would seem that if a Christian can keep things focused on the REAL REASON for the celebration, there would be no need to “throw the baby out with the bathwater.”**

In a word, let us, as believers in the Risen Christ, **“Observe RESURRECTION SUNDAY, rather than Easter.”**



WHAT DAY WAS CHRIST CRUCIFIED?

(Original by Grady Daniel, edited and updated by Cooper Abrams)

*N*o one disputes that Jesus arose on Sunday morning, but there is much debate as to what day He was crucified. Most of us were taught Friday was the day Jesus was crucified and this has been widely accepted as the traditional day of crucifixion. But if Christ was crucified on Friday, how was He in the grave for three days and three nights as Jesus said in Matthew 12:40 He would be?

The key to understanding the day of the week on which Christ was crucified lies in Matthew 12:38-40, where He specifically states He will be in **“the heart of the earth”** for **“three days and three nights.”**

The traditional explanation mistakenly says that Jesus was crucified on Friday. Trying to justify that Friday was the day of the crucifixion those that whole this view say that the Jews counted any part of a day as a full day. That is, part of Friday is day one; Saturday, day two; and if arose sometime Sunday morning = day three.

This explanation has some serious problems, for the Jews did not reckon time the way we do. This is one of the first considerations.

1. The Jewish day ended at sundown (6:00 PM) and the new day began at sunrise (6:00 AM).

2. Their Sabbath Day began at sundown Friday (about 6 p.m.) and ended at sundown Saturday. In Genesis 1:5 after the first day of creation, God said **“... the evening and the morning were the first day.”** After the completion of each day of creation the Lord states the **“... the evening and the morning were the _____ day.”**

3. The word “day”, when used by itself, always and only refers to a period of time. The word has to be modified to specify what period of time it means. For example, in Acts 10:40, the Bible says, **“Him God raised up the third day, and shewed him openly.”** The word day, there, is modified by the word “third”, and, therefore, we know it refers specifically to only the third day

(see also Acts 20:7 which refers to Sunday...the “first day” of the week). Romans 2:16 says, **“In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel”**, referring to the Judgment Day).

The modifier makes it specific as to the period of time. Grammatically, three days and three nights means three twenty four hour periods of time.

If Jesus was crucified on the traditional Friday and rose again anytime after 6 p.m. Saturday (the Jewish Sabbath), He could not have been in the tomb (“heart of the earth”) three full days and three full nights as He said He would be. Some might try to dismiss the importance of Jesus’ statement, but He said it would be a sign to the Jews that He **was** the Messiah. If He was not actually in the grave three full days and three full nights, there would be no way to authenticate the sign, so He had to be in the tomb the full time as He stated.

In the Jewish way of reckoning time, from Friday at 6 p.m. to Saturday at 6 p.m., only twenty-four hours would have passed if Jesus had been buried before 6 p.m. on Friday. From Saturday at 6 p.m. until Sunday morning at day break, it would have been a maximum of twelve hours. That gives a total of only thirty-six hours, not the seventy-two hours the Bible records that He was in the grave. Jesus said He would be in the grave for seventy-two hours and therefore He could not have been crucified on Friday.

- Friday afternoon to Saturday 6 PM = 24 hours.
- Saturday, 6 PM to Sunday, 6 AM = 12 hours.
- Total = 36 hours (not enough time)

❑ WERE THESE THREE LITERAL DAYS/NIGHTS?

Some mistakenly refer to the passage where in John 11:9 Jesus asked, **“...are there not twelve hours in the day”** to explain away the problem with the time. In creation, God divided the day and night. The evening and the morning = 1 day. If there were twelve (12) hours in a day, then there must have been twelve (hours) in a night and the total would be twenty-four hours.

Also, anytime in the Bible when the word “day” is preceded by a number, it means whatever number of days is denoted by that number. “Day” can also be used in the Bible to mean an unspecified period of days such as Day of the Lord.

Dr. Charles Halff, Director of the Christian Jew Foundation, in writing “The Fallacies of Easter” stated: **“Sometimes people ask, ‘Didn’t the Jews count part of a day as a whole day or part of a night as a whole night?’ Let me say this, beloved. Whenever you have the expression ‘day and night’ mentioned together in the Hebrew Scriptures, it always means a full day and a full night. . . For instance, if you will turn to Esther 4:16; 5:1; I Samuel; 30:12-13, and of course Jonah 1:17, you will find the expression ‘three days and three nights.’ And in every instance it means full days and full nights - not part of a day and part of a night.”**

From Friday to Sunday is not three 24-hour days. Jesus said He would be resurrected after three (3) days. In Mark 8:31, the Bible states, **“And he began to teach them, that the Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected of the elders, and of the chief priests, and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise**

again.” Counting backwards from Sunday three days, you will not arrive at Friday. You have to count the way the Jews did.

❑ HOW COULD WEDNESDAY BE THE DAY BEFORE THE SABBATH?

But if He was crucified the day before the Sabbath, how could He have been crucified on Wednesday? The answer lies in the fact that the Jews celebrated more Sabbaths than just the weekly Sabbath - they had a number of feast days that were called “High Sabbaths,” or high days. He arose on the first day of the week after the Sabbaths* (plural). Sometime after 6 p.m. Saturday, end of the Jewish day, in Matthew 28:1 we read; **“In the end of the Sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre.”**

Dr. C. I. Scofield states that the word, “Sabbath” in this verse is plural; from the Greek word “sabbata.” The day after the crucifixion was not the regular (Saturday) Sabbath but a Special (“High” - Greek, “megas”, large) Sabbath.

John 19:31 says, **“The Jews therefore, because it was the preparation, that the bodies should not remain upon the cross on the Sabbath day,”** (for that Sabbath day was an high day,) **“besought Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away.”**

The Jews observed several “high” Sabbaths (“holy convocations”) in their seasons. Leviticus 23:3-6 says, **“Six days shall work be done: but the seventh day is the Sabbath of rest, an holy convocation; ye shall do no work therein: it is the Sabbath of the LORD in all your dwellings. These are the feasts of the LORD, even holy convocations, which ye shall proclaim in their seasons. In the fourteenth day of the first month at even is the Lord’s passover. And on the fifteenth day of the same month is the feast of unleavened bread unto the LORD: seven days ye must eat unleavened bread.”**

The first Jewish month (Nisan or Abib) is our April. The Feast of the Passover (a high Sabbath) and the Feast of the Unleavened Bread (another high Sabbath) were celebrated on April 14th and 15th respectively.

The day Jesus died was the preparation day (Wednesday) for the Passover celebration that was to be held on Thursday - **“And it was the preparation of the passover, and about the sixth hour: and he (meaning Pilate) saith unto the Jews, Behold your King!”** (***John 19:14***). This was the morning of the crucifixion day. Verse 31 states, **“The Jews therefore, because it was the preparation, that the bodies should not remain upon the cross on the Sabbath day,”** (for that Sabbath day was an high day,) **“...besought Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away.”**

Therefore, Passover (Nisan 14) was on Thursday, that year, the Feast of Unleavened Bread began on Friday (seven day feast last to Nisan 21), and the regular weekday Sabbath was on Saturday. Jesus was crucified in the morning on Wednesday, and He was placed in the tomb before 6 P.M. that day. He arose from the grave sometime after 6 P.M. on Saturday, which would be early

Sunday morning, the first day of the week, according to Jewish time-keeping. This explanation fits Jesus' prophecy in Matthew 12:40 that He would be **“three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.”**

□ **FURTHER EVIDENCE FROM THE BIBLE:**

The women purchased spices “after the Sabbath” or the Passover (Nisan 14 - Thursday) which would have been Friday as Mark 15:42 and Luke 23:52-54 state. They would not have broken the Law and purchased anything on the Day of the Passover, or the regular Sabbath on Saturday. Luke 23:56 says they returned and prepared the spices and “rested on the Sabbath” which was the regular Sabbath on Saturday. Then on the first day of the week, Sunday morning they went to the tomb to prepare the body.

□ **CONCLUSION:**

This is the only view that fits the biblical account. Jesus was crucified on Wednesday and buried before 6:00 PM that day. The Jewish day, which began at 6:00 PM, was the Passover (Nisan 14). Therefore, the Passover began on Wednesday after 6:00 PM, which would actually be Thursday as the Jews reckoned time. The women, who brought the spices on Friday, rested on Saturday and went on Sunday morning after 6:00 AM, finding the empty tomb. This is the series of events and is accord with Jesus' statement in Matthew 12:38-40. Hence, Jesus was in the grave

three full days and three nights. Any other view violates the biblical account and the historical facts. ■

NEWS OF INTEREST TO CHRISTIANS

□ **SWEDEN: FROM DEAD CHRISTIANITY TO ATHEISM TO ISLAM** - Islam continues to take control of Great Britain and many parts of Europe. The following is excerpted from “*Replacement theory is alive in the Islamic takeover of Europe,*” *Israel National News*, Mar. 15, 2023:

“Sweden had 8 percent Muslims in 2016. In 2050 it will have 11 percent Muslims if immigration stops completely, but up to 21 percent if it remains ‘normal,’ and 31 percent if it continues at the same pace of the last years. ... Not bad for the country that boasted of being ‘the least religious in the West.’ There was the transition of an entire people from Christianity to atheism.

A Gallup poll said that only in China are there more atheists than in Sweden. David Thurfjell in a book called it *Det Gudlösa Folket*. The people without God. Speaking with Dagen, theologian Alan Hirsch said: ‘Christianity is decaying throughout the Western world and here it can die out in a generation.’ In a conversation this week with the Tribune Juive, the Algerian writer Boualem Sansal, author of the ... novel 2084, says: ‘Islam is today the second religion in Europe, but undoubtedly the first in terms of number of practitioners. I see Islam establishing itself

in the West and it has imprinted powerful evolutions which little by little change the internal structure of the West. Laxity and the art of retreat are in place and have formed the minds of people to the point that we no longer even know whether a mortar shell in broad daylight in Paris is incivility, barbarism or jihadism. Europe is falling apart and is on a slope, absorbing blow by blow without being able to respond. But Europe would be too stupid not to understand that the weak have no future in the world to come and that globalization is not peace and prosperity for all as it naively believed, but a battleground between the strong.”

□ **IN ENGLAND, POLICE AGAIN ARREST WOMAN FOR SILENT PRAYER - WHAT INSANITY!** The following is excerpted from “*UK Pro-Life Arrested Again,*” *CBN News*, Mar. 7, 2023:

“The nonprofit law firm Alliance Defending Freedom UK (ADF UK) reports their client, Isabel Vaughan-Spruce, has been arrested for the second time for the ‘offense’ of silently praying within an abortion facility censorship zone or ‘buffer zone.’ Her arrest comes just weeks after being acquitted by a UK court for the same violation. Vaughan-Spruce was arrested again on Monday outside the BPAS Robert Clinic in Birmingham. Her exchange with two police officers was captured in a video clip that was released on social media by ADF UK. In the 46-second video ... several police officers approach her. One officer asks her, ‘Can I please ask you to step away from here and step outside the exclusion zone?’ Vaughan-Spruce replied, ‘But I’m not protesting. I’m not engaging in any of the activities prohibited.’ ‘But you said you were engaging in prayer which is the offense,’ the officer responded. ‘Silent prayer,’ Vaughan-Spruce counters. ‘No, but you were still engaging in prayer. It is an offense,’ the officer explained. ... Although two police officers are seen in the video clip, the ADF UK said six police officers were involved in Vaughan-Spruce’s arrest on Monday.”

□ **BREAKDOWN OF THE FAMILY IN AMERICA** - The following is from Paul Johnson, *A History of the American People*:

“To many analysts of American society ... the decisive single development in America during the second half of the 20th century [was] the decline of the family and of family life, and the growth in illegitimacy. The enormous number of children born outside the family structure altogether, or raised in one-parent families, appeared to be statistically linked to most of the modern evils of American life: poor educational performance and illiteracy or semi-literacy, children out on the streets from an early age, juvenile delinquency, unemployment, adult crime, and, above all, poverty.

... Up to 1920, the proportion of children born to single women in the United States was less than 3 percent, roughly where it had been throughout the history of the country. The trend-line shifted upwards, though not dramatically, in the 1950s. A steep, sustained rise gathered pace in the mid-1960s and continued into the early 1990s, to reach 30 percent in 1991. In 1960 there were just 73,000 never-married mothers between the ages of eighteen and thirty-four. By 1980 there were 1 million.

By 1990 there were 2.9 million.

... In 1960, 24 percent of black children were illegitimate, compared with 2 percent of white children. By 1991, the figures of illegitimate births were 68 percent of all births for blacks, 39 percent for Latinos, and 18 percent for non-Latino whites. At some point between 1960 and 1990, marriage, and having children within marriage, ceased to be the norm among blacks, while remaining the norm among whites (though a deteriorating one). By the end of 1994 it was 33 percent for the nation as a whole, 25 percent for whites, and 70 percent for blacks. In parts of Washington, capital of the richest nation in the world, it was as high as 90 percent.”

□ **STREET PREACHER’S CONVICTION FOR “MIS-GENDERING” OVERTURNED** - The following is excerpted from “*Street preacher,*” *Premier Christian News*, Mar. 10, 2023:

“A Christian street preacher who was arrested for ‘misgendering’ a member of the public has had his conviction overturned. Dave McConnell, 42, who’s from Wakefield, appealed his conviction at Leeds Crown Court after he was arrested under section 4A Public Order Act 1986 for ‘insulting’ a member of the public in Leeds City Centre in June 2021. He was arrested after he ‘misgendered’ a transgender person who identified as a woman during a one-on-one conversation with a police officer.

... Mr. McConnell was subsequently convicted and made to pay costs of £620. He was also forced to do 80 hours of community service despite there being no legal obligation to use a trans person’s preferred pronouns in the UK. Following his conviction, the Probation Service reported Mr McConnell to the Joint Counter-Terrorism Team. It is believed Mr McConnell is the first street preacher to be convicted for such an offence and reported as a potential ‘terrorist.’ Mr McConnell’s lawyer argued that the police response was unlawful, disproportionate and interfered with his Article 9 and 10 rights under the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR). Mr McConnell, who was supported by the Christian Legal Centre was asked in court whether he knew that ‘misgendering’ a trans person could be insulting, to which he replied: ‘I wasn’t misgendering, I was telling the truth.’

... Following the ruling, Mr McConnell said: ‘I am delighted and relieved that the Judge has overturned the conviction and that I can clear my name. I am, however, appalled at how I have been treated by the authorities in this matter. No other street preacher, professional or member of the public must go through what I have.’”

□ **LEGALIZED ASSISTED SUICIDE PUSH IN US ALARMS DOCTORS, DISABILITY ADVOCATES: ‘WHERE DO YOU DRAW THE LINE?’** - The following is excerpted from “*Legalized assisted suicide push in US*”, *FoxNews.com*, 03/23/23:

Physician-assisted suicide has been a hotly debated topic across the United States for decades but a push to legalize the controversial practice in more states is picking up steam this year.

ATTENTION ALL MEN! PLAN NOW TO ATTEND THE 2023 MEN’S ADVANCE

**Friday, April 28,
at 7:00 p.m.
and Saturday,
April 29,
8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**



The Men’s Advance has been hosted by Bible Baptist Church of Stillwater for over ten years and is attended by men from all across the Midwest. The goal of the Men’s Advance is to impact the lives of men spiritually to make a difference in their homes, churches, relationships and community.

The meeting runs on a two-day format, beginning this year at 7:00 P.M. on Friday, April 28, 2022 and concluding at approximately 3:00 P.M. on

Saturday, April 29. Again this year, we will again meet at the Payne County Expo Center, just east of Stillwater. Meals are provided on-site to allow the men more time to fellowship with one another, and include a full smoked meat dinner Friday night, complete breakfast Saturday morning, and a great lunch Saturday afternoon. In addition to the Advance, a golf tournament is open to all attendees and precede the Advance earlier on Friday.

The service times and break-out sessions are the focus of the event. Here, the men are challenged to examine their lives in the light of God’s Word. Both humorous and contemplative skits are interspersed to reinforce the truths presented. Special music provided by the Bible Baptist Church Men’s Group and others adds to the wonderful congregational hymns, including the traditional “It Is Well With My Soul” finale.

Starting with Oregon in 1997, ten other states and the District of Columbia have made it legal for a terminally ill patient to ask their doctor for a lethal cocktail of drugs they ingest to die. They include California, Montana, Vermont, Washington, New Jersey and Hawaii.

Lawmakers in ten more states have introduced physician-assisted suicide laws in 2023.

Advocates, who prefer to use the term “aid in dying” or “right to die,” say these laws restore dignity and bodily autonomy to people who are suffering.

But several concerned physicians told Fox News Digital they saw profound ethical concerns with physicians helping to end someone’s life, saying it was destructive for medicine and society at large. Dr. Jeffrey Barke, Chief Medical Advisor for Convention of States, criticized assisted suicide laws as ‘horrible for the medical community’ and ‘destructive’ for society. He said, “To legislate and consecrate the idea that we purposefully expedite their death to me is not what medicine is all about, not what our healing profession is about and is emblematic of what’s going on in our society in all aspects.”

Barke noted how doctors have always been concerned about patients’ suffering and use medicine, palliative care and hospice to ease pain and comfort their patients in end-of-life care. The doctor, who’s also Chief Medical Advisor for Convention of States, said he sees the movement as a cultural shift to take God out of every part of society. Dr. Barke sees physician assisted suicide laws in direct contrast to the Hippocratic Oath which says “do no harm.”

In Canada, Medical Assistance in Dying (“MAID”) could expand to the mentally ill and minors under 18-years-old in 2024.

Barke feared the U.S. could follow the same path.

“The line will become very blurry. At what point do we say that the doctor should be involved in death?” he posed.

These laws could put more than the terminally ill in danger, he believes. Barke warned other laws could crop up using the same arguments advocates use about quality of life to justify killing babies born with genetic anomalies like Down Syndrome. Doctors told Fox News Digital assisted suicide laws violate the Hippocratic Oath.

“Where do you draw the line? Do we want a bunch of elected officials to tell doctors, you can help kill that person but not this person?” he asked. Furthermore, Barke argued, physicians don’t know the future, and some patients with terminal illnesses do recover.

IT NEVER HURTS US TO BE KIND -

One stormy night an elderly couple entered the lobby of a small hotel and asked for a room. The clerk said they were filled, and that all the hotels in town were full as well. “But I can’t send a fine couple like you out in the rain,” he said. “Would you be willing to sleep in my room?” The couple hesitated, but the clerk insisted that they use his room.

The next morning when the man paid his bill, he said, “You’re the kind of man who should be managing the best hotel

in the United States. Someday I’ll build you one.”

The clerk smiled politely but thought little of the man’s comment. A few years later the clerk received a letter from the elderly man, recalling that stormy night and asking him to come to New York – a round-trip ticket was enclosed. When the clerk arrived, his host took him to the corner of 5th Avenue and 34th Street, where he had built a magnificent hotel.

“That,” explained the man, “is the hotel I have built for you to manage.”

The man who built the hotel was William Waldorf Astor, and that hotel was the original Waldorf-Astoria. The young clerk was George C. Boldt, who became the first manager of that Waldorf Astoria hotel.

God promised that he would give us great things if we would be faithful over the small things. (Luke 19:17) In the New Year, let us be faithful in the small things - God will take care of the big things!

YOU GET WHAT YOU PAY FOR -

I like the old story about the guy who came to church with his family. As they were driving home afterwards he was complaining about everything. He said, “The music was too loud. The sermon was too long. The announcements were unclear. The building was hot. The people were unfriendly.” He went on and on, complaining about virtually everything. Finally, his very observant son said, “Dad, you’ve got to admit it wasn’t a bad show for just a dollar.”

OOPS -

A young pastor, in the first days of his first church, visited with the widow of a very odd, eccentric man who had just died.

As he stood before the open casket and consoling the widow, he said, “*I know this must be a very hard blow, Mrs. Vernon. But we must remember that what we see here is the husk only, the shell. The nut has gone to heaven.*”

YOU CAN’T OUTGIVE GOD -

The very first person to reach the status of billionaire was a man who knew how to set goals and follow through. At the age of 23, he had become a millionaire, by the age of 50 a billionaire. Every decision, attitude, and relationship was tailored to create his personal power and wealth.

Three years later at the age of 53 he became ill. His entire body became racked with pain, and he lost all the hair on his head. In complete agony, the world’s only billionaire could buy anything he wanted, but he could only digest milk and crackers. An associate wrote, “He could not sleep, would not smile and nothing in life meant anything to him.” His personal, highly skilled physicians predicted he would die within a year.

That year passed agonizingly slow. As he approached death, he awoke one morning with the vague remembrances of a dream. He could barely recall the dream but knew it had something to do with not being able to take any of his successes with him into the next world. The man who could control the business world

suddenly realized he was not in control of his own life. He was left with a choice.

He called his attorneys, accountants, and managers and announced that he wanted to channel his assets to hospitals, research, and mission work. On that day John D. Rockefeller established his foundation. This new direction eventually led to the discovery of penicillin, cures for current strains of malaria, tuberculosis and diphtheria. The list of discoveries resulting from his choice is enormous.

But, perhaps the most amazing part of Rockefeller’s story is that the moment he began to give back a portion of all that he had earned, his body’s chemistry was altered so significantly that he got better. It looked as if he would die at 53 but he lived to be 98.

Rockefeller learned gratitude and gave back from his wealth. Doing so made him whole. It is one thing to be healed it is another to be made whole.



*Dr. Vance Havner
1901 - 1986*

GEMS FROM VANCE HAVNER

- If you are a Christian, you are not a citizen of this world trying to get to heaven; you are a citizen of heaven making your way through this world.
- God isn’t a talent scout looking for someone who is “good enough” or “strong enough.” He is looking for someone with a heart set on Him, and He will do the rest.
- The devil is not fighting religion. He’s too smart for that. He is producing a counterfeit Christianity, so much like the real one that good Christians are afraid to speak out against it. We are plainly told in the Scriptures that in the last days men will not endure sound doctrine and will depart from the faith and heap to themselves teachers to tickle their ears. We live in an epidemic of this itch, and popular preachers have developed “ear-tickling” into a fine art.
- Satan is not fighting churches; he is joining them. He does more harm by sowing tares than by pulling up wheat. He accomplishes more by imitation than by outright opposition.
- People used to blush when they were ashamed. Now they are ashamed if they blush. Modesty has disappeared and a brazen generation with no fear of God before its eyes mocks at sin. We are so fond of being called tolerant and broadminded that we wink at sin when we ought to weep.
- Paul was not ignorant of Satan’s devices, but we are not so wise. Among his most successful devices today are these: exalting tolerance above truth; emphasizing the head more than the heart; making size more important than sort; stressing the positive to the neglect of the negative; putting happiness above holiness; majoring on this world instead of the next.
- Don’t ever come to church without coming as though it were

the first time, as though it could be the best time, and as though it could be the last time.

- I remember when the Titanic sank in 1912, it was the ship that was supposed to be unsinkable. The only thing it ever did was sink. When it took off from England, all kinds of passengers were aboard - millionaires, celebrities, people of moderate means, and poor folks down in the steerage. But a few hours later when they put the list in the Cunard office in New York, it carried only two categories - lost and saved. Grim tragedy had leveled all distinctions.
- God judges what we tolerate as well as what we practice. Too often we put up with things we ought to put out.
- If they had a social gospel in the days of the prodigal son, somebody would have given him a bed and a sandwich and he never would have gone home.
- Salt seasons, purifies, preserves. But somebody ought to remind us that salt also irritates. Real living Christianity rubs this world the wrong way.
- If you see a Bible that is falling apart, it probably belongs to someone who isn’t!
- We are fighting the greatest battle of all time with the most untrained army on earth. If strict discipline is necessary in art and athletics, how can we expect to be advanced Christians and stay in kindergarten?
- Many people have the right aim in life, they just never get around to pulling the trigger. The vision must be followed by the venture. It is not enough to stare up the steps -- we must step up the stairs. Sometimes your medicine bottle has on it, “shake well before using.” That is what God has to do with some of His people. He has to shake them well before they are ever usable.
- Sometimes your medicine bottle has on it, “shake well before using.” That is what God has to do with some of His people. He has to shake them well before they are ever usable.
- We have always needed old people to keep things from going too fast and young people to keep them from going too slow. Youth has fire and age has light and we need both.
- There is a trend today that would put a new robe on the prodigal son while he is still feeding hogs. Some would put the ring on his finger while he still in the pigsty. Others would paint the pigsty and advocate bigger and better hog pens.
- God has a place and purpose for you, somewhere for you to be and something for you to do. You never will be happy elsewhere, nor can you please God anywhere but there.
- Let it never be forgotten that, although we may do nothing about the Word we hear, the Word will do something to us. The same sun melts ice and hardens clay, and the Word of God humbles or hardens the human heart.
- In other days people chose a church on the basis of their doctrinal convictions. Now, lacking doctrinal convictions, they choose for social reasons.