

AND THE PEOPLE CAME...

- Week of March 16, 2024 -

Sunday School	17
Sunday Morning Service	48
Sunday Evening Service.....	16
Wednesday Eve. Service	14

AND THE PEOPLE GAVE...

- Week of March 23, 2025 -

<u>Undesignated</u> Tithes & Offerings	\$ 2,266.10
Auditorium A/C Replacement Fund	\$ 96.80
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 03/23/25:	\$ 2,362.90

- Week of March 16, 2025 -

<u>Undesignated</u> Tithes & Offerings	\$ 818.21
Auditorium A/C Replacement Fund	\$ 110.00
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 03/16/25:	\$ 928.21

- Week of March 9, 2025 -

<u>Undesignated</u> Tithes & Offerings	\$ 2,119.20
Children's SS Missionary Fund	\$ 6.12
Auditorium A/C Replacement Fund	\$ 110.00
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 03/09/25:	\$ 2,306.32

- Week of March 2, 2025 -

<u>Undesignated</u> Tithes & Offerings	\$ 1,104.00
Love Offering, Daniel Charland	\$ 1,000.00
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 03/02/25:	\$ 2,104.00

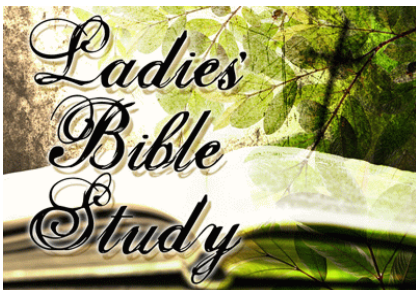
- Week of February 23, 2025 -

<u>Undesignated</u> Tithes & Offerings	\$ 1,492.00
Auditorium A/C Replacement Fund	\$ 110.00
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 02/23/25:	\$ 1,602.00

Average amount of Undesignated Offerings needed for church operating expenses EACH WEEK, as a minimum = \$ 1,700.00



LADIES! Don't Forget -



**THIS THURSDAY, April 3^d
@ 11 am or 5:00 pm**

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 -



ABIDINGRADIO.COM

**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 5:00 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/LeAnna White; Berdena Bergman/Debra Carlton; Daniel Avery/GiGi Avery; Derek Quinnelly, & Larry Byars	Teachers
Larry & Mary Byars	Outreach
Derek Quinnelly	Men's Prayer Group
GinaMarie Shufelt	Ladies Bible Study/Flowers
Seth White	Sound/Video
Larry Byars, Derek Quinnelly, Daniel Avery	Trustees

REMINDER

ATTENTION ALL MEN! PLAN NOW TO ATTEND THE

2025 MEN'S ADVANCE



**Friday, April 25,
at 7:00 p.m.
and Saturday,
April 26,
8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

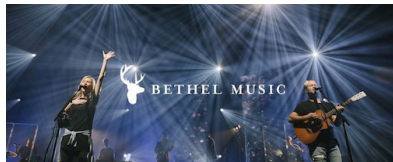
The Men's Advance has been hosted by Bible Baptist Church of Stillwater for over ten years and is attended by men from all across the Midwest. The goal of the Men's Advance is to

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 25, 2022 and concluding at approximately 3:00 P.M. on Saturday, April 26. Again this year, we will 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, a 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.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: APRIL 13th!



Beware of Bethel Church and Bethel Music

Bethel Church is a former Assemblies of God church in Redding, California, that withdrew in 2005 to become a “nondenominational” charismatic network of churches and ministries. Bethel’s senior pastors are the husband/wife team Bill and Beni Johnson.

Bethel Music publishes popular contemporary worship songs, promotes CCM (contemporary Christian music) tours worldwide, and operates WorshipU, an influential educational program. Bethel’s most famous musician is Jeremy Riddle, co-author of *“This Is Amazing Grace.”* The heretical emphasis is “encountering God” and “pursuing the presence of God” by means of releasing oneself to heavily sensual music. *“At every service, our worship teams usher in the presence of God.”*

Bethel’s series *“Without Words”* uses instrumental music *“to push the creative boundaries of worship.”* There are no lyrics.. Bethel’s “dance and flag ministry” also *“reveals God’s heart with no words.”* This is blind, emotional mysticism to feed the modern frenzy for “an experience.” It is open disobedience to the Bible’s command to “be sober, be vigilant” and is a perfect recipe for spiritual delusion. True spiritual edification requires a biblical message that is understood. This is the theme of I Cor. 14, where “edify” is a synonym for “understanding.” *“... except ye utter by the tongue words easy to be understood, how shall it be known what is spoken? for ye shall speak into the air. ... I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also. ... Let all things be done unto edifying” (I Corinthians 14:9, 15, 26).*

Bethel Church founded *Jesus Culture*, a contemporary, charismatic, ecumenical, music-oriented youth ministry. Jesus Culture’s conferences are attended by tens of thousands.

Bethel’s *School of Supernatural Ministry* has graduated 13,000 since 1998 (as of 2024). *“Students learn how to read, understand, and ‘do’ the Bible, how to practice His presence, to witness, heal the sick, prophesy, preach, pray, cast out demons and much more.”*

Bethel teaches and practices all sorts of charismatic heresies, such as the continuation of apostles and prophets, gibberish tongues, the promise of healing in the atonement, angelic and demon sightings, clairvoyance, grave soaking (lying on a grave to soak up the deceased’s “anointing”), and the appearance of “glory clouds,” gold dust, and angel “feathers.”

Bill Johnson claims that without signs and wonders miracles you won’t have the true gospel.

Beni Johnson teaches that there are a variety of angels: messenger angels, healing angels, fiery angels. She says that one of her students in the Supernatural School of Ministry was told by God to go to a chapel and shout “Wakey Wakey!” Suddenly, a “huge angel” stepped out and said, *“I am the angel from the 1904*

revival and you just woke me up.” When she asked, “Why have you been asleep?” the angel replied, *“Because no one has been calling out for revival anymore.”*

The following is an eyewitness report of a visit to Bethel Church in 2017. It is excerpted from *“Getting Wasted with the Holy Spirit at Bethel Redding,”* from www.spiritoferror.org:

“When I recently attended the Firestarters adult Sunday School class at Bethel Church in Redding, California, I was shocked by the teacher’s announcement at the start of the class. ‘There are only three rules in this class. Rule 1: Get drunk. Rule 2: Stay drunk. Rule 3: Get other people drunk.’ Those are not exactly words you expect to hear at a church. Yet the encouragement to ‘get drunk’ was a theme that ran through the entire two-hour class. ‘Let’s get drunk. Let’s enjoy ourselves,’ the teacher said.

He also told the students, who were standing at the time, to hold out their hands in the air in front of their bodies to form the outline of imaginary, huge bottles of ‘heavenly wine,’ then pretend to chug from them. Many of the students responded gleefully to the teacher’s directions. They acted as if they were actually drunk—laughing uncontrollably, staggering, and some even falling down. One middle-aged woman, at a table near mine, lay back in her chair, as if passed out, for much of the class. At a point later during the class—between the testimony sharing time and instruction on learning to prophesy—the teacher sensed it was time for another drink. He told the students, who were now seated, ‘Pick up a pitcher off the table and drink it down’—to which many laughed again, and dutifully responded by forming more ‘air pitchers’ with their hands and pretending to drink from them. Participants in the class would describe their actions as ‘drinking from the Holy Spirit’—as would other participants in the New Apostolic Reformation.”

On Nov. 6, 2019, Bill Johnson tweeted, *“To raise a generation of powerful people, we must build trust. We must have the core belief that people are good.”* In contrast, Jesus’ core belief is that *“there is none good but one, that is, God” (Mark 10:18).*

In December 2019, Bethel Church prayed for a week for the resurrection of a two-year-old girl named Olive, who was pronounced dead on December 14. She was the daughter of Kalley Helligenthal, a singer and songwriter for Bethel Music. The church held contemporary worship prayer services daily in expectation of a resurrection. On its Facebook page, the church stated, *“When you are a friend of God and know that He is your heavenly Father, you trust Him and ask for big, outlandish miracles.”*

Bill Johnson, instead of giving these people biblical counsel, lent his support to the misguided effort, saying, “We have a biblical precedent: Jesus raised the dead. Jesus raised the dead—not only that, he introduced himself as the resurrection and the life. In fact, in John 11:40, he says: ‘If you believe, you will see the glory of God.’”

Yes, Jesus raised the dead. He did that *as the a sign of promised Messiah.* See John 5:36; 10:37-38; 14:11; 15:24; 20:30-31. And the apostles raised the dead (Ac. 9:36-42). They did that as a sign of an apostle (II Cor. 12:12). But there is **zero** support from God’s

Word rightly divided for churches today to pray for bodily resurrections. Born again saints are waiting for the resurrection by faith. *“And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body” (Rom. 8:23).*

Johnson ripped John 11:40 out of the context of Lazarus’s resurrection by Jesus Christ Himself as a sign of the Messiah. *This type of thing brings great reproach upon the name of Christ.* Many secular newspapers and online forums picked the story, and doubtless a great many saw it as another example of the foolishness and powerlessness of “Christianity,” when in reality it is another example of the bankruptcy and confusion of false Christianity, which the Bible warns of -

“But what I do, that I will do, that I may cut off occasion from them which desire occasion; that wherein they glory, they may be found even as we. For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works” (II Cor. 11:12-15).

Bethel and Hillsong are associated. Bill Johnson and Brian Houston (senior pastor of Hillsong Church in Sydney, Australia) spoke at the Open Heavens conference in Redding, California, in October 2016.

In a school convocation on Oct. 4, 2023, the Voices of PCC (Pensacola Christian College) sang an adapted version of “Goodness of God” by Bethel Music. The Pensacola adaptation is not full-blown hard rock as in the original Bethel rendition; it is soft rock, but soft rock *is* sensual and addictive. The Pensacola version is filled with beat anticipation and vocal sliding and uses non-resolving chords which are major elements of the contemporary sound. And I would guess that the Pensacola music people and a great many of the students are listening to the “real thing.” If you have a taste for rock, you want the full-blown thing. And like Hillsong, Bethel knows how to rock.

- Evangelist David W. Cloud



ROCK MUSIC’S HAND-HORNS SIGNAL

The rock hand-horns signal is ubiquitous in today’s society, but there is nothing right about it from a biblical perspective. God’s people are admonished to *“prove all things; hold fast that which is good,” “abstain from all appearance of evil,” and “have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them” (I Thess. 5:21-22; Ephesians 5:11).* I began to do this in 1973 when I was saved out of a lifestyle steeped in rock & roll, submitted to the Bible as the

sole authority for my life, and no longer wanted the rock & roll culture to shape my life.

Consider two facts about the rock hands-horn signal in modern times:

First, the signal began with the occult side of 60s and 70s rock and signified the sign of the devil. The back cover of Coven’s 1969 album *Witchcraft Destroys Minds and Reaps Souls* featured two of the band members showing the horns sign (*“Where Did the Rock + Metal’s Devil Horn Come From?” Loudwire, Apr. 21, 2021*). Coven was photographed using the sign beginning in 1967. The album included a 13-minute Satanic Mass. In that context the sign was called “the devil’s horn” and was used with that meaning by John Lennon, Geezer Butler and Ronnie James Dio of Black Sabbath, and others. The occult was a major theme of rock in the 60s and 70s.

Second, by the 1980s, the horn signal had infiltrated pop music in general and morphed into a sign of rock & roll itself and its fundamental philosophy, which is “live as you please, live life as a party, live free.” “The ‘sign of the horns’ has morphed into a mainstream way of saying, ‘Rock on’ ... or ‘Good times’” (“Hand-horns,” Florida Times-Union, Aug. 15, 2024).

The fundamental rock philosophy was encapsulated by the Rolling Stones in their 1965 hit *“I’m free to do what I want any old time.”* The Animals seconded that with “It’s my life and I’ll do what I want.” More recently, Snoop Dog added his amen to this in the “weed anthem” “Live Young Wild and Free.” In 2017, Gene Simmons of KISS tried to trademark the horns sign, but was thwarted when Coven threatened a lawsuit. No matter which meaning you choose, the rock horn sign doesn’t pass the Bible test. It is not “good” (1st Thess. 5:21); it has the appearance of evil (1st Thess. 5:22); and it is associated with the unfruitful works of darkness (Eph. 5:11).



NEW RESEARCH SUGGESTS THE WORLD’S OLDEST MAP MAY DEPICT THE LOCATION OF NOAH’S ARK

by Amber Morgan

Researchers from the British Museum just revealed that the Imago Mundi, a 3,000-year-old Babylonian clay tablet, seemingly describes the location of an ark from an ancient story that parallels the Biblical account of Noah.

Dr. Osama Shukir Muhammed Amin/Wikimedia CommonsThe Imago Mundi dates back to around the seventh century B.C. and is considered to be the oldest world map ever discovered.

The Imago Mundi, a 3,000-year-old Babylonian tablet that’s considered to be the oldest map of the world, contains depictions of the Earth as the ancient Mesopotamians understood it. Created around the seventh century B.C., the map centers around the

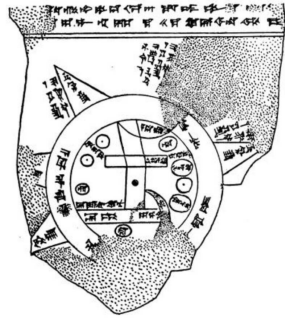
Euphrates River and includes various cities, mountains, and other bodies of water in the area.

The cuneiform text on the tablet tells of the creation of the world by the god Marduk and mentions the king Utnapishtim, who built a giant ark to survive a flood in a story paralleling the Biblical account of Noah. Now, researchers have deciphered additional text on the tablet that has left experts baffled for centuries — and they think it may reveal the location of Noah’s ark.

The History Of The World’s Oldest Map -

In 1882, the British Museum acquired a clay tablet that had been discovered in southern Iraq, not far from the ancient city of Babylon. It dated back 3,000 years and contained a map of Mesopotamia that included Babylon, the Euphrates River, and other cities and landmarks. They called it the Imago Mundi.

The map on the Imago Mundi is surrounded by a double ring called the “Bitter River,” and everything on the outside of that river was beyond the known world of the Babylonians. Triangles carved into the map past the river seemingly represent distant mountains or unexplored realms.



Dr. Irving Finkel, a curator and cuneiform expert at the British Museum, stated in a recent video, “You have encapsulated in this circular diagram the whole of the known world in which people lived, flourished, and died. However, there’s more to this map than that.”

Recently, Finkel and other researchers translated more of

the cuneiform on the map — and it seemingly points toward the location of Noah’s ark.

Researchers Discover Ancient References To Noah’s Ark -

One inscription on the Imago Mundi instructs readers journeying to the fourth triangle depicted on the map to travel seven leagues until they come across “something thick as a parsiktu-vessel.” Parsiktu is a rare term that refers to a boat of a particular size, and it most notably appears in the Babylonian flood story that parallels the Biblical tale of Noah’s ark.

In Mesopotamian myth, the ark was built by Utnapishtim in 1800 B.C.E., and it ultimately came to rest on a mountain called Urartu. Biblical scholars believe that Urartu is the same as Ararat, the mountain where the Bible states Noah’s ark landed. The Imago



Mundi map seemingly points to the fourth triangle as the location of the ark.

The British Museum Urartu, the potential location of Noah’s ark, as depicted on the map.

“That’s quite a meaty thing, quite an interesting thing to think

about because it shows that the story was the same, and of course, that one led to the other,” Finkel noted.

Currently, the Imago Mundi tablet is on display at the British Museum, where it’s still revealing how ancient people saw their world. Each new discovery adds a little more to the story, connecting us with a civilization that mapped their surroundings while weaving in their cultural beliefs. It’s amazing to think that thousands of years later, we’re still learning from it.

NEWS OF INTEREST TO CHRISTIANS

☐ **NEW JERSEY HOSPITAL ASKS PARENTS IF THEIR NEWBORNS ARE STRAIGHT, GAY OR TRANS** - The following is excerpted from “*Is Your Baby Straight or Gay?*” *NJ.com, Mar. 10, 2025*:

“At the height of the pandemic when COVID-19 was taking a heavier toll on Black people, Gov. Phil Murphy signed a law that required hospitals and labs in New Jersey to collect more detailed demographic information on its patients. Four years later, the law has taken a surprising turn. Hospitals are handing out forms asking pregnant and post-partum mothers the gender identity and sexual orientation of their babies, according to a patient in South Jersey.

‘Which of the following best describes your baby? Lesbian or gay; straight or heterosexual, bisexual, questioning/unsure, prefer not to answer.’ The form from Inspira Health explains the questions are required under state law and to help the hospital fulfill its mission ‘to provide a safe and compassionate experience.’

... State Sen. Holly Schepisi, R-Bergen, got wind of the chatter and investigated. On Friday, she said she was drafting legislation that would amend the law to introduce some ‘common sense.’”

☐ **BEWARE OF LOGOS BIBLE SOFTWARE’S BIG TENT** - Logos Bible Software is one of the most popular and influential Bible software packages, but it is an ecumenical blending machine that encompasses nearly every branch of end-time Christianity: Roman Catholic, Orthodox, Reformed, Presbyterian, Lutheran, Methodist, Seventh-day Adventist, Baptist, theological liberalism, evangelicalism, and more.

Logos is a subsidiary of *Faithlife*, as are *Verbum Bible Software* and *Lexham Press*.

Logos Bible Software is a dangerous word that can easily draw the individual into association with heretics and put them under the influence of heresy.

God’s Word contains strong warnings about such things. “**Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners**” (1st Cor. 15:33). See also *Romans 16:17-18*; *2nd Corinthians 6:14*; *11:1-4*; *Colossians 2:8*; *1st Timothy 4:1-2*; *1st Timothy 6:3-5*; *2nd Timothy 3:5*; *Jude 1:17-23*; *1st John 4:1*; *2nd John 1:7-11*; *Revelation 2:2, 14-16*.

We are living in an age of ecumenical blending and merging toward the ultimate fulfillment of Mystery Babylon. We are witnessing the overall collapse of every “fundamentalist” element in Christianity, including fundamental Baptists. Large numbers of them are moving away from core doctrinal convictions by

dabbling in the broad tent of evangelicalism that has bridges to cultural liberalism, amillennialism, post-tribulationism, replacement theology, the church fathers, Christian rock, C.S. Lewis, the downgrade of hell, contemplative prayer, gibberish tongues, prophesying, and a slew of other errors.

Logos Bible Software is a major player in this Babel. It started offering Roman Catholic material in 2011 and founded a full-blown Roman Catholic edition called *Verbum* in 2013. Roman Catholics hold positions in Logos and Faithlife. Consider how Logos describes their role as a blending machine: “*In the very simplest terms, Logos links together thousands of texts and keys them all to the Scripture. The Bible becomes a sort of hub around which the whole tradition revolves. But, all the texts are linked to each other as well. So, as you read the Bible the software is mining the data of the library for information about the passage. What did St. Augustine say? Aquinas? Vatican II? Once you start following a thread, you can go in any direction with it.*”

Any direction, indeed! That is a recipe for doctrinal disaster and spiritual shipwreck. A few brethren are biblically grounded enough and spiritually strong enough and critically minded enough to use Logos and not be led astray, but this software package is extremely dangerous. We would not recommend it except for an extreme minority that might need its powerful search tools and are able to protect themselves. (For more on this see the free eBook *The Deceptive Dangers of Logos Bible Software* by Brian Snider, www.wayoflife.org.)

☐ **GATHER25: MORE APOSTASY MASQUERADING AS REVIVAL** - Gather25 was a “*global prayer event led by Bible teacher and bestselling author Jennie Allen ... which featured live gatherings in seven locations and over 21,000 groups meeting in churches and homes ... an unprecedented moment in Christian unity and worship*” (“*We are living in Pentecost*,” *The Christian Post, Mar. 11, 2025*).

The event harnessed AI translation technology to make “real-time communication possible across languages.”

Allen, a Dallas Theological Seminary graduate and founder of *IF:Gathering*, said the “vision for Gather25 took shape” from a “vivid dream that Jesus was coming back soon, in 10 years” (though she also claims that she doesn’t know when Jesus is coming back). She said, “‘How do you know if you’re obeying God or if this vision is from God?’ And a wise person once said, ‘When it happens...’”

But - that is not a biblical stance. The devil can answer misguided prayers. Scripture warns that if a prophecy comes to pass but it is contrary to God’s Word, it is not of God (Deuteronomy 13:1-4).

GATHER25 is contrary to God’s Word in multiple ways, such as the following:

- ☛ It neglects the earnest defense of the faith, which God’s Word commands (Jude 1:3).
- ☛ It ignores the Bible’s strong warnings about end-time apostasy (Matthew 13:33; 2nd Timothy 3:1-13; 4:3-4).
- ☛ It ignores the Bible’s command to “reprove, rebuke, exhort

with all longsuffering and doctrine” (2nd Timothy 4:2).

☛ It incorporates the world’s music into the worship of a holy God, which is gross confusion (2nd Cor. 6:14-17; Eph. 5:11; James 4:4; 1st John 2:15-17).

☛ It ignores the command of God’s Word to separate from error (Romans 16:17-18; 2nd Timothy 3:5).

☛ It ignores God’s disallowance of women church leaders and women teaching men (1st Timothy 2:11-14; 3:2).

☛ Finally, it is founded on an unbiblical doctrine of “the church.” There is no “global church” described in Scripture. There is the “general assembly and church of the firstborn” in heaven (Hebrews 12:23). And on earth there is the New Testament church that has pastors and deacons (1st Timothy 3:1-15).

It is this church that is the house of God, the pillar and ground of the truth. A “global church” is a biblical impossibility. Who are the leaders? How are they chosen? Who ordains them? Who are the members? What baptism do they receive? By whom? How is a “global church” taught to “observe all things, whatsoever I have commanded you”? How is it taught “all the counsel of God” (Acts 20:27)? How is it disciplined? How is it protected from false teachers and “every wind of doctrine”?

☐ **NASA CONTINUES VAIN SEARCH FOR ORIGIN OF LIFE** - With blind devotion to the hypothesis of evolution, NASA has launched a new satellite “to explore the origins of the universe.”

SPHEREx is short for *Spectro-Photometer for the History of the Universe, Epoch of Reionization and Ices Explorer*. “The mission aims to deepen the understanding of a phenomenon known as cosmic inflation, referring to the universe’s rapid and exponential expansion from a single point in a fraction of a second after the Big Bang that occurred roughly 13.8 billion years ago” (“*NASA SPHEREx telescope*,” *Reuters, Mar. 12, 2025*).

NASA claims that cosmic inflation “caused the universe to expand in size a trillion-trillionfold in a fraction of a second after the big bang” (“*NASA Launches*,” *Mar. 12, 2025, nasa.gov*).

This is ridiculous and unscientific on its very face. According to the Big Bang, the universe of mind-boggling complexity with its living earth is the product of an accident or, more properly, an uncountable myriad of accidents, everything came from nothing, atomic clock precision was the product of an explosion, life leaped from non-life, and intelligence appeared from non-intelligence.

NASA had it **right** in December 1968 when the crew of Apollo 8, the first human beings to travel to the moon, read from Genesis 1. Roughly a billion people in 64 countries heard the voices of three NASA astronauts read from the only accurate account of creation in existence. The astronauts concluded with the words, “and God bless all of you, all of you on the good Earth.” It is a good Earth because it is a divinely created Earth.

☐ **THE ONLY TRUE ACCOUNT OF THE CREATION OF THE EARTH** - The following is what three NASA astronauts broadcast to the earth while orbiting the moon on December 24, 1968:

“In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And

the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. And God said, Let there be light: and there was light. And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness. And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day. And God said, Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters. And God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament: and it was so. And God called the firmament Heaven. And the evening and the morning were the second day. And God said, Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one place, and let the dry land appear: and it was so. And God called the dry land Earth; and the gathering together of the waters called he Seas: and God saw that it was good” (Genesis 1:1-10).

□ **THE CORRUPT WORLD OF TOP-LEVEL SPORTS** - Legal betting for the NCAA (National Collegiate Athletic Association) March Madness basketball tournament is expected to reach more than \$3 billion (“Madness legal wagering,” *Fox Business*, Mar. 17, 2025).

God’s born again people are to test everything by Scripture and disassociate with evil. **“Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord. And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them” (Ephesians 5:10-11).**

There is a lot of evil throughout pro and collegiate sports. In fact, it is an idol to a great many people. In a report on a drought in west Texas that was killing the grass on football fields, the Los Angeles Times observed that this was serious because “football is God and the field is church” (“*In West Texas*,” *Los Angeles Times*, Oct 3, 2011). In 1982, the famous sports announcer Howard Cosell, while viewing the largest Sunday football game attendance in Texas history, said “*the Cowboys are more than a football team in Dallas; they are a religion.*”

So the world *itself* says pro sports is an idol.

What else is wrong with professional and collegiate sports from a biblical perspective?

We could mention pride, boasting, envy, self-promotion, vanity, covetousness, cursing, blasphemy, drinking, drugging, gambling, fleshly rock music, sensual dancing, and indecent clothing. When evangelist Billy Sunday turned his back on a successful professional baseball career in 1893, he gave ten reasons for leaving. Reason number two was **“Because it develops a spirit of jealousy and selfishness.”** That was 130 years ago!

Take the halftime shows and commercials for the Superbowl. The 2013 halftime performance (and things have not gotten better) by Beyonce was “pushing x-rated.” The Superbowl commercial voted a contender for “best” was a Mercedes advertisement that depicted a young man contemplating selling his soul to the devil for the worldly pleasures he could expect from owning a sleek automobile. The commercial was set to the Rolling Stone’s godless song “*Sympathy for the Devil.*”

And what about neglect of God’s house? Not many decades past, professional sports were not played on Sundays in respect for the Lord’s Day and the command of God that Christians not forsake the assembly (Heb. 10:24-25). Not so today. The devil has pulled out all the stops in his effort to woo the hearts of professing Christians away from Christ toward the things of this wicked world.

Those who allow professional and collegiate sports to capture their hearts become desensitized to the wickedness that is inherently associated with it.

“Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever” (1 John 2:15-17).

□ **PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH USA BARS DISCRIMINATION AGAINST HOMOSEXUALS, TRANSEXUALS, AND HERETICS** - The following is excerpted from “*PCUSA approves amendment*,” *Christian Post*, Mar. 14, 2025:

“Presbyterian Church (USA) has approved an amendment to its constitution that prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. The LGBT advocacy group Covenant Network of Presbyterians announced Wednesday the passage of Amendment 24-A in a statement posted to the PC(USA)’s official website through the Presbyterian News Service. Amendment 24-A amended the PC(USA) Book of Order to include gender identity and sexual orientation to the anti-discrimination statement found in F-1.0403, which read in part that ‘God unites persons through baptism regardless of race, ethnicity, age, sex, disability, geography, or theological conviction.’ ... The PC(USA) ratified an amendment allowing ordination of openly LGBT pastors at the discretion of each congregation in 2011.”

WHO????

A mother was concerned about her kindergarten son, Timmy, walking to school. He didn’t want his mother to walk with him. She wanted to give him the feeling that he had some independence, but yet know that he was safe.

Her neighbor learned about the mother’s dilemma and offered to follow the young boy to school in the mornings, staying at a distance, so he probably wouldn’t notice her.

“I’m up early with my toddler anyway; it will be a good way for us to get some exercise as well,” said the neighbor. The relieved mother agreed.

The next school day, the neighbor and her little girl set out following behind Timmy as he walked to school with another neighbor boy he knew. She did this for the whole week.

As the boys walked and chatted, kicking stones and twigs, Timmy’s little friend noticed the same lady was following them as she seemed to do every day all week. Finally, he said to Timmy,

“Have you noticed that lady following us to school all week? Do you know her?”

Timmy nonchalantly replied, “Yeah, I know who she is.” The friend said, “Well, who is she?”

“That’s just Shirley Goodnest,” Timmy replied. “And her daughter Marcy.”

“Shirley Goodnest? Who is she and why is she following us?”

“Well,” Timmy explained. “Every night, my mom makes me say the 23rd Psalm with my prayers, because she worries about me so much. And in the Psalm, it says, ‘*Shirley Goodnest and Marcy shall follow me all the days of my life,*’ so I guess I’ll just have to get used to it!”



Good & Evil in Churches

When W. A. Criswell concluded his sermon on “*Good and Evil In The Churches*” , he reminded all of us that God always has his faithful servants.

Below are his concluding remarks:

“Always, always, God has His own; God has His people; God has His witnesses. And there may be places and times when it is darkness, and compromise, and corruption, and evil, and false, empty profession, but in another place and over yonder, it will be light, and glory, and revival, and evangelism, and the unction and power of the Holy Spirit of God; been that way all the way through. Never been anything else but that, and it is that way today.

“When the church at Antioch was waning in its piety, the church at Milan was experiencing great spiritual blessings from heaven. When the churches of Alexandria and Carthage were falling into the decrepitude of empty ceremonialism, the churches of Gaul were battling against the imperial vices of the Roman Empire and were winning converts from the rude and crude barbarians. When the church at Rome fell into emptiness and into ritual and a godless blasphemy—a profession that had in it color and drama, but no power of God—when the church of Rome fell, Ireland was turning to Christ in beauty and in glory, worshipping the Holy One of Israel. When Mohammed, God’s avenger against the idolatry of the Christian churches—when Mohammed was cutting to pieces by the sword the churches of Egypt, and of Syria, and of Asia Minor, at that identical time the scholars of Iona in the little isle off of Great Britain were studying the Word of God, and they were preaching the gospel to the Anglo-Saxons, and converted your forefathers and mine.

“When the papal court at Avignon in France fell into vice and debauchery and disgraced the name of religion, at that identical time there were preachers in the Teutonic cities of Germany who were studying the Word of God, who were writing and preaching sermons, and who were doing deeds of honor and glory to Jesus the Christ.

“When the fields of Italy were filled with rotten stubble, the fields of Bohemia were whiting unto the harvest. When France fell

into the darkness of superstition and despotism, the morning star of the Reformation was rising in England. When the Unitarian defection closed the churches of New England and America, and emptied the Bible and the message of Christ of all of its content and meaning, the pioneer preacher was pressing across the Alleghenies. He was preaching the gospel in the wilderness of Kentucky and Tennessee, and he pressed westward to the prairies and the heartland of America, came to my little town in the far West where I grew up as a boy, and pressed to the golden shores of the Pacific Ocean, founding our churches, building our institutions, holding revival meetings, bringing into the hearts of men the kingdom of heaven.”

IT'S AMAZING HOW GOD WORKS!

During a Billy Sunday evangelistic campaign, a mentally impaired boy came faithfully each night to sing in the choir.

“Joey was not very bright,” said Homer Rodeheaver, the well-known song leader, “but he never missed any of our meetings and wouldn’t leave until he shook my hand. Sometimes I was embarrassed by the way he constantly tailed me, and I secretly wished he’d go away.”

Then, one evening a man came to Rodeheaver and said, “Thank you for being kind to my son Joey. He’s not right mentally, but never has he enjoyed anything so much as singing in the choir. He worked hard doing simple chores for people so he could contribute to the collection. Through his pleadings my wife and five other children came to this evangelistic campaign and have now received Christ. Last night his 75-year-old grandfather, who has been an atheist all his life, was saved, and tonight his grandmother also came forward. Now our entire family is converted!” ■



Homer Rodeheaver
1880-1955

