

AND THE PEOPLE CAME...

- Week of July 21, 2024 -

Sunday School	17
Sunday Morning Service	43
Sunday Evening Service	27
Wednesday Eve., 07/24/24 Service	14

AND THE PEOPLE GAVE...

- Week of July 21, 2024 -

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings	\$ 6,051.14
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 07/21/24:	\$ 6,051.14

- Week of July 14, 2024 -

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings	\$ 1,346.79
Sign Repair Fund	\$ 1.00
Auditorium A/C Replacement Fund	\$ 116.22
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 07/14/24:	\$ 1,464.01

- Week of July 7, 2024 -

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings	\$ 1,446.45
Auditorium A/C Replacement Fund	\$ 150.00
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 07/07/24:	\$ 1,596.45

- Week of June 30, 2024 -

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings	\$ 2,362.44
Auditorium A/C Replacement Fund	\$ 130.00
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 06/30/24:	\$ 2,492.44

- Week of June 23, 2024 -

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings	\$ 1,116.47
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 06/23/24:	\$ 1,116.47

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



LISTEN TO -

ABIDINGRADIO.COM

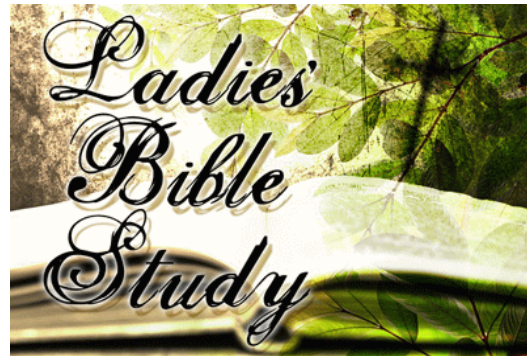


WHAT IT MEANS TO BE SAVED

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.

LADIES!

Don't Forget -



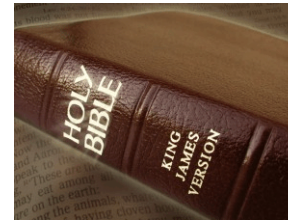
THURSDAY, AUGUST 1st @ 11 am & 5:30 pm

SEE YOU THERE!

Church Directory

Todd W. White	Pastor
Debra Carlton, Mickie Shatwell, Lois Mae Floyd	Pianists
Derek Quinnelly	Greeter
Kim Phillips; Shirley White/LeAnna White; Berdena Bergman/Debra Carlton; Daniel Avery/GiGi Avery; & Keith Shufelt	Teachers
Larry & Mary Byars	Outreach
Keith Shufelt	Men's Prayer Group
GinaMarie Shufelt	Ladies Bible Study/Flowers
Seth White	Sound/Video
Larry Byars, Derek Quinnelly, David Smith	Trustees

REMINDER



A Tale of Three Cities: Where the Bible Versions Began

by the late Dr. David F. Reagan, Pastor
Antioch Baptist Church, Knoxville, Tennessee

A conflict rages in this age which has been called "the battle for the Bible." This battle (more like a war) is being fought on several levels. Some deny that the Bible is God's Word at all. Others deny that the Bible completed God's revealed Word. While some scholars battle over original inspiration, and some argue over Greek texts, others are fighting the battle of English translations.

Amid the confusion of theological word battles and personal vendettas, many are crying for answers. As we survey the battlefield, several points must be made clear. The first point is that this battle is one battle. On every level, this battle is about whether or not you and I have or can have the Word of God.

If the Bible only contains God's Word, but no one knows which parts are His Word and which parts are not, *what good is that?* And why argue over perfect inspiration, if God has not preserved His Word? And what about all those translations? The whole problem comes down to this: *Can you and I get a hold of God's pure Word; and if we can, where?*

Another point to be made is that this battle for the Bible is **very important**. Nothing is more important than whether or not we can get God's truth. If God's Word is not our source of absolute truth, then what is? We are left holding an empty bag.

Yet those who claim allegiance to the Bible cannot seem to do enough to weaken its power. Scholars dilute the Bible text. Publishers come out with new, better-than-ever bibles every few months. Preachers freely correct the words of the living God. And young men herd off to seminaries (or rather cemeteries) to be taught the inadequacies of the Word of God.

No one claims to have a painting that contains the work of Rembrandt. They either have a painting by Rembrandt or they do not. Even a careful imitation is worthless next to the real thing. *Likewise, we either have God's Word or we do not.* Since God's Word by reason of God's own character must be totally pure, then an impure word **cannot be** God's Word. God's Word is incorruptible (1 Pet. 1:23). That which is God's Word is completely pure (Prov. 30:5). Other forms of printed matter (printed sermons, tracts, corrupted "bibles," etc.) may contain portions of God's Word, but they cannot be said to be God's Word.

Yes, this is all one battle. And this battle is important. But a third point needs to be made. This battle is not new. Ever since the Garden of Eden, when Satan denied God's Word and Eve changed it, Bible correcting has been one of man's favorite hobbies.

Take, for instance, the text of the New Testament. Its alteration has not been solely the recent work of little men with thick glasses hovering over ancient manuscripts. No, the greatest corruptions of the New Testament text occurred during the first two or three centuries after it was written. By the end of this period, the vast majority of various readings had already been written and the different Greek texts of today could have been composed. These centuries, during which the battle lines were drawn, set the time frame for the *Tale of Three Cities*.

A Tale of Three Cities

A Tale of Three Cities is a tale of intrigue and deception - one which pits the forces of God and Satan into battle over the integrity of the Bible. This war over the Word, which began in Eden's beautiful Garden, and still rages today with ever-increasing fury. God's churches, God's men, and God's people cannot afford to remain neutral when the stakes are so high. Yet, many seem determined

(continued inside)

to live their spiritual lives as deserters.

THE PRINCIPLE OF PRESERVATION

Before the unfolding of this story begins, two Biblical principles must be understood. The first principle is that God has promised, without exception, to preserve not only the Word which He has given to man, but also the words. This promise is confirmed every time God commands us to read, memorize, meditate upon, learn, or obey the words which He has given us. Nowhere in the Bible does God suggest the possibility of us not having His words. The promise of preservation is stated as follows in ***Psalm 12:6,7: “The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever.”*** This passage demands responsibility from present-day Christians. According to God, His words are preserved pure. If they are preserved, then we had better find them and believe them without correcting them.

THE PRINCIPLE OF CORRUPTION

The second principle which must be understood is that many will “***corrupt the word of God***” as stated by Paul in II Corinthians 2:17. Paul also warned against “***handling the word of God deceitfully***” (II Cor. 4:2). This evil practice of corruption assures us of the fact that many corrupted copies of God’s Word have been and will be made. The man who claims that all bibles are the word of God either does not know the scriptural principle of corruption or denies it. Corrupting the words of God is not an exception or simply an accident; it is an industry.

The Uniqueness of God’s Word

These two principles taken together demonstrate another important truth. Since God in His power is preserving the Word, and since the devil and his forces are corrupting the Word, the Bible cannot be approached as any other ancient book. Textual criticism sufficient for Homer’s Iliad will **not** work for God’s Word! And while mistakes in Homer do not really matter, mistakes in God’s Word could send a generation of mankind to hell. Unless God’s preserving power and Satan’s corrupting influence are considered, manuscript evidence is no more honest than last year’s politicians.

Modern bibles exist in a myriad of forms because intentional changes were made in copies of God’s Word by those who disbelieved its teaching. Of course, modern scholars claim that none of the various readings in the multitude of versions affect any major doctrine. This claim requires a low opinion of the weight of scripture. Every change made in the pure Word affects doctrine because “***all scripture is profitable for doctrine***” (II Tim. 3:16). When any passage loses this profitability, then the Word of God is no longer pure.

The Three Cities Introduced

With these principles stated and explained, the story can now begin. A tale of three cities begins in the Roman Empire during

the time of Christ. The three cities (Rome, Alexandria, and Antioch) were the three largest and most influential cities in the Roman Empire. Yet, to the Christian, their influence concerning Bible corruption and preservation is of much greater importance.

As capital of the Roman Empire and the empire’s largest city, **Rome** ruled the ancient world. Rome emphasized form, legalism, and tradition. Through tradition, Rome became the center of Biblical addition. The Apocrypha is one example of how Rome added to scripture. From Italy, Rome dominated the theology and spiritual life of southern Europe and northern Africa.

Alexandria, Egypt, the second largest city, was the world capital for science, education, and scholarship. Great minds gravitated to Alexandria. This home town of Philo and Origen dominated the theology of surrounding Egypt and Palestine. As is the practice of modern scholarship, Alexandria subtracted from the Word of God. ***The Alexandrian Text is still the basis of modern Bible corruptions.***

The third largest city of the empire was ***Antioch of Syria***. Located in the East, Antioch dominated the regions of Syria and Asia minor, the lands of early apostolic work. Antioch was known for her luxury and cosmopolitan flavor, but also for a literal interpretation of scripture. Although belittled by the scholarship of today, the Syrian Text was the underlying basis for the King James Version of 1611.

These three cities were located in three important countries on three different continents. They represented the three major races. Why are they so important? How did these cities become so influential in the historical transmission of the Biblical Text? These questions and more are to be answered in the following text. ***But never forget that God promised to preserve His Word.*** Our greatest concern should never be to judge or criticize the Word, but to find it, then read it, study it, memorize it, obey it, teach it, preach it, and if necessary, die for it.

ALEXANDRIA

Located on the Mediterranean Sea in the country of Egypt on the continent of Africa, Alexandria is still an active city today. This great seaport is in the area known scripturally as the “***land of Ham***” (Ps.105:23). Alexander the Great founded the city in 332 BC during his conquest of the world. It rapidly developed into the greatest metropolis of the ancient world, reaching an estimated population of one million by the first century BC At the time of Christ, the city was superseded only by Rome.

Under the rule of the Egyptian Ptolemies, Alexandria became the literary and scientific center of the world. Its university molded much of the philosophical thought of the time. The famous library of Alexandria contained half a million or more books and rolls. Vigorously pursued were the studies of mathematics, astronomy, poetry, and medicine. Alexandria was a Greek city by founding and thought; but because of the city’s open-mindedness, it became a city known for its cosmopolitan collection of the religions and philosophies from the known world. It was in this environment that the Jewish theologian Philo first combined Judaism with

Platonism to establish the allegorical approach to the Old Testament.

School of Alexandria

In practice, Philo (b. 20 BC) was more of a Greek philosopher than a Jewish theologian; hence his greatest influence was not in the Jewish realm. He desired to use the Old Testament to support his Greek philosophy. Therefore, he established a system of allegorical interpretation (spiritualizing of scripture) in order to make the scripture mean anything he desired. He taught that the hidden, deeper meaning of a passage of scripture was far superior to the plain, literal meaning. His allegorical interpretation became a wealth of ideas for the Alexandrian school of Christian thought of the second and third centuries.

This theological school was established in Alexandria in the second century after Christ by a man named Pantaeus and was continued by Clement of Alexandria. The School elevated Greek philosophy and emphasized the allegorical interpretation of scripture. The school became known for its scholarship and philosophy and was later brought into great prominence by a man named **Origen** (lived 185-254 AD).

Influence of Origen

In most church histories, Origen is praised as one of the greatest Bible scholars of all time. In this book, Origen’s mental genius and religious fervor are not questioned, only his knowledge of Biblical truth and his spiritual relationship with God. Origen possessed only one coat and no shoes, rarely ate flesh, never drank wine, devoted much of the night to study and prayer, and slept on the bare floor. The certainly demonstrates religious fervor and devotion. On the other hand, because of his doctrine, Origen is certainly unworthy of his reputation as a great Bible scholar. He taught that the Father is the originating cause of the Son, and that the Holy Spirit was subordinate to and created by the Son. He believed in the necessity of baptism for the remission of sins and approved of the baptism of little children. He taught that even the damned and devils would be brought into voluntary subjection to Christ after they were sufficiently punished. Origen developed a formal method of interpreting the New Testament scriptures by applying Philo’s allegorical interpretation. In this way, he was able to support all of the above doctrines and more.

Theologians and scholars who reject Origen’s method of allegorical interpretation and doctrinal conclusions often claim that his abiding merit lies in his work in textual criticism. He is famous for his labors to produce a correct text of the Greek Bible. ***Is it possible, however, that Origen’s false doctrines affected his Biblical criticism?*** Two examples should suffice:

While editing the New Testament text, Origen removed the word **carpenter** from Mark 6:3 because he did not think it should be there. He also removed the command, “***Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself,***” from the passage of Matthew 19:16-22 because he could not logically explain its presence and said it therefore must have been added. How many times Origen applied this method of Bible correction? - only God Himself knows.

The Greek text which was being formed at Alexandria during the time of Origen came to be known as the **Alexandrian Text**. This text is represented mainly by two Greek manuscripts: the **Sinaiticus** (found by Tischendorf in 1844 in a Greek Orthodox monastery at the base of Mt. Sinai) and the **Vaticanus** (discovered in the Vatican library in 1481). These manuscripts are the basis for the majority of the subtractions made in the English bibles since 1611. Because Origen supported the readings which make up the Alexandrian text, scholars look to him as one of the most important witnesses to the corrupted text which is used for modern translations of the Bible. After Origen’s death, Alexandria continued to have great influence on the text of the New Testament. Even today, the Alexandrian Text is accepted by the majority of scholars as that which is closest to the originals. Alexandria in Scripture.

Alexandria is very rarely mentioned in the Bible, but these references tell the Bible student much about the direction the city would take. Its commerce and shipping trade are evident in the fact that the ships which took Paul from Caesarea to Rome for trial were ships of Alexandria (Acts 27:6; 28:11). Alexandria’s opposition to true doctrine is demonstrated by the Alexandrian Jews which were found in the temple disputing with Stephen (Acts 6:9). But the most revealing passage about Alexandria is found in Acts 18:24 where, “***a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man, and mighty in the scriptures, came to Ephesus.***” Here was a man who was eloquent in speech and very knowledgeable in the scriptures, but who knew, “only the baptism of John” (v.25). For this reason, Aquilla and Priscilla, converts of the apostle Paul, “took him unto then, and expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly” (v.26). The high degree of training and superior knowledge of Apollos confirms the emphasis on scholarship in his home town. However, his gaps in Biblical knowledge and errors in Biblical doctrine also point to the characteristic problems of Alexandria. These problems were to continue in Alexandria through the early church history period. The old copies of manuscripts of the New Testament which were influenced by the Alexandrian scholars are characterized by their omitting of important doctrinal phrases and verses. These omissions are not mistakes - ***scholarship always subtracts from the Word of God.***

For an example of their subtractions, let us examine the passage of Mark 16:9-20. This passage is missing in both the Sinaitic and the Vatican manuscripts. Therefore, in most recent versions, it is either omitted, or marginal notes question its place in the divine text. However, these verses **are found in all** of the Greek manuscripts except the two noted above and in all the Latin manuscripts but one. The Sinaitic and Vatican manuscripts were written between 325-350 AD, but - approximately 150 years before Mark 16:9-20 was deleted by these manuscripts, the passage was quoted as scripture by several writers: Justin Martyr (c. 150), Tatian (c. 175), Irenaeus (c. 180) and Hippolytus (c. 200). Thus the evidence of the majority of witnesses and the evidence of greatest antiquity both overwhelmingly support the passage. Why then do the scholars still prefer to omit the verses? Evidently

because they still desire to follow Alexandrian scholarship.

Conclusion

Alexandria became the world center of education and scholarship. Here, both Judaism and Christianity tried to merge their thought with Grecian Platonism. Soon, human wisdom took place over the words of the Bible, and scholars leaned upon **allegorical** interpretations to derive from the Bible what they already accepted as truth. However, this was not enough. The science of textual criticism had to be developed to remove from the scriptures phrases which were offensive to their own doctrine. Hence, Alexandria became the place known for her **subtraction** from the Word of God.

- continued next week

NEWS OF INTEREST TO CHRISTIANS

❑ **U. S. SECRET SERVICE SHOT THROUGH AND THROUGH WITH DEI WOKE NONSENSE** - Former U. S. President Donald Trump narrowly escaped assassination and a committed husband and father was murdered on July 13 because of the inaptitude of today’s Secret Service. By any reckoning, for the Secret Service to allow someone with a rifle to access the roof of a building a mere 130 yards from the man they were tasked with protecting and to allow him to fire multiple times before ending his career, is inaptitude of the highest order. World class.

It turns out that the person in charge of the venerable Secret Service is a woman whose previous job was head of security at **PepsiCo**, which somehow qualified her to lead America’s premier agency tasked with “protecting U.S. political leaders, their families, and visiting heads of state or government.” It sounds like she is a **DEI** (*Diversity, Equity, Inclusion*) hire, and in fact the Secret Service, like practically every branch of the U.S. government today, including the military, is shot through and through with DEI Woke idiocy. Their strategic plan for 2023-2027 is to increase women recruits until they are 30% of the workforce. (We are all for women in elite military-style agencies if they are former special forces, particularly Seals and Green Berets.)

The DEI Woke policy is what Loucious Hires (yes, that’s his real name), the Secret Service’s “director of equity,” boasted of in an official government podcast in Feb. 2023. He said DEI is “mission imperative,” the “ultimate goal.” He said, “I could talk on and on what the agency is doing to promote diversity, equity and inclusion ... DEI is every action every day” (“Secret Service equity director,” Fox News, July 18, 2024).

The agency attends homosexual “Pride events” to recruit candidates and “has seen more transgender people in the service as a result.” Andrew Cannady, a supervisory attorney-advisor for the agency’s Office of Chief Counsel, said the Secret Service is educating its workforce on “how to use pronouns.”

This might be the key to understanding what happened on July 13. The agents could have been confused about what pronoun to use for the attacker and had to run it by headquarters before taking out he/she/it/them. The point with this little report is that this weird thinking is a judgment on the nation and is not something

that can be rooted out by political effort. Paul described it as being given over to a reprobate mind. **“And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient” (Romans 1:28).**

People can’t be this stupid naturally. Jeremiah’s description of Israel of old fits America perfectly: **“The wise men are ashamed, they are dismayed and taken: lo, they have rejected the word of the LORD; and what wisdom is in them?” (Jer. 8:9).**

The point is that Trump can’t fix this because he is part of the judgment. No matter what Trump does, if elected, he will not root out the DEI or “drain the swamp.” Florida Gov. Ron Desantis said, “This is where woke goes to die,” but woke is very much alive in Florida, though it is kept a bit under wraps for the time being. Like noxious weeds, if one Woke proponent is uprooted, ten thousand wait in the wings. (Among other things, “woke” typically refers to a hyper alertness to, a kowtowing to, the concerns and offenses of the most radical branches of homosexual/transsexual rights activism, women’s rights activism, black rights activism, climate change activism, etc.)

For a very long time, the government funded school system from kindergarten to university has largely been devoted to producing a DEI Woke generation. Most of the nation’s churches promote some type of DEI Woke thinking.

The solution is for God’s redeemed people to obey God and be holy pilgrims more than patriots. Charles Wesley was not talking about a carnal political battle when he wrote, **“Soldiers of Christ, arise, and put your armor on, strong in the strength which God supplies, thro’ His eternal Son; strong in the Lord of hosts and in His mighty pow’r, who in the strength of Jesus trusts is more than conqueror.”**

❑ **REPUBLICANS REMOVE OPPOSITION TO ABORTION AND SAME-SEX MARRIAGE FROM PLATFORM UNDER TRUMP’S INFLUENCE** - Donald Trump’s lack of morality has influenced the entire Republican Party, which is supposed to be very “conservative.” He supports the murder of unborn children so long as they aren’t too old in the womb, and the new Republican party platform supports abortion up to 20 weeks for the first time in its history (“RNC adopts Trump-inspired platform,” Washington Times, July 8, 2024).

Trump also supports the homosexual rights agenda. He formed a Trump Pride this year consisting of a 21-member LGBT advisory board.

Under this influence, the Republican Party has removed its former opposition to this abomination. The following is excerpted from “LGBT Republicans Celebrate,” Crosswalk, July 19, 2024: **“The president of the nation’s leading LGBT Republican organization is celebrating the party’s new platform, which no longer opposes same-sex marriage. Every GOP platform from 1992 through 2016 included language opposing same-sex marriage--always in unequivocal terms. ... But this year, under direct guidance from Republican nominee Donald Trump and his**

team, the platform committee removed the platform’s opposition to same-sex marriage, making it neutral on the issue. Trump supports same-sex marriage. Delegates approved the new platform this week. On social media, Charles T. Moran, president of the Log Cabin Republicans, celebrated the news. The Log Cabin Republicans is the nation’s largest GOP organization dedicated to LGBT causes.”

❑ **MUSIC’S ROLE IN THE DESTRUCTION OF THE BLACK HOME AND CHURCH** - The world’s music has been a major part of the destruction of the moral character of black churches and homes.

Consider the 1969 Harlem Cultural Festival (documented in “Summer of Soul”). It consisted of six concerts attended by 300,000. It was called a “revolution,” and it was driven by music. There was the mixing of every type of music: filthy blues and boogie woogie and rock (B.B. King, Sly and the Family Stone, Stevie Wonder) with Gospel (Mahalia Jackson “Precious Lord, Take My Hand”; Staple Singers “Help me Lord Jesus I need your power”; Gladys Knight and the Pips “We join our hands and said prayers before going on stage”). The Fifth Dimension mixed “Aquarius” from the filthy new age opera Hair with “Let the Sun Shine In,” a gospel song by Stuart Hamblin. Edwin Hawkins Singers “O Happy Day” (“*when Jesus washed my sins away; He taught me how to watch and pray and live rejoicing every day*”) is a jazzed up version of a godly hymn by Philip Doddridge, 1755. The Edwin Hawkins Singers’ version consists of mindless repetition of the chorus only; “O Happy Day” is repeated 21 times. The Harlem Cultural Festival was an ecumenical merging of philosophy and religion.

There was Black Marxism (Nina Simone shouted to the crowd, “Are you ready to smash White things, to burn things?”); Black Power (Black Panthers); Voodoo (there was a voodoo dance); Black Islam; and Christianity. Jesse Jackson said, **“I want us to bow our heads in prayer. It does not really matter who your God is, whether you call him Allah, Buddha, Jehovah, Elohiym, or Yahway”** (Summer of Soul).

❑ **LARGE ANCIENT MOAT DISCOVERED IN JERUSALEM** - The following is excerpted from **“Solving mystery,” Times of Israel, July 21, 2024:**

“Archaeologists have solved a 150-year-old mystery in the City of David, discovering a massive moat that was used to fortify and protect the Temple Mount and the king’s palace in biblical-era Jerusalem, the Israel Antiquities Authority and Tel Aviv University announced on Sunday. The city’s northern fortification eluded archaeologists for a century and a half as they could not trace its full route. But recent excavations of the Givati Parking Lot, adjacent to the Old City walls, have revealed a moat that split the City of David in half, separating the palace and Temple Mount from the rest of the city. The vast moat, which was at least nine meters deep and 30 meters wide, the IAA said in a press release, was ‘one of the monumental fortifications that protected the kings of Jerusalem.’

‘It is not known when the moat was originally cut, but evidence

suggests it was used during the centuries when Jerusalem was the capital of the Kingdom of Judah, almost 3,000 years ago, beginning with King Josiah,’ said excavation directors Prof. Yuval Gadot and Dr. Yiftah Shalev. ‘During those years, the moat separated the southern residential part of the city from the ruling Acropolis in the north--the upper city where the palace and the temple were located.’”

❑ **NIGERIAN UMC LEADER DENOUNCES AMERICAN BISHOP FOR IMPORTING ‘DEVILISH INTENTIONS’ AND PROMOTING LGBTQ AGENDA IN NIGERIAN CHURCH** - The United Methodist Church (UMC) stands at a precipice, torn between the progressive degeneracy that has infected its American and Western branches and the commitment to a biblical sexual ethic still upheld by its African counterparts. Nowhere is this divide more glaring than in Nigeria, where the Nigerian UMC continues to cling to a traditional, scriptural sexual ethic in defiance of the moral relativism seeping from the West.

Harry Kanawa, the Episcopal Choir President of the Nigerian UMC, recently took to social media to sound the alarm against an insidious incursion. American Bishop John Schol, a known proponent of the LGBTQ agenda, arrived in Abuja, ostensibly to campaign for the acceptance of homosexual practices within the Nigerian UMC. Kanawa, with indignation, decried Schol’s mission as one driven by “devilish intentions.”

Kanawa’s posts depicted a defiant resistance to Schol’s unwelcome presence. “LGBTQ bishop John Schol from America arrived Abuja international airport now with his devilish intentions to campaign and form LGBTQ in UMC Nigeria... the authority concerns should keep watch on him,” Kanawa warned, rallying the faithful to stand guard against this moral subversion.

In a tableau of defiance, Kanawa shared scenes from a disrupted cabinet meeting in Northern Nigeria. Schol, attempting to insinuate his progressive poison, was met with an wall of opposition, ultimately fleeing the meeting in ignominious retreat.

“Bishop Schol ran out of the cabinet,” Kanawa reported on his Facebook page, demonstrating the Nigerian UMC’s refusal to capitulate to Western decadence. “The situation reports in Northern conference annual conference Nigeria... Bishop Schol is NOT welcome in Nigeria... No regionalization,” Kanawa said, accompanied by images of protests and banners proclaiming unwavering opposition.

The crescendo of resistance reached its peak as Schol was escorted to Yola International Airport, with Kanawa bidding him a pointed farewell: “We disagreed to agreed.”

Kanawa’s rhetoric, characterizing Schol’s mission as demonic, resonates profoundly with the Nigerian UMC’s members. Their commitment to preserve the sanctity of biblical sexual ethics against the corrosive influence of Western liberalism is a breath of fresh air, despite their other doctrinal and practical issues. It at least demonstrates a willingness to divide over important matters.

As the UMC continues to fracture under the weight of its internal contradictions, it is imperative that true believers heed the

call to vigilance. The apostle Paul warned of wolves in sheep’s clothing, and today’s church must remain ever watchful.

“Come out of her, my people,” the Scripture admonishes, **“lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues”**—whether it be the Roman Catholic harlot or her many spawn, such as the UMC.

☐ **FRENCH OLYMPICS MOCK CHRIST’S ‘LAST SUPPER’** - Drag queens who performed at the Opening Ceremony of the Olympics are under fire for mocking The Last Supper — one of Christianity’s most sacred moments.

“Queens everywhere! We couldn’t be happier about this huge moment for drag performers breaking through mainstream and showing their talents to the entire world,” OUT magazine tweeted. But the magazine seemed to stand alone in its laudits of the act.

One X user said the act was blasphemous. Another asked, in response to the performance, “What is wrong with the French?”

Drag was also on display as three of the 10,000 torchbearers who held the Olympic flame were drag queens.

Kansas City Chiefs kicker Harrison Butker responded to the act in an Instagram story, calling it “crazy” before citing Bible verse **Galatians 6:7** — **“Be not deceived, God is not mocked,”** reports MSN.

Podcast host Clint Russell took to X to voice his opinion about the opening act, also calling it crazy: “Opening your event by replacing Jesus and the disciples at The Last Supper with men in drag. There are 2.4 billion Christians on earth and apparently the Olympics wanted to declare loudly to all of them, right out of the gate, not welcome,” he wrote.

Riley Gaines, a former collegiate student-athlete who has advocated against transgender women competing in women’s sports, wrote on X: *“Men in wigs front and center at the Olympic games. No one ever tell me this group is ‘oppressed’ or ‘marginalized’ again.”*

MY JOURNEY FROM CONTEMPLATIVE TO THE KJV

by Marybeth Lane

I became a Christian when I was a teenager through a para-church organization, and I always had a love for God’s Word. I was adopted into a family that attended the local Methodist church sporadically. My grandmother gave me a Bible when I was in second grade. I treasured my time alone in God’s word, and that craving to know the scriptures grew throughout my life. The primary version that I used during my formative years was the NIV ‘84, which I assumed was sound. When I was in college, I started to lead Bible studies for high school girls. I truly loved teaching God’s word. It wasn’t until I was married that I began to develop an interest in other versions of the Bible. In my thirties, I was leading several groups of women and teenagers. The main question that I kept hearing from these women had to do with

which version of the Bible was the most accurate. I kept hearing from other leaders that the NASB was the most accurate version. So, I would simply regurgitate that answer to others...until about ten years ago.

At that point in my life, I decided I was going to read a new version of the Bible every six months. I read the majority of the popular Bible versions over the next few years. It was interesting to see how my views on God would change with each version. For instance, when I read the The Message version I found myself becoming very mystical in my response to God...sound doctrine was slowly replaced with pseudo-spiritual experiences. (**For more information regarding those contemplative experiences, please see a brief summary at the end of this article.) While reading the NKJV, I was struck by the word “slave” that was used instead of the word “servant.” I adopted this kind of slave-like position towards God, which was very unbiblical. Finally, after reading through many versions, I was faced with the fact that the only well-known version that I had left to read was the dreaded King James Version!!

I thought the KJV was going to be very difficult to read, but after doing some research on the reason behind some of the language that is used, I began to appreciate the “ye” and the “thou.” The most shocking verse for me to read was Acts 8:37. I couldn’t believe that the other versions that I had been reading did not include this extremely important passage on believer’s baptism. Consequently, I started to research what else was missing, and I was flabbergasted to find all of the changes that had taken place. (***)For more information on the changes, please see the link below.) I had always believed that the Bible was the infallible word of God, but how could all of these versions be right when they didn’t agree? Now I felt it was more important than ever to figure out what was going on. My husband would come home from work to find me sitting for weeks on end on our king size bed with books spread out everywhere as I was desperately trying to unlock the reason behind the changes. Brother Cloud’s writings on the subject were especially helpful to me during this season.

My husband, Ed, was supportive of my research yet extremely skeptical of my discoveries. Also, Ed had many whole passages of the NIV ‘84 memorized. The thought of changing to the KJV felt totally overwhelming to him. Ed had been an attorney for over 20 years and was trained in law school to search for evidence, no matter the cost. Ed started digging into the research that I presented him, and within six months he became convinced of the authenticity and reliability of the King James Version of the Bible to the exclusion of all other English versions. It was a blessing that Ed and I could share this common love for God’s written Word.

The greatest testimony to me regarding the truth of the King James Bible was far more than simply the facts that I uncovered, but it was the unexpected fruit that began to manifest in my life, my husband’s life, and in our marriage. This word truly was quick and powerful, and sharper than a two-edged sword. Nothing in the KJV was watered down. While I am far from perfect, I did start to

notice the things of this world having less and less power over me. My husband was led to give up his full time law practice to become a street evangelist, while at the same time God was leading me to keep my place in the home. The powerful words of the KJV Bible gave me the grace and power to walk out this new calling of ours without me trying to take over God’s role of being our financial provider. Our Father truly knows what we need, and we have never been without. I also noticed I had a deeper desire to please the Lord with the way that I lived my life. The fruit in my life was the greatest convincing factor that I was reading the perfect, infallible word of God. No other version of the Bible yielded the kind of fruit that Ed and I were experiencing.

Due to my exposure to the Message Bible, along with reading *The Pursuit of God* by A.W. Tozer (and other similar books), I found myself studying Roman Catholic contemplative mystics. This ultimately led me into a full-blown contemplative prayer life. The frightening thing is that I strongly believed that Tozer, who is highly respected in evangelical circles, was a doctrinally sound teacher. There are many “bridge” authors who teach mostly solid doctrine, but subtly lead people away from the truth of God, and onto the treacherous path of heresy.

Tozer praises the Catholic mystic Teresa of Avila (who levitated and had physically painful visions of demonic entities stabbing her) as a godly example to follow. After reading some of her writings, I began studying the works of other authors, such as Henri Nouwen, Dallas Willard, and Richard Foster. These authors led me further down the path of occultic teaching masquerading as Christianity, to mystics such as Madame Guyon, Francois Fenelon, and Brother Lawrence. I continued down this path until I began studying the writings of Thomas Merton (a Buddhist, Catholic monk) and Thomas Keating. These men were clearly both practicing and teaching interfaithism. I could not go any further. I knew in my heart that if I crossed this line, I would have officially launched myself into complete apostasy.

I am eternally grateful for the KJV Bible, Brother David Cloud’s teachings on the dangers of the contemplative movement, and for discernment ministries like Lighthouse Trails Research. After a diligent search, my husband and I found a solid King James Bible teaching church. The Lord greatly used His true Word, plus a few sound ministries, to

bring the light that I desperately needed to see what it truly meant to follow after the real Jesus of the real Bible.

I repented from and renounced all of the contemplative practices that I had participated in, such as, centering prayer, repetitive prayers, healing prayer, visualization, and spiritual disciplines. Consequently, I focused on my KJV Bible and a few KJV teachers that I knew I could trust, to grow me by way of sound, biblical doctrine. One of my favorite verses, and one that has proven true in my life, is the last part of **Hebrews 11:6** - **“He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him.”** The Lord has been so very faithful to lead me out of darkness and into His marvelous light.

Lastly, I will leave with you a link to my husband’s blog on the KJV version. Ed has run far ahead of me on this issue and has a firm grasp on the history of the Greek manuscripts, which underpin all of the Bible versions, along with the other evidence (deletions and additions to the text), which are crucial for understanding exactly what has happened to God’s eternal written word over the last 150 years. For more information on this topic, please follow the link below.

<http://followingjesuschrist3.com/2015/10/24/the-bible-version-controversy-a-brief-history/>

