

AND THE PEOPLE CAME...

- Week of July 30, 2023 -

Sunday Morning Service	38
Sunday Evening Service	21
Wednesday Eve., 08/02/23 Service	20

AND THE PEOPLE GAVE...

- Week of July 30, 2023 -

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings	\$ 868.05
Church Sign Restoration	\$ 35.00
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 07/30/23:	\$ 903.05

- Week of July 23, 2023 -

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings	\$ 1,333.98
Children's Sunday School	\$ 10.00
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 07/23/23:	\$ 1,343.98

- Week of July 16, 2023 -

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings	\$ 637.00
Children's Sunday School	\$ 5.00
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 07/16/23:	\$ 642.00

- Week of July 9, 2023 -

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings	\$ 2,340.99
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 07/09/23:	\$ 2,340.99

- Week of July 2, 2023 -

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings	\$ 6,639.00
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 07/02/23:	\$ 6,639.00

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



FRONT PORCH RESTORATION FUND -

Amount Received, Week of 07/30/23:	\$ 35.00
TOTAL RECEIVED, THUSFAR:	\$ 445.00

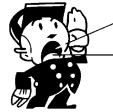
LISTEN TO -



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.



THANK YOU For Your Continued Faithfulness In Giving!

During the early part of the 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

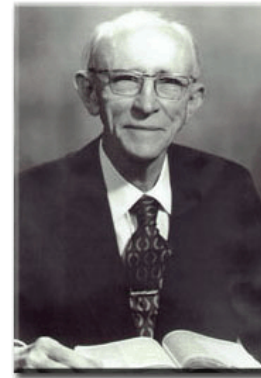
Todd W. White	Pastor
Debra Carlton, Mickie Shatwell, Lois Mae Floyd	Pianists
Derek Quinnely	Greeter
Larry & Mary Byars	Outreach
LeAnna White	Custodian
GinaMarie Shufelt	Flowers
Seth White	Sound/Video
Larry Byars, David Smith, Derek Quinnely	Trustees

SOUTH HEIGHTS BAPTIST'S WEEKLY REMINDER

Volume XXIX

August 6, 2023

Number 31



Dr. Vance Havner
1901-1986

Pattern for Perilous Times

by the late Dr. Vance Havner

Paul, the veteran apostle, is nearing the end of his race. He has run it with patience, and now he is about to pass the torch to his son in the Gospel, Timothy. It is a fine thing when a minister has a son of his own who is also a son in the Gospel, but if he has no son in the flesh he may have one in the faith.

Paul is helping Timothy to get his bearings. He tells Timothy that the time will come when men will not endure sound doctrine. He was under no illusions about the future. He had told the elders of Ephesus that after his departing, grievous wolves would enter in, not sparing the flock, and that within the church false leaders would arise (Acts 20:29-30). Some preachers today would never think of warning against false doctrine. They say it is the wrong approach, is not psychologically correct, that we should be optimistic about the future. If such procedure is wrong, then the New Testament is wrong in a lot of places.

Paul said the time would come "when they can't take it," and that time has arrived. The Gospel message is foolishness to this world, of course, and, incidentally, if the message be foolishness what can the messengers expect but to be called fools? But the time has come when the church cannot endure sound doctrine, not the liberals alone, but plenty of fundamentalists. Alexander Whyte spoke of those who "will be thankful to you for telling them the particular times when the Gospels were writ or for explaining the meaning of Euroclydon or anathema maranatha. They will be glad," said he, "for such useless instruction. But if you touch upon such subjects as try the state and way of their lives, these religious people cannot bear to be thus instructed."

In such a time what is the preacher to do? "But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry." He is to be a "gospelizer" and if the people won't endure it, preach it anyway! Such was the charge given to Isaiah and Jeremiah. Read the second chapter of Ezekiel. The prophet was to face an impatient, stiff-hearted and rebellious people and not be afraid of them, but "whether they will hear, or whether they will forbear," he was to speak God's words until they should know that a prophet had been among them.

I have already mentioned Alexander Whyte. One would think that after eighty a minister would face no more crisis in his ministry. But in his old age Dr. Whyte wrestled with the question whether he should for the remainder of his ministry preach more on the gentler and more hopeful aspects of Christian truth and less on sin and its fruits. He says:

What seemed to me to be a Divine Voice spoke with all commanding power in my conscience, and said to me as clear as could be: "No! Go on, and flinch not! Go back and boldly finish the work that has been given you to do. Speak out and fear not. Make them at any cost to see themselves in God's holy Law as in a glass. Do that, for no one else will do it. No one else will so risk his life and his reputation as to do it. And you have not much of either left to risk. Go home and spend what is left of your life in your appointed task of showing my people their sin and their need of my salvation."

It is not easy to keep a charge like that in a day like this. We have heard of an army officer in the thick of a battle who called to his superior and said, "The flag has been carried 'way ahead of the regiment. Shall we bring it back?" His superior thundered back, "No! Make the regiment catch up with the flag!" The tendency today is to bring our flag back to our faltering battle lines. We need to bring the regiment up with the flag. If we are to be faithful in such a time let us remember that there is a price to pay. "Endure afflictions," is Paul's word to Timothy. He was to endure hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. Paul knew from experience. He had suffered the loss of all things, had endured hardship and suffering..

It costs us nothing to be saved. Eternal life is the gift of God. It cost God aplenty. It cost our Saviour His life, but it is free to us. But if we are to be soldiers of the cross and followers of the Lamb, it will cost us everything we have and we shall be in for plenty

(continued inside)

of trouble.

The preacher who stands for God and righteousness and exposes sin thereby “sticks his neck out,” and becomes the target of all the subtle and sinister attacks of the Adversary. Sometimes we dodge the issue by deciding to specialize in a ministry of comfort. Dr. John Watson felt in his late years that if he had his life to live over, he would give himself more to such a ministry.

But John Henry Newman said, *“Those who make comfort the great subject of their preaching seem to mistake the end of their ministry. Holiness is the great end, comfort is a cordial, but no one drinks cordials from morning to night.”* It is easier to comfort the afflicted than to afflict the comfortable, but there is need for both.

Noah had no converts and perhaps it was because he was “a preacher of righteousness.” People do not like to be called to holiness and righteousness and will not flock to the prophet who calls to a straight and narrow way. It costs to do that kind of preaching. It costs in popularity. There is a mistaken notion that the world will honor the man who stands for God. It will break his neck if it can. Jesus said they hated Him and would hate us. Our Lord had a crowd at the beginning of His ministry. They came to Him from every quarter, and His disciples said, “All men seek for thee.” But there came a day when even His disciples forsook Him and fled.

Sometimes it costs at home. A man’s foes may be those of his own household. When Sam Jones entered the ministry his wife told him she had married a lawyer, not a preacher, and would never be a Methodist minister’s wife. Sam told her he would preach the Gospel if he had to travel as a grass widower. The night before he left for Conference she was taken violently ill. She had said that if Sam became a preacher she would have to be removed first. It looked as if she were going to be removed. She promised God then and there that if He would save her life she would be the best preacher’s wife she knew how to be. She recovered and kept her promise. God mightily used Sam Jones all over America because he was ready to pay the price.

There is a price to pay in loneliness. Look at Paul in the fourth chapter of Second Timothy. He calls the roll of his friends, and most of them are conspicuous for their absence. Demas had forsaken him, having loved this present world. Crescens had gone to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia. Tychicus had been sent to Ephesus. Paul needs his cloak and parchments. Alexander the coppersmith has done him much evil. “At my first answer no man stood with me,” he says. Does not that remind you of Another of whom we read “And all his disciples forsook him and fled”? But Paul does not end here: “Notwithstanding the Lord stood with me and strengthened me.” There is not only a price to pay, there is a promise to plead.

God has said, **“I will never leave thee nor forsake thee,”** and so precious is that word that it shows up in Genesis and Deuteronomy and Joshua and the Psalms and Isaiah and Hebrews. Our Lord has said, **“Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the age.”** If we pay the price, we can plead the promise.

I started out ten years ago to travel over this land in an itinerant

ministry under no particular auspices or sponsorship. The devil said, “You mean well, but the religious world is so organized today that you will have to pull a few wires and get under somebody’s wing in order to keep going. If you preach plainly they won’t receive it and you’ll starve.” Well, I may look as if I am starving but I am not. I have had three meals every day, and God has gone before and opened doors I couldn’t have entered with a crowbar. I turned my reputation, my calls, my future over to the Lord, and He has never left me nor forsaken me.

*Got any rivers you think are uncrossable?
Got any mountains you cannot tunnel through?
God specializes in things thought impossible;
And He will do what no man can ever do.*

“I will never leave thee nor forsake thee.” One thinks of the old lady whose pastor tried to explain that the verse could really mean, “I’ll never, never, never forsake thee.” She replied, “The Lord may have to say it three times to get you Greek scholars to believe it, but once is enough for me.”

Not only is there a price to pay and a promise to plead, there is a prize to possess. “Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.” We are to so run that we may obtain. I don’t want the booby prize when I get to heaven. There is for us the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus, and we are to let nothing take our crown. Discouragement can do it: Elijah almost lost his under a juniper. Success can do it: David almost lost his in a king’s palace. The wrong kind of books can do it. Eating and drinking can do it. We can be so busy even with the good that we miss the best in a round of glorified piddling. The fear of man can do it. Ecclesiastical pressure can do it. The wrong school can do it. “Look to yourself, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward.”

Some of the saints seem so smug in positional truth that it doesn’t matter to them whether they receive a reward or not. Indeed, we do not work to get to heaven, but rewards will be handed out at the judgment seat of Christ, and I don’t want to miss anything God has for me, nor do I want to let the devil cheat me out of my crown.

Paul wanted to finish his course with joy (Acts 20:24). We are never safe in that respect until the last step. Some who started gloriously ran well until within sight of the goal, only to finish miserably. It may have been money or morals or modernism. What fools we can be on the home stretch! No wonder a dear old saint prayed, “Lord, keep me from being a wicked old man!”

Paul ran well, but he kept his body under subjection, lest, having preached to others, he himself should be a castaway. He ran with patience, looking unto Jesus, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. He won His prize! Let us consider Him, lest we be weary and faint in our minds. And considering Him, let us pay the price and plead the promise and possess the prize. ■

GOD OR THE DEVIL: IN WHOM DO AMERICANS REALLY BELIEVE?

A new low of 74% of Americans surveyed say God is “something they believe in,” down from 90% in 2004, according to a Gallup poll conducted in May.

The poll also finds that for the first time, less than 60% answered yes to the question of whether “hell” and “the devil” were “something they believe in.” Regarding belief in heaven, hell and the devil, 18%, 27% and 28% of respondents, respectively, answered directly that they “don’t believe in” those things.

“Gallup has used this framework to measure belief in these spiritual entities five times since 2001, and the May 1-24, 2023, poll finds that each is at its lowest point,” the pollster reports. “Compared with 2001, belief in God and heaven is down the most (16 points each), while belief in hell has fallen 12 points, and the devil and angels are down 10 points each.”

Gallup reports that “regular churchgoers, Protestants and Republicans, in particular, remain largely resolute in their beliefs.”

● ***Different Questions, Different Results -***

But the percentage attached to Americans’ belief in God, or lack thereof, varies depending on how the question is asked, according to the pollster. In recent years, Gallup has asked Americans about whether they believe in God three different ways:

The items inquired about are: God, heaven, angels, hell and the devil.

- 1) “Do you believe in God?” This yields the highest percentage of yes answers (81% in 2022, down from 92% in 2010).
- 2) “For each of the items I’m going to read you, please tell me whether it is something you believe in, something you’re not sure about, or something you don’t believe in.”
- 3) “Which comes closes to describing you: you are convinced that God exists; you think God probably does not exist, but you are not sure; or, you are convinced that God does not exist?” This question has produced the lowest level of “belief” of the three, falling from 79% firm belief in God in 2004 to 64% in 2017.

The Gallup poll is only the latest of many surveys revealing Americans’ faltering belief in the Creator, as well as the moral beliefs historically attached to biblical faith. A 2022 Gallup survey using the “Do you believe in God?” format found: “81% say now that they believe in God, that’s down from 87% from just 2017, and is a new low in the organization’s polling,” WND reported in June 2022.

And a poll released in May by Christian pollster George Barna that drilled down into people’s actual beliefs about Christian principles found a mere 4% of overall Americans polled who possess a “biblical worldview,” down from 6%, while among

born-again Christians, “the incidence of biblical worldview among them fell from 19% in 2020 to 13% in 2023.”

Here are some other findings from the poll, according to Gallup:

- “Protestants are more likely than Catholics to believe in each of the five entities; however, broad majorities of Catholics still believe in each”;
- “Between 78% and 87% of Republicans believe in the five entities [God, heaven, angels, hell and the devil], while 51% to 68% of independents do. From 56% to 66% of Democrats believe in God, angels and heaven, while less than half say they believe in hell and the devil”;
- Compared to adults over 55 and between 35 and 54, “Fewer of those aged 18 to 34 believe in each of the five concepts, but majorities profess belief in all but the devil.”

In reporting its newest results in July, Gallup offered this “bottom line” from its ongoing surveys of religious beliefs: “Gallup has documented sharp declines in church attendance, confidence in organized religion and religious identification in recent years.”

- Peter LaBarbera, WND



MORE PROOF THE TRADITIONAL TEXT IS OF APOSTOLIC ORIGIN

Higher Criticism of the Bible is a frontal assault upon God’s Words! Ever since this diabolical theory of dealing with God’s Word(s) was introduced in Germany in the 18th century, the Traditional Text of the Bible, which underlies our King James Bible, has been under attack.

Higher criticism treats the Bible as a text created by men. Their presupposition is that the Bible is a conglomeration of works by unknown authors and editors which was assembled and modified at the authors desired. They assert that the Bible has not been carefully preserved and therefore the Bible cannot be entirely authoritative. In particular they reject the texts that underlie the King James Version of the Bible, claiming that those texts are of a much later date, an editorial “recension” or revision of the earlier true text. They promoted that lie that there were NO early manuscripts from the Traditional Text. The so called Alexandrian and Western texts were older and better.

Here is the problem. Professor Merrill M. Parvis of Harvard wrote. “The Textus Receptus (also known as the Traditional Text and Ecclesiastical Text) is not the ‘true’ text of the New Testament...” He went on to admit however, “The Textus Receptus is the text of the Church. It is that form of the text which represents the sum total and the end product of all the textual decisions which were made by the Church and her Fathers over a period of more than a thousand years.”

I submit to you that the Textus Recptus always has been the

New Testament used by the Church! My contention is clearly supported by biblical evidence recently examined by Dr. Carsten Peter Thiede, Director of the Institute for Basic Epistemological Research in Paderborn, Germany. I should note, that Dr. Thiede is not TR supporter!

Dr. Thiede examined three New Testament fragments (The Magdalen Papyrus donated to Magdalen College in Oxford, England) that were originally acquired in Luxor, Egypt in 1901. In 1953 they were dated to about 180-200 A.D. However, Dr. Thiede carefully redated them and placed the at 66 A.D., making them the ONLY first century New Testament fragments extant.

However, this was only the beginning. Using a very technical and accurate epifluorescent confocal laser scanning microscope, he found that the Matthew 26:22 fragment revealed the Textus Recutus reading! It head “hekasotos auton,” every one of them, as the King James reads as opposed to “heis hakastos,” each one [one after another], as the critical texts read.

This fragment clearly documents the antiquity of the Textus Receptus text to the time of Peter, Paul, John the Apostle, etc. Increasingly, the recension theory is being exposed for the lie that it is!

- compiled by Dr. David L. Brown, King James Research Council

NEWS OF INTEREST TO CHRISTIANS

☐ ***“TRANS” MEN BEING PUSHED OUT OF FEMALE SPORTS*** - “Trans” men are being pushed out of female sports, which is an encouraging sign of sanity. In 2022, World Aquatics (formerly the International Swimming Federation) prohibited males from competing in women’s swimming events. This month they announced a separate category for “trans-identified athletes.” (We suspect that will be a neglected category.) The organization intends to “protect the rights of our female athletes.”

Other sports organizations that have taken this step are the World Boxing Council, British Cycling, and USA Powerlifting. The latter made the statement that “biological males” have “increased body and muscle mass, bone density, bone structure, and connective tissue.” British Cycling announced that female races will be “for those whose sex was assigned female at birth” (BBC Sport, May 26, 2023).

In America, 22 states “have enacted policies requiring athletes to compete on sports teams that correspond with their biological sex.” These organizations and state politicians are saying there is such a thing as biological sex, and there are only two of those. These sane-thinking states are Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Florida, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, ND, Oklahoma, SC, SD, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, WV and Wyoming.

☐ ***CANCEL CULTURE BACKFIRE*** - The following is excerpted from “*Cancel Culture in Retreat*,” PowerLineblog.com, July 26, 2023:

“The story that has consumed the United Kingdom over the last week or two is the cancellation of Nigel Farage by Coutts, an exclusive private bank owned by National Westminster Bank, commonly known as NatWest. Farage, as you may remember,

was a driving force behind Brexit, and Britain’s establishment has never forgiven him. Coutts precipitously fired Farage as a client and canceled his accounts. Later, Coutts lied about the incident, claiming that Farage was canceled because he didn’t have enough money to qualify for their services. That turned out to be false.

... There have been many articles about the controversy in the British press, but today’s article in the Wall Street Journal is a good place to catch up: ‘Farage ultimately landed a sucker punch. He acquired a 40-page document from Coutts that included a list of his political views that the bank felt created significant reputational risks of being associated with him.’ ... As the story has continued to escalate, Alison Rose [chief executive of NavWest] herself has now resigned from NatWest. BBC has apologized for its incorrect report. ... ‘Tories joined Farage to speak out about the risk that banks could cut off customers for having antiestablishment or strong conservative views. David Davis, a former cabinet minister, called the decision to close Farage’s account thinly veiled political discrimination.’ ... Farage, meanwhile, has gone on offense, demanding that the entire NatWest board of directors resign. And he pledges to help others who have been hurt by left-wing prejudice in the banking industry. For now, what we can say for sure is that cancel culture has sustained a welcome setback.”

☐ ***RED SOX MANAGER SORRY FOR HURTING LGBT FEELINGS*** - After firing pitcher Matt Dermody for a tweet quoting the Bible, Red Sox General Manager Brian O’Halloran said, “*We celebrated Pride Day the other day and that was an incredible day at the ballpark. The atmosphere was so joyous and celebratory on the field and in the stands. We’re proud of our history celebrating Pride Night and standing next to the LGBTQ+ community. We’re sorry that a roster decision that we made caused harm to that community. We regret that it hurt people in the community, it hurt our fans, it hurt people that work in the organization*” (“Red Sox Relieves,” Boston Globe, July 16, 2023).

Matt Dermody had tweeted that “homosexuals will not inherit the kingdom of God” and “will go to hell,” citing First Corinthians 6:9.

On a recent podcast with Tomi Lahren, Dermody said, “I don’t want anybody to go to Hell. I saw the list of all the things ... that lead people to Hell, and I was on that list. That instilled the fear of the Lord in me. And so now, it’s not really about me anymore, but it’s about helping others and preaching the Gospel and the Good News of Jesus Christ, that He saves us from ... the fires of Hell.” He said he is “far from homophobic” and doesn’t “hate anybody in this world.” We would ask baseball manager Brian O’Halloran how it is that he is so concerned about offending the homosexual folks, but appears to be completely unconcerned about offending Bible-believing Christians, Jesus Christ, and Almighty God?

☐ ***NOT SATIRE: PASTOR BUILDS BIRD NEST ON STAGE AND PRETENDS TO EAT WORMS IN CRAZY SERMON ILLUSTRATION*** - A few years ago when Shaun Nepstad, the former pastor of People Church, hauled a dumpster on stage and

climbed in it, and began to preach from the dumpster. No, that was not satire. Nepstad has since left People Church, but he didn’t leave his foolishness behind. Now the pastor of Fellowship Church in California, he has continued his outlandish methods. In one of his latest sermon illustrations, he builds a birds nest on stage, climbs in it, and pretends to be a baby bird eating worms. ☐ ***COLLEGE THAT SPURGEON WOULD CONDEMN CONFERS DEGREE UPON HIM*** - On July 8, Spurgeon’s College posthumously bestowed an honorary Master in Theology degree upon its namesake, Charles Haddon Spurgeon.

Spurgeon, who pastored the Metropolitan Tabernacle in its heyday, also founded the Pastor’s College in 1856. About 900 preachers were trained in his lifetime. The entrance requirement was the new birth with a clear salvation testimony, doctrinal soundness, a good Christian character, a demonstrable call to preach, two-years’ preaching experience, and the ability to do the course work. The most important of those things are not required today.

In 1887, Spurgeon led the Metropolitan Tabernacle out of the Baptist Union because of its theological liberalism. He called the matter the “Downgrade Controversy,” warning that heretics were downgrading Bible truth. Spurgeon died in 1892, and the Baptist Union has continued down the path of apostasy. The Pastor’s College was renamed Spurgeon’s College in 1923, by which time it was associated with the Baptist Union and no longer associated with the Tabernacle. From 1961-1977, the college was led by George Beasley-Murray who claimed that Jesus was wrong about the timing of His Second Coming, that John’s Gospel was not written by John, and that salvation is not complete without baptism. Lynn Green, the first female president of the Baptist Union (2013), was a graduate of Spurgeon’s College. She received a standing ovation for her inaugural sermon, when she proclaimed, “I believe that our union is ready for generational change ... It is time to ... embrace a new way of being for the 21st century.” This is the philosophy of the emerging church: a new church for a new time. Charles Spurgeon pulled no punches in his earnest defense of the faith once delivered unto the saints, and there can be no doubt that if the old spiritual warrior were alive today, he would denounce the school that bears his name.

☐ ***HARRIS: WE SHOULDN’T RESTRICT ABORTION EVEN AFTER POINT OF VIABILITY*** - During an interview with Milwaukee’s TMJ4 News on Thursday, Vice President Kamala Harris answered a question on demands for protections for the unborn at the point of viability while still allowing some abortion by stating that “the government should not be telling women what to do with their bodies.”

TMJ4 Chief Political Reporter Charles Benson asked, “Wisconsin has an 1849 abortion ban law in place after the Supreme Court decision was reached on Roe v. Wade. Prior to that, it was a 20-week ban on abortion. So, my question for you is, what is your position on protecting reproductive rights while those and others are saying they want some protection as well for fetus viability?”

Harris answered, “Let’s start with this: And I think it’s very

important for us to all agree that one does not have to abandon their faith or deeply-held beliefs to agree the government should not be telling women what to do with their body. She should be able to make that decision, if she chooses, with her pastor, her priest, her rabbi, whomever. But the government should not be telling women what to do with their bodies. And so, when we look at this issue and we know that the highest court in our land just took a constitutional right that had been recognized from the women of America, from the people of America, I think we all have to step up and say that we need to have leaders lead by having some level of compassion and understanding that they should trust women to make decisions that are in their best interest and that they, women, are in the best position to know what is in their own best interest. It’s that simple.”

Benson then asked, “No laws?”

Harris responded, “It’s not about saying that — it is about saying that we need to, first of all, codify and put back into place the protections of Roe v. Wade. That is what we are fighting for. And when Congress does that, the president will sign it.”

☐ ***CASES OF LEPROSY SURGE IN CENTRAL FLORIDA, CDC WARNS TRAVELERS IT’S NOW ENDEMIC*** - Florida is at the forefront of a leprosy outbreak with nearly one-fifth of leprosy cases in the U.S. originating from the state, a research letter recently published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says.

The disease, which was mentioned in prominent biblical accounts, is characterized by lesions that primarily affect the skin and peripheral nervous system. It’s a somewhat rare disease in the U.S., but lately it has been growing at a steady and constant rate.

“Florida, USA, has witnessed an increased incidence of leprosy cases lacking traditional risk factors. Those trends, in addition to decreasing diagnoses in foreign-born persons, contribute to rising evidence that leprosy has become endemic in the southeastern United States. Travel to Florida should be considered when conducting leprosy contact tracing in any state,” it reads.

Central Florida has accounted for 81% of cases reported in Florida and almost one-fifth of nationally reported cases.

The letter points to the case of a 54-year-old man from the area who contracted lepromatous leprosy. This type of leprosy is one of the three main types and is more contagious. The man has lived in Central Florida his whole life and sought treatment at a dermatology clinic for a painful and progressive erythematous rash. He denied any recent foreign or domestic travel, exposure to armadillos (which sometimes carry the bacteria for leprosy), prolonged contact with immigrants from leprosy-endemic countries, or connections with someone known to have leprosy.

The letter notes the disease can be transmitted through respiratory droplets. He is currently being treated.

Meanwhile, a higher percentage of unrelated leprosy cases in the southern United States were found to carry the same unique strain of *M. leprae* as nine-banded armadillos in the region, suggesting a strong likelihood of zoonotic transmission, the CDC explains. However, the recent cases found in Georgia and Florida

lack zoonotic exposure.

The letter admits that international migration of persons with leprosy is a potential source of autochthonous transmission. And Florida has now become an endemic location for leprosy. It warns travelers to this area to be aware of the contagious disease.

Infection with leprosy is rare as 95% of people are naturally immune. Standard antibiotics can be used to treat it.

The modern term for leprosy is Hansen's disease. The National Hansen's Disease Program reports 159 new cases were reported in the U.S. in 2020, the most recent year for data. If left untreated, Hansen's Disease can cause blindness, ulcers, and disfigurements.

Nearly 2 million people are permanently disabled as a result of this disease.

THEY WILL IN A MINUTE -

A kindergarten teacher was walking around observing her classroom of children while they were drawing pictures. As she got to one girl who was working diligently, she asked what the drawing was.

The girl replied, "I'm drawing God."

The teacher paused and said, "But no one knows what God looks like."

Without looking up from her drawing, the girl replied, "They will in a minute."

BEING CONSIDERATE -

A Sunday school teacher asked the children just before she dismissed them to go to church, "And why is it necessary to be quiet in church?"

Annie replied, "Because people are sleeping."

OUCH!

At Sunday School they were learning how God created everything, including human beings. Johnny was especially intent when the teacher told him how Eve was created out of Adam's side.

Later in the week his mother noticed him lying down as though he were ill, and said, "Johnny, what is the matter?"

Johnny responded, "I have pain in my side. I think I'm going to have a wife."

CAREFUL!

A funeral service is being held in a church for a woman who has just passed away. At the end of the service, the pallbearers carrying the casket accidentally bump into a wall jarring the casket. They hear a faint moan. They open the casket and find that the woman is actually alive. She lives for 10 more years and then dies. A ceremony is again held at the same church and at the end the pallbearers are again carrying the casket out. As they are walking, the husband calls out, "Watch out for the wall!"

OOPS...

Several children found a dead robin. Feeling that a proper burial should be performed, they secured a small box and some cotton batting, dug a hole in the back yard, and made ready to

dispose of the deceased. The minister's 5-year-old son was chosen to say the prayer. And so with great dignity, he intoned, "Glory be to the Father...and unto the Son...and into the hole he goes."

OUT OF THE MOUTH OF BABES -

● The Sunday School teacher was describing that when Lot's wife looked back at Sodom she turned into a pillar of salt, when Bobby interrupted. "My mommy looked back once while she was driving," he announced, "and she turned into a telephone pole."

● Another Sunday School teacher said to her children, "We have been learning about how powerful the kings and queens were in Biblical times. But there is a higher power. Who can tell me what it is?" Tommy blurted out, "I know, Aces."

● After explaining the commandment to honor your father and mother, a Sunday School teacher asked her class if there was a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters.

One boy, the oldest in his family, immediately answered, "Thou shalt not kill."

● A father was reading Bible stories to his young son. He read, "The man named Lot was warned to take his wife and flee out of the city, but his wife looked back and was turned into a pillar of salt."

His son asked, "What happened to the flea?"

UMMMMM...

Atheist: "Do you honestly believe that Jonah spent three days and three nights in the belly of a huge fish?"

Preacher: "Yes sir! And when I get to heaven, I'll ask him what it was like."

Atheist: "But suppose he isn't in heaven?"

Preacher: "Then you ask him."



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