

AND THE PEOPLE CAME...

- Week of August 13, 2023 -

Sunday Morning Service -----	45
Sunday Evening Service -----	28
Wednesday Eve., 08/16/23 Service -----	18

AND THE PEOPLE GAVE...

- Week of August 13, 2023 -

<u>Undesignated</u> Tithes & Offerings -----	\$ 595.00
Church Porch Restoration -----	\$ 135.64
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 08/13/23: \$	730.64

- Week of August 6, 2023 -

<u>Undesignated</u> Tithes & Offerings -----	\$ 3,467.01
Children's Sunday School -----	\$ 20.00
Church Porch Restoration -----	\$ 140.00
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 08/06/23: \$	3,627.01

- Week of July 30, 2023 -

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

- Week of July 23, 2023 -

<u>Undesignated</u> 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 -

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

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



AND THE LORD ADDED TO THE CHURCH...

- Week of August 13, 2023 -

Mr. Joshua Quinnelly ----- by Letter

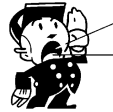
FRONT PORCH RESTORATION FUND -

Amount Received, Week of 08/13/23: \$ 135.64

TOTAL RECEIVED, THUSFAR: \$ 720.64

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

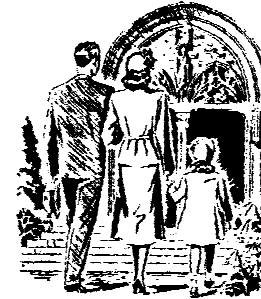
Todd W. White -----	Pastor
Debra Carlton, Mickie Shatwell, Lois Mae Floyd -----	Pianists
Derek Quinnelly -----	Greeter
Kim Phillips; Shirley White/LeAnna White; Berdena Bergman/Debra Carlton; Daniel Avery/GiGi Avery; & David Smith/Larry Byars ---	Teachers
Larry & Mary Byars -----	Outreach
LeAnna White -----	Custodian
GinaMarie Shufelt -----	Flowers
Seth White -----	Sound/Video

SOUTH HEIGHTS BAPTIST'S WEEKLY
REMINDER

Volume XXIX

August 20, 2023

Number 33



The Importance Of Sundays

by Wayne Hardy, Pastor - Bible Baptist Church of Stillwater, Oklahoma

One of the great joys of pastoring Bible Baptist Church in Stillwater, Oklahoma, is being able to pick a service, any service, and walk into a thriving, bustling sanctuary full of expectant people. It is especially comforting to realize they are not there because I have beaten them over the head to attend church faithfully. They seem to be there because they want to be, because they enjoy being there. It seems to run fairly deep in our church's DNA since the

overwhelming majority of members attend all the services on Sunday, as well as on Wednesday night. It makes it difficult to pick a favorite service because they're all so full of life.

It's not that way everywhere I go, whether preaching in an independent Baptist church or attending someplace different on vacation. Our family was vacationing in Colorado once, and I was reminded that finding a church to attend is not always easy. The independent Baptist church we sought to attend was 45 minutes away and having Sunday morning services at the lake, requiring us to bring food and lawn chairs to fellowship with brothers in Christ from other congregations. They cancel Sunday night services through the summer, evidently due to lack of participation. Another church in town that was having a Sunday morning service had canceled Sunday night because the leadership would be working on a project and wouldn't be there to conduct the service.

Plenty of churches are capable of attracting large Sunday morning crowds, but the fact that they are nearly empty for most other services seems to imply that the grand production on Sunday morning is more responsible for bringing them in than a real commitment to the Lord's Day and a hunger to hear God's Word. I've noticed a few characteristics about churches that have a healthy attendance for all their services, and many stem from the church's view of Sunday and services in general. I will list these as challenges by which readers may measure their view of Sunday services.

1. Treat Sunday as the First Fruits of Your Time - Give God the First and Your Best. The early church clearly gathered on the first day of the week and served as a testimony that honoring Christ for His work at Calvary was a priority for them. We get to spend the other six days divided up among our careers, homes, and hobbies. It seems fitting and right to give the Lord His own day.

Also consider giving Him the whole day, just not part of it. The practice of honoring the Lord for a whole day had precedent in the Sabbath law from creation before evolving into the first day of the week after the resurrection. In both cases, the emphasis was on the whole day. It is healthy and strengthening for a church to offer members the opportunity to honor the Lord corporately the entire day. It is a great witness to a busy culture when Christians take a whole day out of their just-as-busy schedules and submit it to a kingdom much larger than their own little culture.

2. Make the Decision Once, Not Every Week - the Family Who Has to Decide Every Week Whether to Go to Church Has Already Lost Half the Battle. Every church has those members you know are going to be there every time you go. That is because they made the decision once and that settled it. The basic question is, "Are you going to be a faithful worshiper or not?" Answering "yes" to that question answers a thousand other questions at the same time. While it may not be easy, it really is simple.

(continued inside)

3. Have a High Threshold for Missing - What Will it Take for You to Miss? What level of discomfort or sickness? What relative or friend can displace your time with other believers worshipping Him? Be honest about whether His day gets the short end of the stick when the schedule gets tight. Who do you feel should give up their time when you need more? ***I am always thrilled at the testimony of our church when we have as many cars in the parking lot as Walmart on snow days.*** I'm not advocating that there is innate spirituality in putting oneself in danger to go to church when it snows, but why should Walmart be worth the danger when church isn't? It's also humorous how many people are "too sick" on Sunday, but aren't on Monday. ***Decide to draw a threshold high enough that says God deserves your highest effort.***

4. Don't Be Casual - It Is Trendy These Days to Treat Church Like Any Other Place We Go. Yet, it still makes a statement when we refuse to treat His presence too casually. I realize that our culture rarely dresses up for anything any more. What better way and time to make a statement than to exhibit outwardly what you should feel inwardly? This is a very special time. Any church dress code should be whatever comes to mind immediately after thinking, "I'm going into the presence of God." God doesn't give brownie points for ties and skirts. But, studies are numerous and undeniable that we treat something better the more effort we put into preparing for it. Consider this when it comes to food and drinks, as well. The focus is meant to be on feeding our souls, not our bodies. Our concentration and that of those around us can be hindered when we munch on snacks we bring to church. ***Another form of being casual is getting up and leaving.*** While there are viable reasons occasionally, anyone standing up in a crowd of people who are seated is obviously going to take the focus off of God and place it onto himself.

5. Be On Time - Are You Habitually Late? Excuses always exist to be late and there are always ways to be early. This can be a matter of prioritizing God's time. Being there ready and in your place when the first song starts is beneficial. It makes a statement to your family about what you find most important to be on time for. We have ladies with several children who constantly amaze me by getting everyone ready and to church on time every time.

6. Be Open During Invitation - Every Invitation Is an Opportunity to Respond to Something God Wants in Your Life. Some messages will leave you needing to correct something, while others may leave you needing to strengthen something else. Some serve to confirm what is already living in your heart. Ask God directly what your response should be; assume that He will speak to you every service. James says that the danger of hearing without doing is, in effect, deceiving yourself. Enough invitations without some kind of response to God may make it hard to feel much conviction in the future.

7. Participate - Be a Part of the Service. When it's time to sing, join in. When it's time to give, do your part. When the preaching is going on, look at the one speaking and listen intently. I'm amused to go to an Oklahoma State University basketball game and see how much people paid to sit in the closest seats to the action, then go to the house of God and find people crowding around the furthest seats away. Make a statement and develop a mentality that fills in the front seats and says to visitors, "We want to get as close to what's going on as possible!"

On Sunday, your church needs to be the most coveted place to be in your community. It needs to be the center of truth and divine presence wherever your church meets. It's infectious and will spread whenever it is a reality in the pew. Let them see that an independent Baptist church might be more conservative, but we are anything but backward and boring. It's where the action is!



WHAT IS THE VALUE OF HAVING A CHURCH FAMILY?

Question: "What is the value of having a church family?"

Answer: What value is there to becoming like family to other believers? Acts 2:42 could be considered a basic statement of quintessential church activity: ***"And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers."*** The Bible places importance on the church family unit because of these reasons:

- ❑ ***We Study God's Word Together*** - A church family provides consistent Bible teaching. This often comes through small groups, Bible studies, teaching from the pastor, Sunday school lessons, and so on. The church family is called to grow spiritually together, spurring one another on. Second Timothy 3:16 says, ***"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness."***
- ❑ ***We Honor God Together Through Worship*** - There is a unifying factor when believers worship God together, whether it's

through music or preaching or serving. Psalm 34:3 emphasizes a call to corporate worship: ***"O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together."***

- ❑ ***We Find Accountability*** - The church provides a practical framework for accountability. Once relationships grow and friendships form, there is someone to encourage you, rebuke you when necessary, and rejoice with you. Proverbs 27:17 says, ***"Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend."*** Accountability is crucially important in the battle to overcome sin, and the church family is a great place to find someone to pray with, talk to, and confide in.

- ❑ ***We Find Support in Trial*** - When trials come, a support system is crucial. When in need, you will want your brothers and sisters in Christ to uphold you in prayer and assist with practical needs like meals, cleaning, and childcare. Galatians 6:2 encourages us to "carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ."

- ❑ ***We Gain Opportunities for Service*** - We not only receive support in the church; we give it as well. Your calling in the church is to contribute, not just to receive. When we are in close fellowship with other believers, we know when they need support and prayer. We can step in and help in practical ways. Ephesians 6:7 says, "Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not people."

- ❑ ***We Make Disciples*** - There comes a time when we need to learn to feed, not just be fed (Hebrews 5:12). We can evangelize, teach, encourage, and "disciple" our church family. ***"And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen"*** (Matthew 28:18-20).

In an age when the culture is increasingly secular, it is beneficial to be in a family of like-minded believers. These brothers and sisters can encourage you in your faith journey, respond to your questions about spiritual issues, and be a support in times of hardship. The church family can also give you opportunity to serve and disciple others. ***"And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching"*** (Hebrews 10:24-25). ■

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5 WAYS TO TELL IF YOUR CHURCH'S WORSHIP MUSIC IS MAN-CENTERED

In the modern age, it's not uncommon to find churches falling into a pattern of cheesy, shallow worship music. The superficiality of these songs often reveals much about the theology in the church itself. When a church preaches and a congregation subscribes to shallow theology, a low view of the sovereignty of God, and a high view of self, the music produced inevitably mirrors these beliefs. In the end, this music tends to focus more on appeasing human desires and emotions rather than exalting and honoring God.

A church that understands the truth of God's majesty, righteousness, and grace is expected to produce worship that reflects these very truths. But how can you discern whether or not the music is man-centered? Here are five key ways to identify it:

1. LYRICS FOCUSED ON HUMAN NEEDS AND DESIRES

When lyrics are more about what we desire, need, or feel, rather than who God is and what He has done, it becomes a clear and concerning sign of man-centered worship. Such songs may discuss personal struggles, aspirations, and feelings of affirmation, but they fail to anchor these in the unchanging truth of God's sovereign will and providence. If the primary focus is on the self rather than the Saviour, the worship is misdirected and deviates from its true purpose.

One glaring example of this is the increasingly popular music by Charity Gayle, particularly the song "New Name Written Down in Glory," and specifically the seemingly infinitely repeated lyric, "I am who I am because the I Am tells me who I am." While this line attempts to reference the divine name "I Am," it falls short of truly honoring God's character and majesty because it actually centers on the individual's identity, overshadowing the eternal and unchanging nature of God.

This lyric is constructed to emphasize personal realization and self-identification, overshadowing God's attributes. By making the worship about who we are in God rather than who God is in Himself, it risks reducing the grandeur of the Almighty to a mere tool for human self-discovery. This can lead to an anthropocentric view of Christianity, which inevitably distorts essential doctrines of the faith.

Such a man-centered approach can also mislead congregants, directing their focus away from the Creator and towards themselves. The primary role of worship music is to glorify God, declare His righteousness, and celebrate His mercy. By focusing on personal experience without a firm grounding in sound theology, worship can become self-serving rather than God-honoring.

2. EMOTIONALLY-CHARGED LYRICS

Emotions are an essential part of human existence, and they have their place in worship as well. However, when lyrics are



DON'T FORGET!

SUNDAY SCHOOL RE-STARTS ON SEPTEMBER 3RD @ 9:45 AM!

crafted to elicit *a specific emotional response* rather than reveal the truth about God, it becomes a tool for manipulation rather than genuine worship. True worship leads us to a deeper understanding of God’s character, not merely an emotional high.

An example of this trend can be found in the song “Running to Your Arms” by Hillsong, particularly the lyrics “No other name, Jesus, Jesus, My heart will sing No other name, Jesus, Jesus.” While these lyrics do elevate the name of Jesus, a critical analysis reveals a focus on emotion that might overshadow the core truth they attempt to convey.

The use of the phrase “My heart will sing” instead of a more direct “I will sing” appeals to the emotions rather than a commitment of will and understanding. By employing this emotive language, the lyric emphasizes a sentimental attachment or feeling towards Jesus rather than a profound acknowledgment of His lordship, deity, and redemptive work.

Though invoking emotion in worship is not inherently wrong, it must never become the primary aim or overshadow the objective truths of the Christian faith. In this specific instance, the lyrics, while well-intentioned, may lead to an experience-driven worship that prioritizes emotional satisfaction over the deep, biblically-grounded adoration of Christ.

Such an approach leads to a worship experience that may feel intense and moving but lacks the substance and depth that comes from a clear understanding of who God is as revealed in Scripture. Emotions, though powerful, are transient and can be easily swayed. Therefore, grounding our worship in the unchanging truths of God’s Word is vital to ensure that it is genuine, lasting, and truly honoring to God.

3. EMOTIONALLY-CHARGED MUSIC AND CHORD STRUCTURE

Music has a powerful ability to move us, and certain chord structures can indeed stir the emotions. But if the musical arrangement’s primary goal is to create an emotional experience rather than support the theological truths found in the lyrics, then it is serving man rather than God. Worship music should complement the profound truth about God, not overshadow it.

Some prominent contemporary churches and music groups, such as Bethel Church, Hillsong, Elevation, and Jesus Culture, have produced music that can be analyzed through this lens. Their compositions often employ calculated chords and musical structures known to elicit empathetic emotional highs, similar to certain drug-induced states. While these groups have certainly reached a wide audience, the potential dangers in their musical approach should be considered critically.

The emphasis on emotional experience by using specific chord progressions and rhythm-based music may shifts the focus of worship away from solid theological grounding and onto the feelings that are part of man’s fallen nature. While emotions are real, they are part of the fallen nature of man and should not be the driving force in worship. Instead, true worship must be guided by God’s Word. Furthermore, this intentional design to produce emotional highs can become manipulative, guiding

feelings rather than allowing Scripture to guide hearts and minds, leading to personal satisfaction over genuine reverence for God.

When the style of music and emotional experience become central, the profound truths about God can be overshadowed. Worship music that prioritizes emotion over theology can miss opportunities to instruct and remind the congregation of the foundational doctrines of faith. This over-reliance on emotion also leads to a risk of subjectivity in worship, creating a fragmented experience that varies from person to person. Furthermore, the authenticity of the worship experience can be questioned when emotions may arise more from a carefully crafted musical experience than from a genuine response to God’s truth.

4. LACK OF SCRIPTURAL DEPTH & THEOLOGICAL ACCURACY

In addition to the rhythm-based musical structure, a clear sign of man-centered worship music is the lack of depth in scriptural content and theological accuracy. When songs are vague, shallow, or even contrary to what the Bible teaches, they cease to be an instrument of true worship. Songs must be rooted in the truth of Scripture, proclaiming the character, works, and promises of God as revealed in the 66 books of the Bible.

A prevalent example of this lack of depth can be found in what has been termed the “seven-eleven” song, where the same seven lines are repeated eleven times. While repetition in itself is not necessarily wrong, the overuse of this method can lead to an unfortunate shallowness.

The repetitive nature of “seven-eleven” songs often leaves little room for profound theological insight or exploration of the vast riches found in Scripture. Such simplicity may create an emotionally satisfying but spiritually lacking worship experience. With a focus on catchiness and emotional appeal, these songs might inadvertently emphasize aspects that are not aligned with Biblical teachings, opening the door for potential misunderstandings or even misrepresentations. This overemphasis on emotion can overshadow the essential doctrines of the faith, serving the desires of man more than honoring God. Furthermore, these songs, with their limited content, miss the opportunity to instruct, correct, and encourage the body of believers in a substantive way. The Christian faith is rich and multifaceted, and worship music should reflect this depth.

5. OVEREMPHASIS ON MUSICAL PERFORMANCE

Finally, the overemphasis on musical excellence, professional production, recording quality, sound precision, and lighting reveals a profound misunderstanding of the true nature of worship. While these elements may be seen by some as enhancements to the worship experience, they actually do not add value to true worship, as the Bible clearly illustrates.

True worship, as described in the Scriptures, is a response to Jesus being revealed to us by God the Father. It is not contingent on musical skill, technological prowess, or atmospheric effects. When we look at the worship of God by the angels and His people in the Bible, we see a focus on the character, works, and

promises of God. This worship is not characterized by human artistry or innovation but by a deep and abiding reverence for who God is.

The scenes of worship in Revelation, for example, are filled with awe, humility, and a complete focus on God’s glory and sovereignty. The angelic hosts and the elders around the throne of God are not entertained by musical performances or captivated by lighting effects. They are utterly consumed with the holiness, power, and grace of God, singing “Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty.” Their worship is a pure response to the revelation of God’s character, unfettered by human constructs or preferences.

In a similar vein, when we look at the Psalms, we find expressions of worship that are rooted in the truths of God’s word, His faithfulness, His justice, and His mercy. The Psalms are often accompanied by music, but there is no mention of professionalism or technical excellence. The psalmists are concerned with integrity, truth, and a heart that is right before God.

The focus on musical excellence (or, perhaps more aptly, method of presentation) at the expense of these essential aspects of worship is, in fact, a man-centered approach. It draws attention **away** from God and toward human achievement. It can turn the act of worship into a performance, more about entertaining the congregation rather than leading them to the throne of God. It places value on things that have no eternal significance, rather than on the profound truths of God’s Word.

The responsibility for all of this falls, primarily, on the pastors of the churches that are pushing this on the people (often against the congregations’ will), but also on the songwriters and worship leaders who have opted for a worldly, man-centered approach to worship, wrongly thinking that music and worship are tools for evangelism, even though there is no instance in the Bible where music was used to convert the unconverted.

Pastors should require, and church musicians should focus on, maintaining the integrity of biblical truths and direct our hearts toward the true object of our worship: God Himself. Anything less leads people into shallow and misdirected adoration, detracting from the beauty and majesty of the Creator. It is an urgent call to return to worship that genuinely reflects and exalts the sovereign God as revealed in the 66 books of the Bible.

The call for the church today is to examine the worship music it is using critically and ensure that it aligns with the truth of God’s Word. The measure of worship music is not its popularity or emotional appeal, but its faithfulness to biblical truths and its ability to exalt the Almighty God. It’s a call to a deeper understanding of who God is and a commitment to honor Him in our worship, not merely satisfy our emotional needs.

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NEWS OF INTEREST TO CHRISTIANS

☐ ***THE TRANSFORMATIONAL POWER OF CONTEMPORARY PRAISE MUSIC*** - **The Transformational Power of Contemporary Praise Music** is a multi-media video

presentation describing the power of Contemporary Worship Music to change the character of a “traditional” Bible-believing church. The presentation features a wealth of still pictures, audio and video clips. It examines the reason why this music lies at the heart and soul of the dramatic changes that are coming to Bible-believing churches.

The transformational power is two-fold: It lies in the music’s underlying philosophy, and it lies in the character of the music itself. We first document the philosophy of CCM, which is a doctrine of license under the guise of a more relaxed, grace-filled approach to Christian living and theology. On the musical side, we examine the elements of contemporary worship, every aspect of which is designed to create a sensual, mystical, emotional experience. As Michael W. Smith puts it, contemporary music “helps you enter into the presence of God.” The major elements of this experience are the addictive syncopated dance rhythms, unresolving chord sequences, sensual vocal techniques, electronic modulation, and the repetition.

We analyze each of these elements. This presentation is available as a free eVideo at

https://www.wayoflife.org/s3/satanic_attack_on_sacred_music.php

☐ ***WHAT IS REALLY HAPPENING WITH JUDICIAL REFORM IN ISRAEL?*** - The following is excerpted from “Here’s What Is Really Happening,” The Federalist, July 24, 2023:

“The alleged authoritarian ‘backsliding’ by Israel’s ‘far-right’ government would actually make the country far more democratic.

... The New York Times reports, ‘Israel’s Parliament passed a deeply contentious law limiting the Supreme Court’s ability to overturn decisions made by government ministers.’ What the Times means is that there is a new law limiting the judiciary’s ability to unilaterally declare legislation ‘unconstitutional’ without using any legal justification whatsoever. Because, as it stands, Israel has a strong anti-democratic system overseen by a high court that is probably the most powerful judiciary in the free world.

... The court’s decisions are often arbitrary, politically expedient, constantly evolving, and sometimes contradictory. The court regularly blocks laws passed by center-right governments simply because judges claim policy is unreasonable. Why only center-right governments? Because the entrenched judges (with their allies in the Israeli bar) appoint their own successors in perpetuity. There is no accountability to either the popular will or a constitutional tradition.

... ‘Only in Israel do judges confer the power of abstract review on themselves, without benefit of a constitutional or legislative provision,’ Richard Posner once described the nation’s system. ...The system is so insane that not only can the court lord over the legislative branch without explanation, but it can remove ministers and elected officials at will. The attorney general is

empowered to bar officials--even the prime minister--from participating in national debates. This is not, by any real standard, 'democratic' governance. It is illiberal.

... As of now, protestors from both sides are out on the streets. And so far, they haven't engaged in the defenestration of their opponents or any violence. The debate is an illustration of a 'democracy' working, not one sliding into tyranny. ... The reality is that virtually everything we do in politics is 'divisive' and 'deeply contentious.' That's why politics exists. And in Israel, the time of day is a deeply contentious issue. ... Of course, if the Israeli Supreme Court was packed with right-wingers instead of left-wingers, American media, the Democratic Party, and the protestors would be on the reform side. None of this has anything to do with governing principles or justice or norms or 'democracy.' Like those destroying the American judiciary at home, it's about power."

☐ **HINDU MOBS DESTROY 300 CHURCHES AS INDIAN GOVERNMENT FUELING 'SERIOUS RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION'** - A fierce battle between Hindus and Christians is raging in a remote part of northeast India with some human rights experts blaming the country's government for fueling the religious violence. What started as a feud over economic benefits now has the state of Manipur teetering on the brink of a civil war.

Religious and ethnic clashes between the Hindu majority Meitei community and the tribal Christian Kuki minority over land and influence in the state has left at least 180 people dead and over 500 injured. "Three hundred churches have been destroyed and just imagine that if one, two, five or 10 were destroyed," Dr. David Curry, president of Global Christian Relief, told CBN News. "We are talking about 300 churches destroyed."

The European Parliament accuses India's Hindu-led BJP government and its Prime Minister Narendra Modi of fueling the violence by pursuing "politically motivated, divisive policies promoting Hindu majoritarianism." Modi, whose party controls Manipur's state government, faced a no-confidence motion in Parliament last week for his silence on the escalating violence.

"The underlying issue here is that the central government, the BJP party led by Prime Minister Modi has not reacted," argued Curry. "He's been forced to make one comment but even that was setting a context for why the violence was happening that ignored the violence against Christians."

In Manipur's capital city, Hindu women have been creating roadblocks to check cars for Christians. In May, a Hindu mob paraded two Christian women naked. One had been reportedly gang raped. Human rights and religious freedom experts accuse Modi's government of pushing a radical ideology that believes India is for Hindus only, despite its pluralistic and diverse society.

Hindus make up nearly 80% of India's population. Muslims are at 14%. Christianity is India's third-largest religion with about 26 million followers, or about 2.3% of the population.

TOOLS FOR SALE

It was advertised that the devil was going to put his tools up for sale. On the date of the sale, the tools were placed for public inspection; each tool being marked with its sale price. They were a treacherous lot of implements...Hatred, Envy, Jealousy, Deceit, Lying, Pride, and so on. Laid apart from the rest was a harmless looking tool, well worn and priced very high.

"What is the name of this tool?" asked one of the purchasers, pointing to it.

"That is Discouragement", replied the devil.

"Why have you priced it so high?"

"Because it is more useful to me than the others. I can pry open and get inside a man's heart with that when I cannot get near him with my other tools. Once I get inside, I can make him do what I choose. It is badly worn because I use it on almost everyone, since very few people know that it belongs to me."

My friend, don't let Satan discourage you in anyway. You are God's child and have the victory already won. All you have to do is keep your faith on the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, Jesus Christ. The devil will not have a chance to discourage you, even with his best tools.

- Author Unknown

*If God had a refrigerator,
your picture would be on it.
If He had a wallet, your photo would be in it.
He sends you flowers every spring and a
sunrise every morning. Whenever you want to
talk, He'll listen. He can live anywhere in the
universe, and He chose your heart.
And the Christmas gift He sent you in
Bethlehem?
Face it friend - He's crazy about you!*

- Author Unknown

PLAN NOW TO BE HERE!

WHEN DANIEL CHARLAND MINISTRIES WILL PRESENT...

AMERICA'S CHRISTIAN HERITAGE & THE WAY THINGS ARE TODAY

***AN ENLIGHTENING, CAPTIVATING MULTIMEDIA PRESENTATION THAT
EXPLAINS:***

- ***What the Founding Fathers Believed***
- ***What Changed in America***



***Invite Friends and Family to Learn Why American Culture Is in Chaos
Today and Why Things Were So Different Just 60 Years Ago!***

**SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 10, 2023
AT 11:00 AM**

Join us for the Charland Family's Faith Testimony at 9:45 AM!