

AND THE PEOPLE CAME...

- Week of October 6, 2024 -

Sunday School	27
Sunday Morning Service	42
Sunday Evening Service	15
Wednesday Eve., 10/09/24 Service	13

AND THE PEOPLE GAVE...

- Week of October 6, 2024 -

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings	\$ 2,538.48
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 10/06/24:	\$ 2,538.48

- Week of September 29, 2024 -

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings	\$ 515.11
Auditorium A/C Replacement Fund	\$ 150.20
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 09/29/24:	\$ 665.31

- Week of September 22, 2024 -

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings	\$ 1,514.41
Auditorium A/C Replacement Fund	\$ 170.20
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 09/22/24:	\$ 1,684.61

- Week of September 15, 2024 -

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings	\$ 831.05
Auditorium A/C Replacement Fund	\$ 150.20
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 09/15/24:	\$ 981.25

- Week of September 8, 2024 -

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings	\$ 2,046.70
Children's SS Class Missionary Offering	\$ 1.00
Auditorium A/C Replacement Fund	\$ 150.00
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 09/08/24:	\$ 2,197.70

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

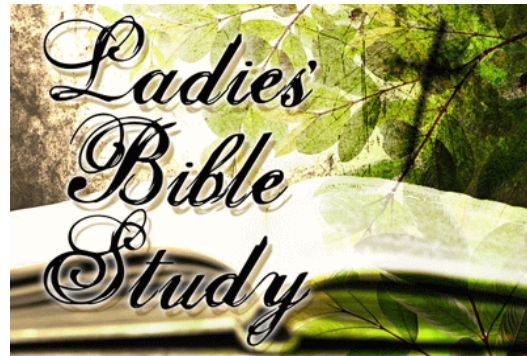


WHAT IT MEANS TO BE SAVED

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 -



THIS THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17th

@ 11 am or 5:30 pm

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

LISTEN TO -

ABIDINGRADIO.COM



REMINDER

PLAN NOW TO BE PRESENT TO HEAR

DR. PHIL STRINGER

WHO WILL BE SPEAKING ON

Bible Prophecy

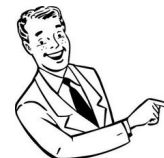
and End Time Events



SUNDAY, OCT. 27th - WED. OCT. 30th

TOPICS COVERED INCLUDE:

- Sunday, October 27th -
 - ☛ 9:45 AM Sunday School - **"How to Understand Bible Prophecy"**
 - ☛ 11:00 AM - **"The Rapture of the Church"**
 - ☛ 6:30 PM - **"The Tribulation"**
- Monday, October 28th @ 7 PM - **"The Marriage Supper of the Lamb"**
- Tuesday, October 29th @ 7 PM - **"The Return of the King"**
- Wednesday, October 30th @ 7 PM - **"The Millennial Reign Of Christ"**



INVITE YOUR FRIENDS AND DON'T MISS A SINGLE SERVICE!

- Nursery provided at every service for children through age 3 -



ROCK MUSIC AS RELIGION

by Evangelist David W. Cloud

It is not surprising that rock & roll has been adapted for contemporary worship since it has the power that contemporary worshipers are looking for. It has the power to create strong emotional experiences, the power literally to take control of the individual and carry him into spiritual realms.

Rock & rollers have long described their music in glowing spiritual and religious terms, but the spiritual fervor described in the following quotes does not pertain to the Spirit of God; it pertains to the “god of this world” who masquerades as an angel of light.

“And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light” (II Cor. 11:14).

Rock & roll (which encompasses all forms of secular pop music that features a heavy back beat and other types of dance syncopation) is one of the chief gods and idols of the modern world. To think that God would be pleased with the Christianizing of rock & roll is to think that He would be pleased with the Christianizing of Hindu idols.

“Little children, keep yourselves from idols” (I John 5:21).

Consider the following statements by rockers regarding the “spiritual” nature of their music:

- Rock historian Michael Moynihan says: “In spiritual terms MUSIC IS A MAGICAL OPERATION, A VEHICLE FOR MAN TO COMMUNICATE WITH THE GODS. Depending on whom the celebrants invoke, this can mean soaring to heaven on the voices of angels or raising beasts from the pits of hell” (Lords of Chaos: The Bloody Rise of the Satanic Metal Underground, p. 1).
- “Rock concerts are the churches of today. Music puts them on a spiritual plane. All music is God” (Craig Chaquico, Jefferson Airplane guitarist, Why Knock Rock?, p. 96).
- “Rock music is more than music, IT’S LIKE CHURCH” (Jimi Hendrix, The Dick Cavett Show, July 21, 1969).
- “We’re making the music into ELECTRIC CHURCH MUSIC, A NEW KIND OF BIBLE you can carry in your hearts” (Jimi Hendrix, quoted in Crosstown Traffic by Charles Murray, p. 161).
- “... THE MUSIC IS A SPIRITUAL THING of its own” (Jimi Hendrix, interview with Robin Richman “An Infinity of Jimis,” Life magazine, Oct. 3, 1969).
- “I used to go to Sunday School BUT THE ONLY THING I BELIEVE IN NOW IS MUSIC” (Jimi Hendrix, cited from Curtiss Knight, Jimi).
- Paul Stanley, guitarist for KISS, said he turns into “a holy roller preacher” during concerts. “I’m testifying and getting everybody riled up for the power of almighty rock ‘n’ roll” (Guitar

Player, November 1974).

- Bruce Springsteen used to open his concerts with these words: “WELCOME TO THE FIRST CHURCH OF THE ROCK, BROTHERS AND SISTERS” and has stated that he was dead until rock and roll changed his life. USA Today observed: “Displaying an awesome musical chemistry, Springsteen and his E Streeters at times turned the Meadowlands’ Continental Airlines Arena [in East Rutherford, New Jersey] into a raucous revival tent, playing off themes of redemption, salvation and resurrection via rock ‘n’ roll throughout the nearly three-hour show. ... Typical of the pacing was the roof-raising Light of Day, which saw the Rev. Springsteen roaringly promise his flock ‘the power, the majesty and the ministry of rock ‘n’ roll...” (USA Today, July 19, 1999, p. 9D).
- On the 25th anniversary of Elvis Presley’s death Springsteen said: “ELVIS IS MY RELIGION. But for him, I’d be selling encyclopedias right now.”
- “For many participants, ELVIS WEEK HAS OBVIOUSLY BECOME A QUASI-RELIGIOUS OCCASION. The Meditation Garden is an American Lourdes, a place where miracles sometimes happen. Every year on August 15, the sick and the lame hobble up the hill, full of hope. As every one of the faithful well knows, on the first anniversary of Presley’s death, a fan aimed his camera skyward and photographed a cumulus cloud forming a familiar profile, right down to the famous pompadour. Elvis is watching over them. Addressing co-religionists in a letter printed in an Elvis fan club publication, an enthusiast from Belgium put it this way: “Dear friends, our LOVE and RESPECT for Elvis are unlimited ... Let’s continue to work hard for him, because his LIGHT on our world today is the guarantee to give HOPE and PEACE for the next generations. ... We believe in Elvis just like we believe in God ... and I’m sure that we are on the right way” (James Miller, Flowers in the Dustbin, p. 345).
- Robbie Kreiger, guitarist for the Doors, said the band members were “revivalists and WANTED OUR AUDIENCE TO UNDERGO A RELIGIOUS EXPERIENCE” (Break on Through: The Life and Death of Jim Morrison, p. 190).
- Jim Morrison of the Doors said, “I FEEL SPIRITUAL UP THERE PERFORMING” (Newsweek, Nov. 6, 1967, p. 101). Even as late as the early 1990s, Morrison’s gravesite was the third most popular visitor destination in Paris. In July 1991, on the 20th anniversary of Morrison’s death, nearly 1,000 fans gathered outside the gates of the cemetery.
- “As a self appointed messiah, I view music as far more than just entertainment” (John Denver, cited in The Rock Report, p. 10).
- Remembering Bob Marley’s rock concerts, Judy Mowatt, one of his backup singers said: “It was a crusade, it was a mission. We were like sentinels, like lights. ON TOUR THE SHOWS WERE LIKE CHURCH; Bob delivering the sermon. There were mixed emotions in the audience: you see people literally crying, people in a frenzy, on A SPIRITUAL HIGH ... These concerts were powerful and highly spiritual. There was a power that pulled you

there. It was a clean feeling ... For months and maybe years it stays with you” (Sean Dolan, Bob Marley, p. 95).

- Grateful Dead concerts have been described as “A PLACE TO WORSHIP. “The band was the high priest, the audience the congregation, the songs the liturgy, and the dancing the prayer” (Gary Greenberg, Not Fade Away: The Online World Remembers Jerry Garcia, p. 42). “The Grateful Dead embody not only the cultic potentials historically inherent in rock ‘n’ roll, but the entire submerged linkage between rock and religion. ... the Dead’s legendary live concerts bear uncanny resemblance to religious festivals...” (Stairway to Heaven, p. 196). In interviews with David Gans (Playing in the Band), Grateful Dead band members admitted that THEY LOOKED UPON THEIR MUSIC AS SOMETHING LIKE RELIGION. Lesh said, “WE USED TO SAY THAT EVERY PLACE WE PLAYED WAS CHURCH.” Garcia added, “... on a certain level it’s a religion to me, too.”
- Before he died, Muddy Waters admitted that the BLUES WAS HIS RELIGION (James Rooney, Bossmen: Bill Monroe and Muddy Waters, p. 137).
- “I LOOK AT ROCK LIKE A RELIGION” (Blackie Lawless of W.A.S.P., Faces, Feb. 1985, p. 53).
- A music reviewer described a Backstreet Boys concert as “worship” (Express Writer, August 16, 1998).
- “Now Billy Squier is taking the gospel to America and Europe, PREACHING HIS OWN ROCK SERMONS in sold-out concerts” (Circus magazine, cited in The Rock Report, p. 10).
- Judas Priest had an album called “Defenders of the Faith,” and when asked about its meaning they replied, “We’re defending the faith of heavy metal music” (The Rock Report, p. 10). They said: “Heavy metal isn’t just music to us. It’s a philosophy and a way of life” (Judas Priest, Hit Parader, July 1984).
- In his song “You Can’t Kill Rock & Roll,” Ozzy Osbourne sang, “... ROCK ‘N’ ROLL IS MY RELIGION AND MY LAW/ Won’t ever change.”
- Brian Jones of the Rolling Stones said, “MUSIC IS MY RELIGION” (cited by Stanley Booth, Dance with the Devil, p. 109).
- Michael Jackson said, “On many an occasion WHEN I AM DANCING, I HAVE FELT TOUCHED BY SOMETHING SACRED. In those moments, I felt my spirit soar, and become one with everything that exists” (cited by Steve Turner, Hungry for Heaven, p. 12).
- George Harrison said: “Through the music you reach the spiritual. MUSIC IS VERY INVOLVED WITH THE SPIRITUAL, as we know from the Hare Krishna mantra” (cited by Turner, p. 71).
- Brian Eno says that WHEN HE DISCOVERED ROCK AND ROLL, IT WAS “A SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCE” to him and IT OCCUPIED THE RELIGIOUS PART OF HIS LIFE (Turner, Hungry for Heaven, p. 150).
- Dr. Paul King, medical director of the adolescent unit at Charter Lakeside Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee, was told by drug addicted teens that he had to understand their music if he

wanted to understand their world. “He conducted a study of 470 adolescent patients and found that 60 percent of them designated heavy metal music as their musical choice. They said the music was a very important influence in their lives. In fact, IT WAS THEIR NEW RELIGION” (Terry Watkins, The Truth about Rock, p. 35).

- Sting of the group Police said, “The pure essence of music is very spiritual” (Musician, Feb. 1987, p. 41). He says: “MY RELIGION WOULD BE MUSIC, AND I HAD JUST RECEIVED MY FIRST SACRAMENT [WHEN HE FIRST HEARD THE BEATLES AT AGE 11]” (USA Today, Jan. 27, 1984, p. 2D).
- “Hip hop shows were LIKE CHURCH FOR ME WAY MORE THAN ACTUAL CHURCH WAS. A lot of lessons I learned were from my personal interpretations of the songs I would listen to. I felt like God was speaking to me through these people’s thoughts and words” (Darlina, HipHop fan, commenting on “The Metaphysics of HipHop,” Sept. 1, 2006, rapyouodhiphopyoulive.tribe.net).
- “Dancing at raves may be construed as the method by which ravers worship the god of altered consciousness” (Russell Newcombe, The Guardian, Jul. 22, 1995).
- “Andrew WK truly helped me let go. HIS SHOWS WERE LIKE CHURCH SERVICES, I felt rejuvenized, and for weeks following them I was happier and made people around me happier (which in turn made me feel even better)” (Andrew WK Paradigm Shift, www.dontstophnoise.com/josh.html).
- “Their [Far’s] live shows were like church (without all that religion). They inspired a lot of kids my age” (www.amazon.com/Water-Solutions-Far/dp/customer-reviews/B0000062H7).
- Rock My Religion is a black and white documentary by Dan Graham that describes the nature of rock & roll as religion to multitudes of people.
- Many rock fans exhibit devotion that has a religious intensity. Consider the following testimony which speaks for many others that could be given: “I’m obsessed. I’d do anything for her. . . I LIVE FOR BRITNEY SPEARS, you don’t understand. I live for Britney Spears. I live for her. . . Like my life wouldn’t be complete without her” (unidentified fan interviewed on ET, July 10, 1999).
- A fan of the Backstreet Boys said, “I love Nick! For Nick, I’ll die. If God says, ‘Die and let Nick live,’ I’ll do that” (“Boy Wonders,” People Magazine, Sept. 14, 1998).
- The memorial to John Lennon in Central Park, across the street from the Dakota building where he was murdered, has heavy religious overtones. A steady stream of fans place flowers and other offerings on the monument, which is inscribed with the title of his song “Imagine.” The 20th anniversary of Lennon’s death in December 8, 2000, was observed in many parts of the world in religious ways. Events included candlelight vigils, the lighting of large “peace flames,” and the 24-hour playing of Beatle records by radio stations.

Sadly, it is not only the secular world that worships rock musicians. Popular evangelical speaker Josh McDowell made the following amazing statement:

“Thank God for Steve Camp. The body of Christ is enriched because we have his heart and his music. My oldest daughter thinks he hung the moon” (CCM magazine, August 1991, p. 15).

Someone might argue that McDowell was just talking off the cuff and didn't really mean that his daughter worshipped CCM musician Steve Camp, but it was Almighty God who hung the moon and it is foolish to apply such terminology or devotion to a mere man. ■



15 Bible Reasons a Christian Should Join a Bible-Believing Church

by the late Dr. Bruce Lackey

New Testament Christians joined a local church. The churches had membership lists, either in writing or in memory. Since the Scripture was given for instruction in righteousness (II Tim. 3:16), God evidently wants us to follow their example. Although there is no specific verse that says, “Thou shalt join a church,” there are fifteen places that either require or teach by example that we should do so.

1. THE FIRST CHURCH HAD A MEMBERSHIP -

“*And in those days Peter stood up in the midst of the disciples, and said, (the number of names together were about an hundred and twenty)*” (Acts 1:15).

This Jerusalem church had a list of about 120 names that made up its membership. Even though the Bible says “about an hundred and twenty,” it does not mean that there was any uncertainty. “About” is used commonly in scripture to designate a number, in keeping with the usual practice of that day, when people were not trying to be as specific as we are in the twentieth century. For example, John 1:39 says, “. . . it was about the tenth hour.” It was not important in those days to know whether it was 9:55 or 10:05, since they did not have watches, clocks, etc. Likewise, John 6:19 says, “. . . rowed about five and twenty or thirty furlongs.” Similarly, Acts 5:7 describes Sapphira coming to the church “about the space of three hours after.” We must remember that the Holy Spirit inspired words that people would normally understand and speak, but this does not mean that He was uncertain! The events of John 1:39 and Acts 5:7 did happen at a specific moment, although that moment is not recorded. And the very mention of “the number of names” in Acts 1:15 shows that a collection actually existed, even though we are not told the exact number. The important thing to note is not that there were 119, 120, or 121,

but that there actually was a “number of the names together,” in short, a membership of definite individuals who made up that church.

2. ALL THOSE MEMBERS ASSEMBLED TOGETHER ON PENTECOST - Acts 2:1 says, “*And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.*” The word all certainly indicates that a specific number was there. He did not say “a majority,” or “several,” but **ALL**.

3. SPECIFIC PEOPLE WERE ADDED TO THIS MEMBERSHIP ON THE DAY OF PENTECOST - According to Acts 2:41, “*Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.*” Again, the word about has the same significance. The important word is added, showing that the number grew. Whether they were written down on paper is not the issue; the fact is that certain specific people were saved, baptized, and added to certain specific people! (This is interpreted by some to mean that they were added to the Lord, or to the whole body of Christ, but the context has been speaking of that group of 120, ever since Acts 1:15, and continues to speak of that earthly group which met together in Jerusalem, through v.47).

4. THE LORD ADDED PEOPLE TO THE LOCAL CHURCH - “*And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved*” (Acts 2:47). This church was not the whole body of Christ (or the comprehensive church, or the universal church, or whatever the term one might prefer), but the local church, because of the context. The word church must be interpreted by context. For example, no one would say that “the church in the wilderness” (Acts 7:38) was the same as the church in the New Testament, since the context clearly shows that it was the nation of Israel at the foot of Mt. Sinai. Likewise, Heb. 12:22-23 would obviously not be a local church, but “the heavenly Jerusalem,” etc. Context must determine meaning, and the context of Acts 2:47 is that of the church at Jerusalem. . . . Therefore, the church mentioned in Acts 2:47 is that church at Jerusalem that had just evangelized and baptized and was meeting in the temple and from house to house, teaching doctrine and breaking bread (vv. 41-46). And, in saying “the Lord added . . .” we conclude that He led these people to join that Jerusalem church, and gave the apostolic leaders of that church the terms on which the new believers were to be added.

5. THERE WAS A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE CHURCH AND OUTSIDERS - Acts 5:11 contrasts “the church” with others who “heard these things.” It is referring to the surprising deaths of Ananias and Sapphira when it says “And great fear came upon all the church, and upon as many as heard these things.” Therefore, it must have been common knowledge that some specific persons belonged to the church, while others did not. And we must remember that the Holy Spirit inspired these words, so it was actually He that made this difference.

6. SOME PEOPLE DID NOT DARE TO JOIN THE

CHURCH! Immediately after the deaths of Ananias and Sapphira, and subsequent miracles by the apostles, Acts 5:13 tells us that “*of the rest durst no man join himself to them: but the people magnified them.*” It was common knowledge who belonged to this new church, and after such a harsh judgment on two members who did not conform, some people did not dare to join them! Some belonged; others dared not join, for one reason or another. When one joins, there is a membership!

7. SPECIFIC MEMBERS ELECTED OFFICERS - The apostles commanded the congregation, “*Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business*” (Acts 6:3). They were speaking to a specific group whom they knew as “brethren”; they said that these men were to be chosen from “among you,” obviously designating a specific group of people. Any way we look at this, there must have been a membership.

8. THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE CHURCHES INCREASED - Acts 9:31 clearly implies membership by saying, “*Then had the churches rest throughout all Judaea and Galilee and Samaria, and were edified; and walking in the fear of the Lord, and in the comfort of the Holy Ghost, were multiplied.*” There had to be a number of people to start with, and a bigger number when they were multiplied. To say that 50 people became 250 is to designate a membership.

9. THE CHURCHES WHICH PAUL ESTABLISHED “INCREASED IN NUMBER DAILY” (Acts 16:5) - Such a statement would have been impossible unless they had had a specific number to begin with. If 23 were increased to 25 on Sunday, 28 on Monday, etc., there was obviously a membership to start with. And it is significant that all believers in those areas were considered to be in the churches. The same situation prevailed everywhere Paul went; when people were converted, they were organized into churches. See Acts 14:21-23 and 15:36, compared with 16:4-5.

10. ELDERS WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR CERTAIN PEOPLE - The Ephesian elders were told to feed the church of God, the flock, over which the Holy Ghost had made them overseers (Acts 20:28). Obviously, the church, the flock, was a specific group of people. How else could these elders carry out their responsibilities? It had to be clearly known who made up the church, the flock. Such would be a membership.

11. TROUBLE-MAKERS CAME FROM INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE CHURCH - Paul warned, “For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them.” Their dangers would come, not only from “grievous wolves” outside, but from men “of their own selves.” Some were outside the church; some were in. Again, this is obviously a membership.

12. THE CORINTHIAN CHURCH WAS COMMANDED TO EXCLUDE SOME BRETHERN - “*But now I have*

written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat” (I Cor. 5:11). This eating could not refer to ordinary meals, since the Lord Jesus ate with publicans and sinners (Mat. 9:10). It must refer to eating at the Lord’s table. He likewise says, “. . . *put away from among yourselves that wicked person*” (I Cor. 5:13). This could not mean to stop associating with, or speaking to, such a person, because a parallel passage in II Thess. 3:14-15 says, “. . . *note that man, and have no company with him, that he may be ashamed. Yet count him not as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother.*” It would be impossible to admonish him if they never associated with or spoke to him. To “have no company” must mean church company or fellowship, preventing him from the privileges of membership (holding office, voting, partaking of the Lord’s supper).

13. THERE IS NO WAY TO EXERCISE CHURCH DISCIPLINE UNLESS THERE IS A MEMBERSHIP - Matt. 18:7 instructs the church to consider an unrepentant brother as a “heathen man and a publican.” How would this be done? Certainly not by denying him access to the meetings! We would most assuredly want heathen people to attend our services and hear the preaching of God’s Word. First Corinthians 14:23-25 shows the importance of this. Neither could it mean to stop speaking to the person. Christians should definitely speak to heathen people; how else could we win them to Christ? But, a church could not permit a heathen to be elected as one of its officers, or preach, or teach, or vote on church matters, or partake of the Lord’s Supper. Therefore, to say that only certain people are eligible to hold office, etc., is to designate a membership.

14. I COR. 6:1-11 DISTINGUISHES BETWEEN “THE UNJUST . . . THE SAINTS” - Paul spoke of “a wise man among you (who) shall be able to judge between his brethren” (v.5). He rebuked them for going to law before the “unbelievers” (v.6). These brethren were called a church in I Cor. 1:2. Some people were known to belong to the church, some were not.

15. I PETER 4:17 DISTINGUISHED BETWEEN “THE HOUSE OF GOD” AND “THEM THAT OBEY NOT THE GOSPEL” - When we remember that the “house of God” is the local church, according to I Tim. 3:15, it becomes obvious that those who had obeyed the gospel were in a church. Whether or not their names were written on some list is unknown and unimportant; what is obvious is that they knew who was in the church.

The point is that we have no instance of New Testament believers refusing to belong to a local church. Joining the church was the normal thing to do, after conversion.

The person who has settled the matter of salvation should then be baptized, following Christ’s example and command, and join a Bible-believing and Bible-practicing church.

NEWS OF INTEREST TO CHRISTIANS

❑ **CATHOLIC COLLEGE OPERATES ON OLD D. L. MOODY PROPERTY** - The vast majority of old fundamentalist churches and institutions have become “evangelical” over the past 50 years, and many of them have morphed from fundamentalism to evangelicalism to liberalism and Catholicism. This is the fruit of the new evangelicalism with its renunciation of separatism and its tendency to erase “boundaries.”

Consider Trinitarian Congregational Church of East Northfield, Massachusetts. It was made famous by the preaching of Dwight L. Moody and was pastored by C. I. Scofield from 1895 to 1902. In the first few decades of the 20th century, the church rejected fundamentalism for the new evangelicalism. By the mid-20th century it was completely modernistic (liberal). In 1961, it joined the ultra-liberal United Church of Christ (UCC), which is a member of the World Council of Churches. Lloyd Parrill, who pastored Trinitarian from 1977 to 2012, said the church’s goal is “to seek justice and peace for all.” But there is no justice or peace apart from salvation through saving faith in the blood of Jesus Christ. In 2018, Trinitarian voted unanimously to become an “Open and Affirming Church,” which means homosexuals are accepted as members without repentance or conversion. (Contrast 1 Corinthians 6:9-11).

Consider D. L. Moody’s Northfield School for Girls and Mount Hermon School for Boys. The evangelist’s goal was to educate young people in a gospel-saturated environment to produce Christian soldiers for God’s work. In 1971, the schools merged as one co-ed school, the Northfield Mount Hermon School (NMH). The schools became wishy-washy evangelical and then entirely liberal. “Under subsequent administrations, the schools grew more theologically liberal and ultimately became non-denominational. Today, NMH offers diverse ways to pursue religious studies and personal spirituality” (“Northfield Mount Hermon School,” Wikipedia). “We’re a secular school that affirms religious diversity. After NHM, students move ... into the world with confidence. They are curious, inspired, motivated. They are ready” (nmhschool.org). They are ready for the world, but they are not ready to meet God.

In 2017, the Roman Catholic Thomas Aquinas College purchased 3/4th of the property formerly owned by the Moody’s Northfield School for Girls. In 2018, the Catholic school began operation on the property. On March 6, 2022, the old Sage Chapel of Moody’s era was renamed Our Mother of Perpetual Help Chapel. To consecrate the building as a Catholic chapel, Bishop William Byrne conducted a 2.5 hour mass. He sprinkled the building’s walls with holy water, anointed the chapel’s 17 crucifixes with oil, incensed the altar, lit candles, and set up an image of Mary. The ceremony featured a processional in which the bishop and priests carried the relics of St. Thomas Aquinas and St. John Henry Newman for installation in the altars (“Chapel rededicated,” Greenfield Recorder, Mar. 7, 2022).

Changes to the building include two mass altars, confessional booths, and Stations of the Cross...

❑ **SWISS GOVERNMENT FORCEFULLY REMOVES AND TRANSITIONS CHILD** - The following is excerpted from “Swiss Parents,” Standing for Freedom, Oct. 1, 2024:

“Parents across the West must recognize that the left has declared cultural and spiritual war on the family and that they no longer have a choice but to engage in the battle--for what’s at stake is nothing short of the physical well-being of their children and the sanctity of the parent-child bond. Switzerland’s Federal Supreme Court has temporarily suspended criminal charges against a couple who refused to turn over their daughter’s identity documents after she was removed from their home for refusing to transition her. The girl’s father has called it a ‘nightmare’ as he and his wife have had their daughter ‘taken’ away from them by the state. According to the parents, who for the safety of their family remain anonymous, the issue began during the COVID lockdowns when their daughter was 13 years old and spending much of her time alone in her room and on the Internet. Coming out of the pandemic, she informed her parents that she was a boy.

... In a meeting government officials told the parents that they had committed child abuse by seeking alternative treatment and to ‘just accept that you have a son.’ The transgender activist organization told the girl that the psychiatrist her parents had chosen was a ‘transphobe,’ and she immediately stopped treatment. In April 2023, a court order removed the girl from the parents’ home and placed her in government custody. The girl is now in a government home and the state regulates contact between her and her parents.

... Sadly, this story is playing out in countries around the West, including in the United States. In a case that is hauntingly similar to that of the Swiss parents, a Maryland couple, military veterans no less, have filed suit against a Washington, D.C., hospital after the hospital effectively kidnapped their autistic son when they refused to allow him to be transitioned by hospital staff. They have since lost custody of their son.”

❑ **COLLEGES REFUSE TO ALLOW WOMEN’S TEAMS TO PLAY AGAINST “TRANSGENDER”** - The following is excerpted from “Unscientific American,” PowerLineBlog, Oct. 6, 2024:

“[I]t has cheered me in recent days to note that three colleges [Boise State, Southern Utah, and the University of Wyoming] have now refused to allow their women’s volleyball teams to play against San Jose State (choosing to forfeit instead), which has a transgender male playing for the team.

Some background: Blaire Fleming is an outside and right-side hitter for San Jose State University who’s made headlines in recent days after another San Jose player, Brooke Slusser, joined a lawsuit to sue the NCAA over Fleming’s inclusion on the Division I team. Slusser alleges in the lawsuit that Fleming is a male, and that Fleming’s inclusion on the women’s volleyball team poses an unfair advantage and safety hazards. ‘Brooke estimates that Fleming’s spikes were traveling upward of 80 mph, which was faster than she had ever seen a woman hit a volleyball,’ says Slusser’s addition to the lawsuit complaint, proposed this week in the U.S. District Court for Northern Georgia. ‘The girls were

doing everything they could to dodge Fleming’s spikes but still could not fully protect themselves.’”

❑ **TEACHER WINS LAWSUIT AGAINST SCHOOL THAT FIRED HIM OVER REFUSAL TO USE TRANSEXUAL “PRONOUNS”** - The following is excerpted from “VA school district settles lawsuit with teacher over pronouns,” American Family News, Oct. 7, 2024:

“A public school district has been ordered to pay more than a half-million dollars to a terminated high school teacher to settle his 2019 lawsuit over transgender pronouns and compelled speech. West Point Public Schools, located in East Virginia, agreed to pay fired teacher Peter Vlaming \$575,000 in damages and attorneys’ fees. Vlaming, who taught French, was terminated in a 5-0 school board vote ... The student, a female who said she was male, was accommodated by the school but not by Vlaming, who cited his conscience and his Christian faith, and refused. Vlaming agreed to call the student by his new male name, but he refused to use ‘he’ to refer to what he knew is a biological female.

... The settlement was announced by Alliance Defending Freedom, the religious liberty law firm that has represented Vlaming since he filed a federal lawsuit. After the teacher sued, the school district appeared to win its case after a circuit court judge dismissed the lawsuit. ADF appealed the case to the Supreme Court of Virginia, which overruled the lower court and ordered the lawsuit to proceed. In the state high court’s ruling, it agreed Vlaming had been terminated because the school district compelled him to do something that violated his religious beliefs. Caleb Dalton, senior counsel at ADF, says the case is not only about free speech but also about being compelled to knowingly lie.”

❑ **FEMALE ASSOCIATE MINISTER SAYS THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS LIKE A PRIDE FEST AND A DRAG QUEEN READING TO CHILDREN** - Emily Bowen-Marler, Associate Minister at Brentwood Christian Church in Springfield, Missouri said in a recent sermon that the Kingdom of God is like a pride fest, like a drag queen reading stories to children.

*“And how could these parables teach them that maybe they don’t have to be so afraid? **The kingdom of God is like pride fest filled with people singing and dancing and explosion of color and laughter and love, acceptance and affirmation, joy and celebration that painted the heart of Springfield in a spectrum of color, reminding us of God’s care for humanity and God’s promise to not destroy the beautiful people God created.***

“The empire of God is like the queer youth who challenged the confines of binary thinking and tore down the rigid parameters of masculine and feminine, diffusing the toxicity that had plagued communities of faith for generations until the spectrum of gender diversity was lived into and celebrated as far as the eye could see.

The realm of God is the bisexual woman who fell in love with the person, not because they were a man or a woman, but instead seeing their heart and their mind and their beauty that transcended gender, teaching others to love more deeply.

“The kingdom of God is like the drag queen who read delight

filled stories to children, filling the children’s minds with wonder and creativity, creating a safe place for them to explore what it means to be human and alive until all children grew up knowing they too could be loved and accepted in this world.

“The empire of God is like the trans woman athlete whose presence on the women’s team helped strengthen the bonds of trust and compassion which buoyed all of their confidence as a team, with all players feeling empowered to be their best and made them an unstoppable force in their sport.”

❑ **MILLIONS OF CHRISTIANS NOT PLANNING TO VOTE THIS NOVEMBER** - The Cultural Research Center at Arizona Christian University study found that approximately 104 million people under the “people of faith” umbrella are not expected to vote this election, including 41 million Christians and 32 million of whom regularly go to church.

Millions of Christians in the United States indicated in a study released on Monday that they are not likely to vote in the upcoming election this November, signaling a potential problem for the Republican Party. Just over half of interviewees (51%) in a Cultural Research Center at Arizona Christian University study, who identified as “people of faith,” responded that they are likely to vote in the presidential election between former President Donald Trump and Vice President Kamala Harris. The “people of faith” label is given to those who identify with a recognized religion, such as Christianity, Judaism, Mormonism or Islam.

The study found that approximately 104 million people under the “people of faith” umbrella are not expected to vote this election, including 41 million born-again Christians and 32 million who regularly go to church.

“I see two huge take-aways from this blockbuster report,” Len Munsil, President of Arizona Christian University and a former Republican nominee for Arizona governor, said in a news release shared with Just The News. “First, that Christians could be the deciding factor in a bunch of federal and state races – and are choosing not to be. And second, that they are longing for their local church to instruct them on how to think biblically about policy and politics. “They don’t want to be told how to vote, but they do want to know why they should vote, and how to view political issues from a biblical framework,” he added.

The research also revealed some of the reasons that the Christians are not planning to vote in November, including a lack of interest in politics (68%), a dislike in both major party candidates (57%), and a belief that their vote will not make a difference (52%). A smaller percentage (48%) believe that the election results will be manipulated.

“The 32 million Christians who regularly attend church services but are not likely to vote represent a far larger margin than the combined number of votes that decided the 2020 election in key battleground states,” the study’s lead researcher Dr. George Barna said. “If church leaders, family members, and close friends will use their influence to get reticent voters from their churches to cast a ballot on November 5, the election outcome will be meaningfully affected.” ■