



be ye reconciled to God
2 Corinthians 5:20

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the weekly digest of ambassador**baptistchurch**

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from the pastor's heart

FINISH THE COURSE



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But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.

Acts 20:24

Paul had a call from God. At the time of his salvation, God already willed in His plan to use Paul for an important

mission unrevealed in the Old Testament: that of adding the Gentiles to the church of God. It was to be difficult to break new ground and change the mindsets of the Jews. Paul was to go through terrible hardships and persecution to get things done. He was going to be scourged, misunderstood, betrayed, whipped, beaten, imprisoned, and starved for the will of God to be done. He was

preparing himself to go to Jerusalem and the Holy Spirit had already shown him that there was imprisonment. What then made Paul determined to go to Jerusalem even though he would experience persecution?

He decided not to live by the circumstances that he

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today's program

the news

hymn | *holy, holy, holy*

opening prayer

hymn | *we have an anchor*

hymn | *i am resolved*

offertory

hymn | *press on*

exhortation | *pastor johnny*

invitation and closing

from the pastor's heart

saw around him

But none of these things move me...

When we look at the circumstances around us, we experience fear and anxiety because our sight, being based on the flesh, always leads to the wrong conclusion. When Peter saw the waves around him, he sank into the waters. When Elisha's servant saw the armies of Syria, he panicked. When the disciples of Christ saw the five loaves and two fishes, they asked what were they to so many people? Sight causes fear. Paul already decided that he would not live by the things that he saw because he knew that sight will deceive him.

He decided to consider his life and ambitions totally unimportant to him

Neither count I my life dear unto myself...

What is dearer to a man than his own life? People will do all they can to defend their lives and possessions. They will do all they can to achieve their own goals. Paul already counted his life as unimportant and nor dear to himself. When we decide that even what we want is not as important as the mission

before us, we will be determined to finish the course God sets for us.

He decided to do and to complete the will of Christ for His life

So that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.

Paul's... goal was not merely to complete the ministry but also to finish it with joy.

Paul's primary aim in life was to do the will of God and to finish it. His every motive, every effort and every moment of time was given to the achieving of Christ's will for his life and finishing it. His goal was not merely to complete the ministry but also to finish it with joy.

Our Saviour was faithful to us in completing the Father's will for Him that He might save us from eternal death. He told us to be faithful to Him to do His will in the local church and in our lives. Christians, let the love of Christ constrain us and let it cause us to complete the will of God for our lives with joy.

Let us finish the course for 2011!

*Evangelist-Pastor Johnny Tan
Ambassador Baptist Church*

thought for the week

It is not only how you start that matters: it is how you finish.

memory verse

But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.

Acts 20:24

*Sunday Worship Service
4 December 2011*

Sunday Worship Service
4 December 2011

FRIDAY CHURCH NEWS NOTES

IN LOVE WITH ROCK & ROLL



The Contemporary Christian Music crowd loves rock & roll. Period. They simply love rock & roll and there is no biblical principle or godly argument that will pry it from their ears. CCM artists listen to secular rock in their private lives; they perform it in their concerts and record it for their albums. They don't care who they offend. In fact, they seem as eager to mock and offend the "old-fashioned Christian" as I was in

my unsaved hippie-rebel days. They become so drunk on rock and so spiritually stupid that they even use secular rock in the worship of God. Consider some examples from the past few years. Granger Community Church in Granger, Indiana, featured Beatles Music as their 2007 Christmas theme. Pastor Tim Stevens said: "With *Across the Universe* currently in the theaters and the new Beatles-themed Cirque du Soleil show in Vegas called *Love*, the Beatles are as hot as ever. Using the music of the Beatles we will be telling the Christmas story all December. And we've been getting great feedback from music lovers of all generations" (<http://www.leadingsmart.com/leadingmart/2007/11/let-it-bechrist.html/>). They advertised it as "Let it Be...Christmas -- A Story Told by Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Paul, George and Ringo." NewSpring Church in Florence, South Carolina, performed "Highway to Hell" by the wicked rock band AC/DC for Easter service 2009. NewSpring performed Ozzy Osbourne's "Crazy Train" in November 2011. Northpoint Church of Springfield, Missouri, performed "Sympathy for the Devil" by the Rolling Stones for Easter service 2011, and Michael Jackson's "Thriller" in November 2011. The Church by the Glades in Miramar, Florida, performed "Calling All the Monsters" in October 2011. The theme of the song is "magic and fantasy" and the immoral dance moves were inspired by Michael Jackson's "Thriller." (For many more examples, see the book *Contemporary Christian Music: Warnings Given and Questions Answered*, available from Way of Life in print and

SOUTHWIDE BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP AND ED STETZER

In 2009, Ed Stetzer was invited to speak at the Southwide Baptist Fellowship meeting. They even sent a plane to fly him from Nevada, but because of severe weather he was forced to land in Albuquerque and missed the meeting (Stetzer, "Wednesday: Southwide Baptist Fellowship and Independent Fundamental Baptists," www.edstetzer.com). Stetzer has also spoken to the students at Trinity Baptist College in Jacksonville, Florida, via video. Stetzer, head of the Southern Baptist Convention's LifeWay research department, holds to the "in non-essentials liberty" philosophy, despises separatism, and associates with pretty much anybody and everybody. He is a bridge to the "broader church" that is filled to the brim today with ancient and end-times heresies (such as baptismal regeneration, popery, Mariolatry, sacramentalism, anti-Trinitarianism, universalism, Catholic mysticism, kingdom now dominionism, charismaticism, word-faith creation power, Fourth Dimension prayer, neo-orthodoxy, the downgrade of hell, latter rain apostolic miracle revival, theistic evolution, panentheism, the non-judgmental "Shack" god, and Christian homosexuality). As far as I know, Stetzer, as a "conservative evangelical," doesn't hold to these heresies, but he is a bridge to the broader

"evangelical church" where an individual can easily be influenced by any and all of these. (Most of these things are represented in any LifeWay Bookstore.) Consider some of Stetzer's direct associations. He is closely affiliated with Mark Driscoll, who is "culturally liberal" (e.g., ushering in the New Year through champaign dance parties), hates the doctrine of the pre-tribulation Rapture, and promotes Catholic contemplative mysticism, among other things. Stetzer is affiliated with fellow Southern Baptist Rick Warren, who in turn is closely affiliated with many New Agers and universalists (e.g., Tony Blair, Mehmet Oz, Daniel Amen, Mark Hyman, and Leonard Sweet) and promotes Catholic contemplative mysticism. Stetzer is non-critically affiliated with the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, who in



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continued: Southwide Baptist Fellowship and Ed

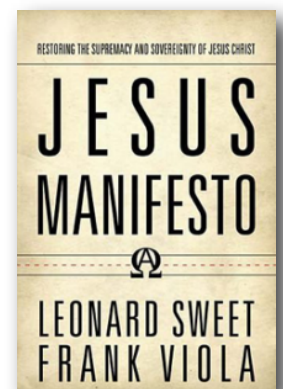
turn is affiliated with the papacy, praises the pope, and has turned thousands of “converts” over to the Catholic Church. Stetzer is also affiliated with the most liberal of emergents, who deny the infallible inspiration of Scripture, the substitutionary atonement, a literal Hell, and many other fundamentals of the faith. Though Stetzer criticizes their heresies, he does so in gentle terms and refuses to disassociate from them. For example, Stetzer participates

in Shapevine, an emerging church blog that features liberal emergents such as Brian McLaren, Tony Jones, Sally Morgenthaler, Alan Hirsch, and Leonard Sweet. Shapevine is called “a global community of collaborators”; and “conservative Southern Baptists” like Stetzer are right in the middle of this unscriptural collaboration (Romans 16:17; 2 Corinthians 6:14-18; 2 Timothy 3:5).

ED STETZER ENDORSES BOOK FILLED WITH NEO-ORTHODOX HERESY

Ed Stetzer, one of the “conservative evangelicals” being praised by wanna-be evangelicals not yet bold enough to entirely renounce fundamentalism, endorsed the 2010 *Jesus Manifesto* authored by Frank Viola and Leonard Sweet. Stetzer is head of the research department of the Southern Baptist Convention’s LifeWay company. The book he endorses, *Jesus Manifesto*, introduces its readers to a virtual who’s who of ancient and end-time heretics: Karl Barth, Thomas Aquinas, Origen, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, John Henry Newman, Sören Kierkegaard, G.K. Chesterton, Thomas à Kempis, E. Stanley Jones, Roger Schutz (founder of Taizé), the “Cappadocian Fathers,” Pope John Paul II, Pope Benedict XVI, and Reinhold Niebuhr, to mention a few. All of these are quoted favorably without a hint of warning about their rank heresies. It is not an accident that Viola and Sweet repeatedly and favorably quote Karl Barth, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, and Reinhold Niebuhr, since they hold to a heretical Neo-Orthodox view of Scripture. Consider the following excerpts, which could be multiplied: “Chapters 1 and 2 [of Genesis] were never intended to be the battleground for the Creation-versus-evolution debate” (*Jesus Manifesto*, p. 9). “The Christian religion teaches that the Bible answers virtually every question that’s brought to the sacred text. The problem with this line of thought is that the true God cannot fit into anyone’s box” (p. 130). “Truth is not a book ... or a creed ... Truth is a person. And Jesus is His name. Christianity, therefore, is not fundamentally about following a book” (p. 137). “[The Bible] speaks anew to every age. It should be read in the light of new information and fresh discoveries. It must also be understood in community, not as an individual. ... Each age draws new insights from the Scriptures based on what that age brings to it. This means that revelation is always veiled in

mystery. We bring to it our culture, our history, our gaze, and our glasses. The fundamentalist idea that the text has only one meaning is of relatively recent invention” (pp. 139, 140). Frank Viola, co-author of *Jesus Manifesto*, is the father of the so-called organic church movement which renounces the office of pastor-elder. Leonard Sweet holds New Age doctrine even though he wants to deny that he is a New Ager, for some reason. Sweet promotes a universalist-tinged doctrine that he calls New Light and “quantum spirituality” and “the Christ consciousness.” He describes it in terms of “the union of the human with the divine” which is the “center feature of all the world’s religions” (*Quantum Spirituality*, p. 235). He defines the New Light as “a structure of human becoming, a channeling of Christ energies through mindbody experience” (*Quantum Spirituality*, p. 70). He says that “New Light pastors” hold the doctrine of “embodiment of God in the very substance of creation” (p. 124). In *Carpe Mañana*, Sweet says that the earth is as much a part of the body of Christ as humans and that humanity and the earth constitutes “a cosmic body of Christ” (p. 124). Sweet says that some of the “New Light leaders” that have influenced his thinking are Matthew Fox, M. Scott Peck, Willis Harman, and Ken Wilber. These are prominent New Agers who believe in the divinity of man, as we have documented in the book *The New Age Tower of Babel*. Both Viola and Sweet have endorsed *The Shack* with its non-judgmental father-mother god. Both Viola and Sweet promote Roman Catholic contemplative mysticism and dangerous mystics such as the Catholic-Buddhist Thomas Merton. To recommend a book like *Jesus Manifesto* and writers such as Frank Viola and Leonard Sweet, it is obvious that Ed Stetzer is *not* “conservative” by any biblical definition. He is the blind leading the blind, and the ditch into which he has fallen is filled with end-time apostasy.



IS A SPIRITUAL WARNING AN ATTACK?

It seems that compromisers always misconstrue spiritual warning. They label it an attack. They call it “shooting the wounded” and “throwing stones.” They characterize it as hate-mongering. Southern Baptists Ed Stetzer and David Putman, in the book *Breaking the Missional Code* (Broadman and Holman Publishers, 2006), complain that “entire ministries exist to attack any cultural influence upon the church” (p. 183). Note the emotionally-charged term “attack.” They are referring to preachers who warn against such things as the filth of rock and roll and the immodesty of modern fashion. I would reply, first, that this statement is misguided in two ways. First, the biblicist warning ministries I am familiar with do not warn about “ANY” cultural influence, but only about those cultural influences that are worldly after a biblical definition, so this statement, in its exaggeration, is a neat little strawman. Second, a

spiritual warning that is given by a child of God and that is based on Scripture and is motivated by the glory of Christ, is not an attack; it is not destructive; it is not meanness; it is an act of obedience to God and compassion to the offender. If a bridge is out on a dark, stormy night and I stand in the middle of the road and wave my hands and shout for drivers to stop, I am not attacking those people. God’s Word commands, “And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them” (Ephesians 5:11), and, “These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority” (Titus 2:15). Obedience to these and the many similar commands in Scripture is not wrong, and all of the huffing and puffing of compromisers will never make it wrong. One of my nieces repented of her sinful ways and got right with the Lord about three years ago. When that happened, her thinking about spiritual warnings and biblical preaching changed dramatically. In her testimony she wrote: “The Lord has given me a love for holiness and a great respect for people that take the Bible seriously. The church that I once condemned for being over the top Christians that took the Bible too seriously are now number one in my book for their boldness in Christ. The same is true for my Uncle David and his wonderful family. He never seemed to stop praying for me, when in all truth in my mind he was just another one of those judgmental Christians, trying to ram the Bible down your throat. Now I hope I grow up to be just the same!” Spiritual wisdom only comes through salvation and an obedient heart that is passionate for truth.

DOCTORS KILL WRONG BABY

The wrong baby was killed in a Melbourne hospital last week when doctors tried to “terminate” one unborn twin with an alleged congenital heart defect (“Twins Die in Tragic Hospital Bungle,” *Sydney Morning Herald*, Nov. 24, 2011). Having been told by doctors that the child would require “years of operations, if he survived at all,” the mother carrying the boys had agreed to abort the “defective” one. Instead, the wrong baby was injected. This was followed by a caesarian birth to end the life of the other baby. It appears that they were bound and determined to kill that “defective” little boy. This is what a modern enlightened society does to “sick children” now that its citizens have turned their backs on the Creator God and believe in evolution. The *Sydney Morning Herald* called it “a tragic mixup,” but in reality it was a double murder and every individual that participated will answer to God, the Author of life and the one who forms babies in the womb, according to Psalm 139.



THE DAY OF ATONEMENT AND THE SUFFICIENCY OF CHRIST'S BLOOD



“On the Day of Atonement, two goats were used. The one was slain and its blood taken by the high priest beyond the veil into the Holy of Holies. There it was sprinkled upon and before the mercy seat where God sat in the Shechinah glory cloud between the figures of the cherubim. The remaining goat was then taken to the high priest, who placed both his hands upon its head. He then confessed over him ‘all the iniquities of the children of Israel, and all their transgressions in ALL their sins, putting them upon the head of the goat. ... And the goat shall bear upon him ALL their iniquities unto a land not inhabited’ (Lev. 16:21-22). Note the fourfold repetition of the word ALL, preceding iniquities, transgressions, sins. The word used for ‘iniquities’ is avon, a word that means perverseness and that comes from a root meaning ‘to be bent,’ or ‘cooked’; the word used for ‘transgressions’ is pasha, carrying the idea of revolt and rebellion and having to do with sin against lawful authority; the word used for ‘sins’ is chata, which means ‘to miss the mark,’ ‘to stumble,’ or ‘to come short,’ referring to sin in thought, word, or deed. Thus, the Day of Atonement represented a thoroughgoing, but symbolic, removal of sin. All that was foreshadowed by the Old Testament type is now fulfilled in Christ. He cleanses us from all sin” (John Phillips commentary on 1 John 1:9).

CONCLUSION:

The Friday Church News Notes is designed for use in churches and is published by Way of Life Literature’s Fundamental Baptist Information Service. Unless otherwise stated, the Notes are written by David Cloud. Of necessity we quote from a wide variety of sources, but this obviously does not imply an endorsement. We trust that our readers will not be discouraged. It is God’s will that we know the times (1 Ch. 12:32; Mat. 16:3) and that we be as wise as serpents and harmless as doves. The News Notes remind us that the hour is very late, and we need to be ready for the Lord’s coming. Are you sure that you are born again? Are you living for Christ? “And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light. Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof” (Rom. 13:11-14). This material is sent only to those who personally subscribe to the Fundamental Baptist Information Service mailing list. To SUBSCRIBE, go to <http://www.wayoflife.org/wayoflife/subscribe.html>. TO UNSUBSCRIBE OR CHANGE ADDRESSES, go to the very bottom of any email received from us and click "Manage My Subscription." Way of Life Literature, P.O. Box 610368, Port Huron, MI 48061, 866-295-4143, fbns@wayoflife.org.



in pictures

VBS DECEMBER 2011

Captain Ambassador's Christmas



Capt. Ambassador's Christmas

Saying, where is he that is born king of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.

Matthew 2:2

1-3 December 2011

Image © 2011, Timothy Lee

The Word, fun and games characterized "Captain Ambassador's Christmas" - the Vacation Bible School which ended yesterday.

Organized by the Children's Ministry, the VBS actively presented the Gospel and facts on Christmas to the children. We thank God for allowing the event to run successfully!

THE VISION AND MISSION OF AMBASSADOR

"To win the north of Singapore for Christ and a thousand souls for Christ in five years."

THEME FOR THE MONTH:

Finish the Course



FINISH THE COURSE

We have almost reached the end of another year. As we strive by the grace of God to complete those things we started, let us be like the Lord Jesus, who was not only a good starter, He was also the best finisher.

Image © 2011, Timothy Lee

ambassador**baptist**church



...be **reconciled** to GOD!
1 Corinths 5:20

the week at a glance

5 - 11 DECEMBER 2011

5 Dec	6 Dec	7 Dec	8 Dec	9 Dec	10 Dec	11 Dec
monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday	sunday
Faith Bible Institute	Out-reach Efforts	Out-reach Efforts		Rivers in a dry Place	ABC Youth	Worship Service

timings

Sunday Services

Children's Bible Hour 09:30AM
 Sunday Bible Hour 09:30AM
 Mandarin Service 03:30PM
 English Worship Service 11:00AM

Outreach Efforts

SEMBAWANG
 Person-in-Charge: Bro. Robert
 Tuesdays, 08:15PM

 YISHUN
 Person-in-Charge: *We need one.*
 Wednesdays, 08:15PM

Routine Weekly Activities

Faith Bible Institute
Mondays, 07:45PM

"Rivers in a Dry Place" - LORD'S SUPPER SERVICE
 Fridays, 08:00PM

Ambassador Youth
Saturdays, 10:30AM

For more information on our weekly activities, visit our website at www.ambassador-baptist.org

get in touch

We'd love to hear from you, be it feedback about this bulletin, requests for material, or just about any other query you may have about Christ, His Kingdom, and Ambassador. Contact us by:

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prayer list

- The new place
- The vision of Ambassador: To Win the North for Christ!
- The various ministries
- Growth of Ambassador and its members
- Youth Camp
- VBS
- Year-end evangelistic outreaches
- Watchnight

special update - ambassador's christmas program

Look out and be sure to join us for our special program this coming Christmas!

23 December 2011, 7:30PM

"O Holy Night"

24 December 2011, 4 - 6PM

Service followed by providential feast

25 December 2011, 10 - 12AM

"O Glorious Love" (single service) and Mandarin Service at regular time