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February 2024

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ANXIETY: 3 CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVES

I recently listened to several sermons on the subject of anxiety. I have heard many through the years. This is a topic I have been interested in for years due to my own experience and struggle with anxiety. What I've observed is that there are essentially 3 different perspectives on the causes and solutions (or treatment) of anxiety.

Whether these perspectives are advocated by denominations, individual churches, parents/family belief system, or individuals, there is a "camp" or "tribe" for each. There may be additional perspectives, but I will be focusing on the following three.

First is the perspective that anxiety is not and should not be part of the Christian life. Anxiety is caused by SIN

and must ceased along with confession and repentance. The primary verses used is "Be anxious for nothing ..." (Phil 4:6,7) and 1 Pet 5:7. Jesus also tells us not to be anxious or worry

“When it comes down to it, we are created in God’s image. [Gen 1:27] Then mankind sinned and broke that relationship with God.”

about today (Matt 6:25-34). Yes, there is scripture telling us not to be anxious. That is undeniable. It is the method in which we (Christians) use it that is the issue. Along with stopping the anxious thoughts and repenting of them, the follower of Jesus is told to obey the

Bible and pray for a closer relationship with Christ. They are seen as weak in faith and basically they need to "try harder". This perspective may sound "biblical" and does use scripture verses

to back it up, however, I believe that most people receiving this advice, respond negatively. Perhaps some respond positively, but I have seen and heard stories of people who were told this and simply stopped going to church or seeking out Christian support. Anxiety

already brings feelings of guilt; add to that the feeling of letting God down or feeling that you are being disobedient to the God you love and want to please. Then another layer of guilt forms when your spiritual shepherd tells you that you are weak in faith and need to "do better" at what you are already trying hard to do. This is a cold and harmful practice that is advocated by many "well-meaning" people and churches. To be clear, I believe these verses but we are commanded to treat people with love and compassion. That is what is often missing from this perspective.

Next, there are those who believe similarly but with some compassion.

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by Dan Prout**

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"The Problem of Pain"

By Paula McBride

Every once in a while, a song comes along that answers questions I don't know to ask. This happened while doing a random YouTube search for the lyrics to "Even If." I was already aware of the popular versions from Mercy Me and Kutless, but the music video from Anthony Evans blew me away. "I'm being honest/This is the hardest/The hardest song my heart will sing." Evans is working through how a good God can be present in unspeakable, incomprehensible pain.

Before I found Evans' song, the lyrics to Bethel music's "Goodness of God" had been circulating through my mind. "...All my life You have been faithful/And all my life You have been so, so good". Those words are very true for me, but it's hard to reconcile my blessing with the pain so many are going through. Don't the "God's got this" platitudes we offer our suffering friends just drive resentment deeper? Why do good people suffer?

The patriarch, Job, would be our expert witness in this case. He got his earful of platitudes from folks fully unaware of the intentions of God. Yet God knew He was choosing just the right man to walk through horrendous loss. Job never buckled under intense accusation that the problems were his



fault. Though Job didn't understand at first, he kept an eternal outlook: "Though He slay me, yet will I hope in Him;" (Job 13:15). Later, Job saw God as He really is: "I know that my redeemer lives, and that in the end He will stand on the earth," (Job 19:25). God, in His mighty wisdom, used suffering as a tool to draw Job nearer to Him, to defeat Satan, and to leave a written account that lets us know that God doesn't leave us when we hurt.

Just as God uses pain to draw us nearer, He may also use pain to correct or redirect us. One might say, 'Well, why did God let this happen? Did He let go of me?' C.S. Lewis writes, "Pain is not proof of God's neglect, but rather evidence of His merciful intervention." He stresses that God's wisdom is infinitely superior to ours and that our limited perspective often prevents us from understanding His ways.

What about the atrocities of war or a morally bankrupt society? Where is God in the middle of that? Just as we have the story of Job to reveal God's hand in individual affairs, the history of God's people was and still is a story of strife and persecution. C.S. Lewis has something to say about this, too. "God uses suffering to shape us morally and spiritually. He sees pain as the megaphone to rouse a morally deaf world."

So how do we balance our praise for our God who is faithful and oh, so good with the suffering of our friends and our world? Let's immerse ourselves in the book of Job, in the songs I've listed above, and take a look at C.S. Lewis' book, *The Problem of Pain*. As Anthony Evans sings, "Until my heart believes, I won't stop singin'/ And even if I don't get another reason/ You're still good to me."



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- ✂ **The Ambassador** is a free, monthly publication promoting unity and revival among the local Yuba-Sutter area Bible-believing churches
- ✂ **The Ambassador** has a circulation 3,700 - 5,500 and is distributed in local churches and businesses in the community.
- ✂ The purpose of **The Ambassador** is to pursue the great commission of Christ by making disciples and to encourage, inform, challenge and connect the local body of Christ.
- ✂ We believe in the inspiration and authority of the Bible as the written word of God. We believe that God exists as One, in three distinct persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- ✂ We believe that the atoning work of Christ (His death) on the cross and His resurrection is the ONLY means of salvation and the only way to Eternal Life in Heaven.
- ✂ We welcome editorial content from anyone wishing to promote the mission of **The Ambassador**. All articles and advertisement content is subject to the approval of the editor.
- ✂ Views expressed in *The Ambassador* do not necessarily reflect those of our sponsors or advertisers.

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SPIDER PLANTS

By Christy Boals
www.gracefilledpurpose.com

In a way, it is somewhat surprising that it has taken this long before I wrote about my beloved spider plants. Even though I do NOT love the arachnids from whence they derive their names, spider plants are by far my choice of plants to grow.

I have joked in the past that my love of these plants comes from their similarity to myself: they are extremely resilient; they are not high maintenance; and they have lots of babies! The real reason I love these plants though, is that they survive the harshest extremes my area's climate can dish out. I have always longed to have a "green thumb" like my mother and grandmother had. My grandma could grow anything from just a twig and my mother successfully grew some of the more delicate species of plants. It seemed to take a long time for my "black thumb" to change to green, but it finally did, thanks in large part to the tenacious spider plant.

I cannot remember where I acquired my first spider plant. It was before we moved to our house more than seventeen years ago. We moved in February, and I inadvertently left this plant outside

unattended. My children were ecstatic when we experienced a snowfall shortly afterwards. When the snow melted, I found that my poor plant had frozen to what I thought was an untimely death. As busy as I was, I left the pot to sit outside until I could repurpose it in the spring. Much to my surprise, however, when spring arrived, there were some new, green, spiky leaves poking up in the pot! By summer, the plant had fully regrown and had even multiplied with spider plant "babies" hanging over the sides of the pot. I snipped off the babies, rooted them in water, and planted them in pots of their own. These plants have continued to do well, making it through our hot, hot summers and our cold, sometimes snowy winters.

It actually took me a couple of years to discover the secret of the spider plant's strength. The time had come to repot one of the plants. When I shook the dirt off the roots, I found not the spindly little roots that I was used to in other plants, but thick, tuber-like roots capable of storing water and nutrients. No wonder my plant had survived the harsh winter that first year! Even though there was nothing showing on the surface, my plant had stored what it needed to make it through and flourish in the next season.




Maybe you have already guessed where I am heading with this story. In the Bible, we are taught several times to be "rooted" in Jesus. Most of the time when I read that, I had pictured a tree standing tall with a root system to match what I could see above ground. I think the real picture of this rooting, at least during the more difficult or harsh times in our lives, is much more like my spider plants. We may have absolutely nothing left to give in an especially

hard season, but if we are deeply rooted in Jesus, we have everything we need to flourish again. Like the spider plant, we can have a deep reserve hidden underneath. For us, this reserve comes in the form of God's word hidden in our hearts and from the comfort of the Holy Spirit within us.

The other way we as followers are like my spider plants is in our multiplication. It is a strange phenomenon, but throughout history and around the world, whenever Christians are persecuted, the Church grows exponentially. Most of my friends, if they are plant people, have received a spider plant baby from me. Just like the Church, it almost seems that the years my plants go through the harshest weather are the years they produce the most offspring. Again, God gives us deep resilience when we rely on Him. The important thing is to soak up His word during our good times just as my plants soak up nutrients for difficult times.

"Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving."
Colossians 2:6-7



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- 2-Feb **Pastors**- That God would give them strength, courage and wisdom to speak the truth from the pulpit
- 3-Feb **Pray for China, Sudan, North Korea and other nations** that God would intervene and the leadership would restore civil rights
- 4-Feb **Homeless**- Safety, health and provision- Twin Cities Rescue Mission, other local homeless ministries. Safety from summer heat
- 5-Feb **World Affairs**- Pray about international activities that point to the Last Days
- 6-Feb **Israel**- Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem-and for an end to the war against in Gaza- the destruction of Hamas and the protection of civilians as well as limited Israeli casualties
- 7-Feb **Veterans**- Pray for all those who served our country and their families to get the assistance they need
- 8-Feb **Mental Health**- Pray for the millions of people who struggle with Mental Health/ Illness issues and suicidal thoughts, that they would receive support & treatment
- 9-Feb **The Economy**- Pray for the underemployed, unemployed and struggling small businesses- Pray for financial stability and resources
- 10-Feb **Global Revival**- Pray that our global chaos would lead multitudes to repent and follow the Lord!!
- 11-Feb **Local city/county leaders**- Wisdom for leading our community
- 12-Feb **Marriages**- Pray that relationships would grow and families would seek the Lord together
- 13-Feb **Local Ministries**- Pray for continued financial support and volunteers to meet needs (see page 3)
- 14-Feb **Valentine's Day**- Singles, Single Parents, Divorced, Widowed- pray for those experiencing loneliness and overwhelming burdens
- 15-Feb **Pray that fathers** would give Godly wisdom and have a positive impact and influence on the lives of their children
- 16-Feb **Disabled**- that they would receive the assistance and support they need
- 17-Feb **Life**- Pray that abortion clinics would be shut down that people would choose life for their babies.
- 18-Feb **Human Trafficking**- Pray for the freedom, healing and restoration of survivors and for traffickers to repent
- 19-Feb **President's Day**- Pray that God would show Himself to Pres. Biden and he would radically change his life and leadership
- 20-Feb **Discipleship**- Pray that believers would seek to follow Jesus and become more like Him every day!
- 21-Feb **The Persecuted Church** around the world. Pray that believers would stand strong in the midst of brutal persecution
- 22-Feb **Pray that children of fatherless homes** as well as those in foster care would feel loved and protected by adults as well as the Lord
- 23-Feb **Restore America!** Pray against the divisiveness and violence in this nation
- 24-Feb **Addicted**- pray for those under the control of substances that they would surrender to the Lord pursue and receive the treatment they need
- 25-Feb **Race Relations**- Pray for Race relations in our nation. Pray for understanding and collaboration between races and an ease of racial tension
- 26-Feb **Pray for each of us** to be bold by the Holy Spirit to speak and act in accordance with God's Word and His Way!
- 27-Feb **Unity of Churches/Global impact**- Pray for churches to unite and influence the world!
- 28-Feb **Seniors and Elderly**- Pray for renewed physical and mental strength.
- 29-Feb **Pray for your neighbor**- for opportunities to serve them, pray with them and share the Gospel with them!

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1 Corinthians 13:4-8

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1: "ANXIETY"

The first perspective shows very little empathy and compassion but places full blame on the anxious person. At best, they will offer to pray for you but usually it is a prayer focused on restoring your relationship with God. It is assumed that this relationship is not close and that you've drifted from or rebelled against the Lord. The second perspective, is similar in that it holds to the theory that SIN is the blame for the anxiety. Much like the earlier perspective, the solution is a closer relationship with Christ, primarily through reading and obeying God's Word and spending time in prayer. The difference is that this perspective shows some concern for the sufferer. Those advocating this perspective will sit and listen compassionately to the person and will not attempt to diminish their anxiety. They will empathize to the point of agreeing that the anxiety and trials are real and cause suffering. However, in the end, the solution is the same- Prayer and Reading/Following God's Word. While this is much better than the preceding perspective, it does not take into account the reasons for the anxiety. If it is simply current circumstances, then this would make sense and trusting in God and following His Word would be appropriate.

Unfortunately, for many there are issues beyond the surface (trauma, abuse, brain injury or bio-chemistry imbalances, etc) that cause the person an inability to do what may seem simple to the untrained eye. Therefore the issues are deeper than a lack of trust in God.

Lastly, the third perspective is one that not only sees the spiritual solution to anxiety (Prayer & Bible reading along with service and obedience to God) but also realizes that Anxiety is a REAL problem for at least 25% of the population. They understand that mankind is created by God as body, soul, and spirit.

They also realize that these three aspects of mankind cannot be separated any more than the Trinity (Father, Son, & Holy Spirit) can be separated. The Soul (mind/will/emotions) affects the Body (the physical You) which affects the Spirit (our connection with God). Sin certainly MAY be the cause or a part of it (the Spirit) but it could be our thinking (the Soul) or medical/health issues (the Body). This is why all areas should be considered. An exam and possibly lab work should be on the to-do list. Talking with a therapist to sort out "cognitive distortions" in our thinking and/or behavioral changes could well prove helpful. I would not leave out



from consideration unforgiveness, prior vows made or other spiritual traps that possibly a pastor could help with.

When it comes down to it, we are created in God's image (Gen 1:27). Then mankind sinned and broke that relationship with God. Through the mercy and love of Christ, we are spiritually restored (judicially) in relationship to the Father. Unfortunately, the consequences of sin, ours and others, have created suffering for all of us. For some, it is in one area, for others another. For many, it is in the area of anxiety which along with depression and other mental health issues (OCD, PTSD, Schizophrenia, Bi-polar, etc) leads to a great deal of suffering. There are times

when medication can help, talking to a therapist can help, and praying with a pastor or friend can help. Yes, reading and obeying God's Word (as we are able) and speaking/listening to God in prayer is always necessary but it is not always the complete solution. The Lord has blessed us with many resources today for a variety of problems. We have mechanics to help fix our cars, surgeons to remove cancerous tumors, scientists to find cures for diseases, engineers, architects, and construction experts to build bridges, homes, and border walls. Does God's Word advise us not to use the resources that HE has given us? By the same token, does guilt or spiritual condemnation help the sufferer become more of a disciple?

In summary, the Word of God teaches us to be compassionate to all particularly the suffering. This is why we have ministries to serve the needs of the hurting whether it be the homeless, the sick, the financially struggling or the outcasts of society. We are taught to "do good to all especially the household of faith" (Gal 6:10). Furthermore, we are blessed with skilled experts in many fields, and we may use these resources that are not in direct opposition to God's

CONTINUE ON PAGE 14

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• One Change Makes a Difference •

Sheri Mueller

If there were one thing you could change that would make your marriage richer and more connected daily, what might it be?

Usually, when speaking with someone, the conversation quickly shifts to numerous ideas on how to change their spouse. There is an amazing transition that occurs between dating and marriage. A personal quirk that once was the cutest thing ever in our spouse now becomes the greatest irritant. We take out a microscope to examine over and over again every word, behavior, and nuance in tone and facial expression that rubs us raw.

One of the more frequently chosen Bible verses read at weddings is 1 Corinthians 13:7 — let's examine this a little closer:

Love bears all things [regardless of what comes], believes all things [looking for the best in each one], hopes all things [remaining steadfast during difficult times], endures all things [without weakening]. — (AMP)

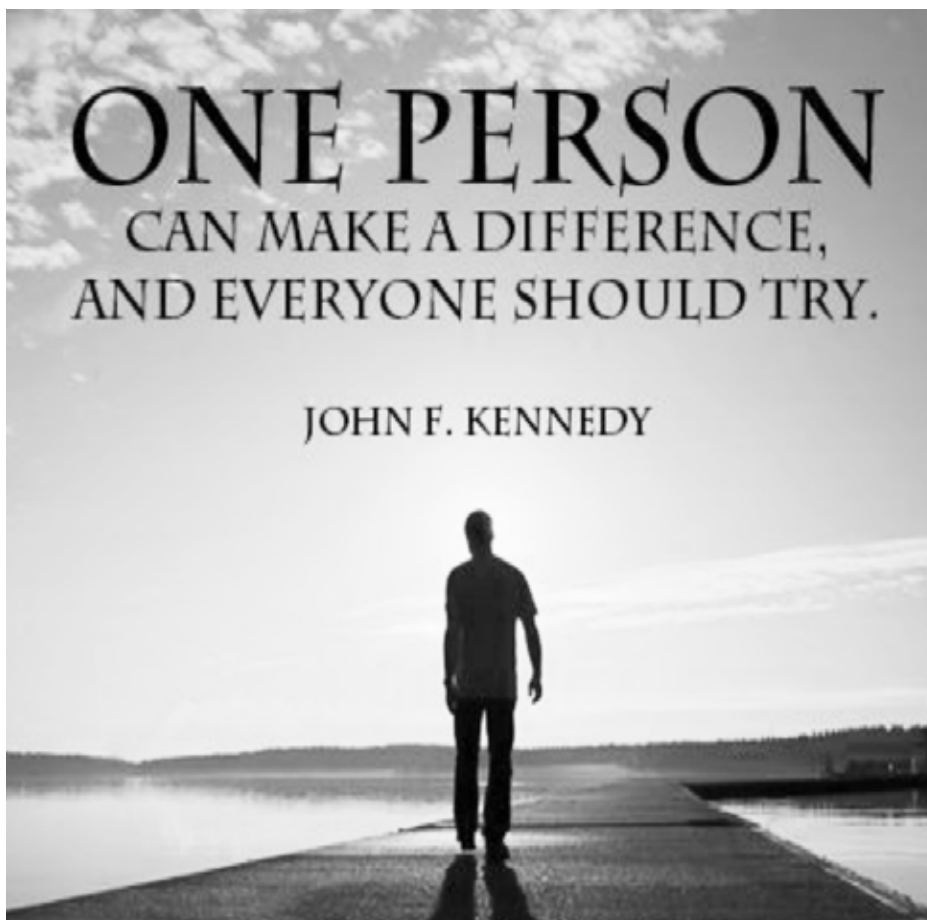
Love Believes The Best

As you begin navigating life together, it's not unusual to have small moments of tension and the beginnings of quirkiness awareness even on a honeymoon. Anyone can believe the best of their spouse on a wedding day, but will you choose the same mindset a week from now or twenty years from now?

Key concepts to reflect on are:

You cannot know your spouse's intentions, feelings, thoughts, or what they will say ahead of time — that's called mind reading.

Your spouse cannot know all your needs and wants without you openly communicating them — that's an



unrealistic expectation.

You'll improve communication skills together by asking an inquiring question first — before making an assumption. Love Believes the Best in Scripture focuses not on our spouse's behaviors and mindset, but on our own. Assumptions often lean toward the negative, build resentments, and question the intentions of our spouse.

- Are we looking for their good attributes?
- Their God-given gifts and talents?
- The small things they do without us noticing?
- Have you considered that your attitude isn't always operating at its best 100% of the time?
- Assumptions Disconnect Us Emotionally

Let's take a look at a few assumption scenarios that might be a part of your daily experience together.

- I knew exactly what you were going to say.
You always do that.
- You never remember what's important.
- I think you're going to choose this option.
- You must not have enough faith.
- I could have guessed that need without you saying a word.
- I believe you feel I'm not going to take care of this task this week.
- You should know my wants and needs. I shouldn't have to tell you.
- I know what you're thinking.

The examples above are some of the more common assumptions, and I'm sure we could add many more. You'll notice a common theme with

assumptions — they lean toward a negative rather than positive mindset and lack empathy or any provisions for grace.

We have to challenge assumptions because they are not based on facts, but on how we think or feel. In order to shift toward a Love Believes the Best mindset, it's important to clarify, listen, and repair small disagreements. Love is a verb... an action item... a choice. We have to get curious with our partner and insert moments of grace, so we are not derailed by resentments that erode opportunities for connection.

A few considerations:

- Tell me how you feel about this.
- I'd love to hear your thought and opinions.
- Sometimes, we all forget something.
- I forgive you.
- I'd like to hear about your concerns... please tell me more.
- I can see why that discourages you... hurts you...excites you.
- What can I do today that will help you feel more loved?
- Is there a different way I can support you?

Over time, assumptions can derail connection and we begin to look at our spouses through the lens of this is my enemy rather than my friend. This becomes exceedingly dangerous territory and only creates division emotionally, physically, and spiritually. Consider shifting your internal dialogue to, "The pattern of assuming the worst about my spouse, and viewing them as an enemy, is what I need to fight against and pray about."

One step toward Love Believes the Best will make a difference in your marriage.

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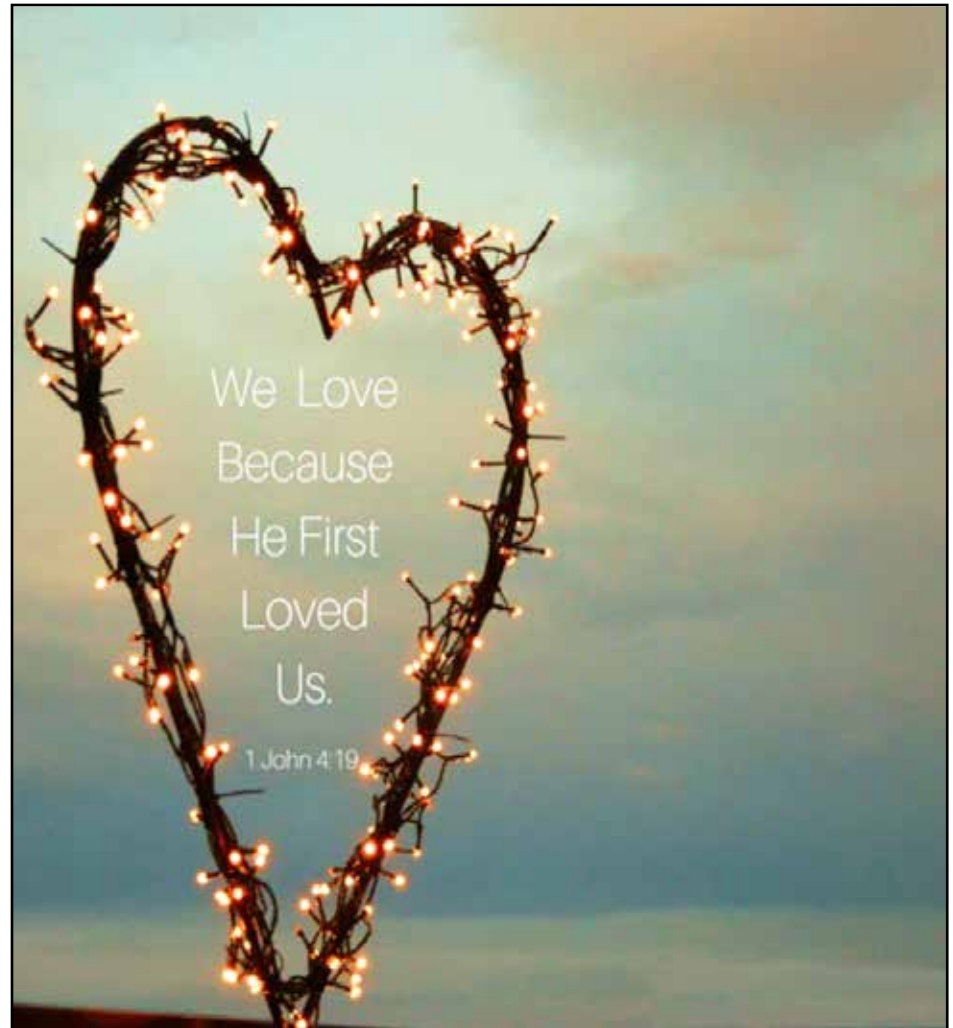
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February CCN Weekly Schedule:

2/6 Cal Cornils
2/13 Aaron Walrath
2/20 TBA
2/27 Prayer

*Schedule subject to change

We hope you can join us!
For weekly updated detail emails, send an email to info@ysccn.org

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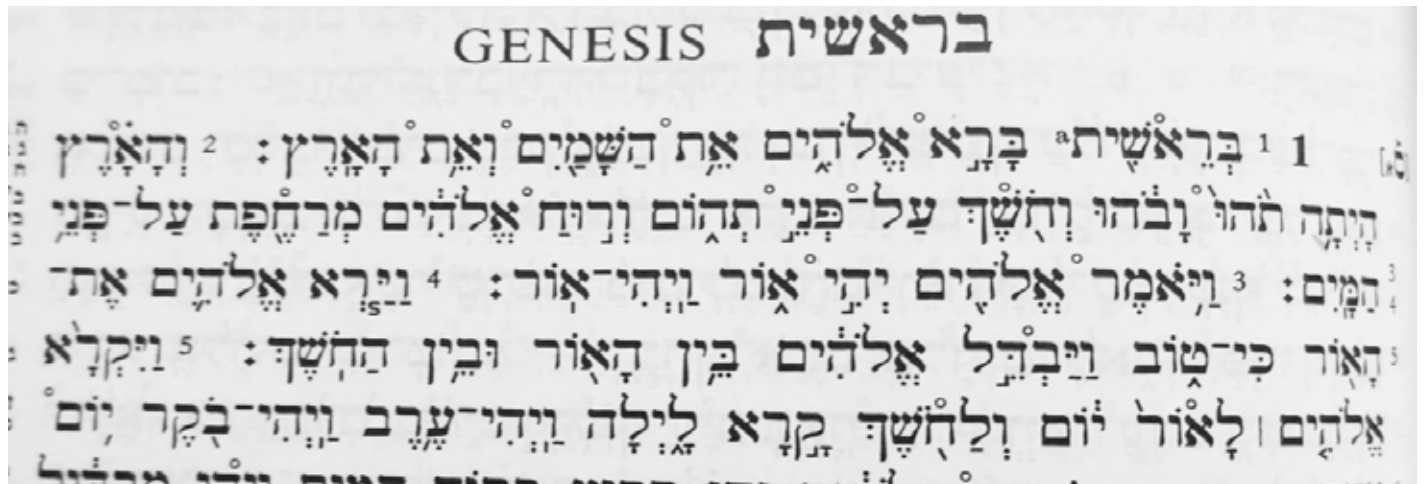
· God's Original Language ·

What language did God use originally to speak with Adam and Eve? With Noah? With Abraham? With Moses?

There are over 7100 languages spoken in the world today.* Language communication universally separates human beings from the rest of the Animal Kingdom.

Linguists, those who study Language, trace all languages back to "root" or "trunk" languages from which the multiplicity of others arise. The root languages are one or two original source languages. There is some disagreement, however, as to which language emerged first. General consensus says Sumerian, Akkadian, and Egyptian are the oldest. These are identified as the oldest because surviving pictures or symbols can be associated as a "written form".

But surely spoken language pre-dates any form of writing. After all, each of us learned to speak our first language long before we could write. Further, of the eight billion people in the world today, about one-fourth speak languages which they do not know how to write. (While some languages have as little as 1000 speakers or fewer,



half the world today operates with just 23 languages.)

According to the biblical account, all humanity arises from Noah and his wife and their three sons and their wives. What language Noah spoke is unknown but we can surmise it was Sumerian or Akkadian since the best estimate is that Noah and family lived in Mesopotamia between the Euphrates and Tigris rivers where it is believed human society first developed, post-Flood.

One of Noah's three sons was Shem who is ancestor to Abraham and from whom the term "Semitic" arises. Generations later, Abraham lives in Ur of the Chaldees (Genesis 11) which was located in the Mesopotamian area

now known as Iraq. Chaldeans spoke a language very similar to Aramaic. The Old Testament books of Daniel and Ezra contain mostly Aramaic which is closely related to early Hebrew. The New Testament contains some words in Aramaic, some spoken by Jesus.

So, when were the words of God first written and who did it? The Bible testifies God himself wrote the Ten Commandments on rock for Moses. What language did God use? It can be argued that it was a form of Hebrew or Aramaic. No one can be sure.

I am sure of one thing about the language of the Ten Commandments. God used a language that Moses and the people could understand! God is

an initiator and a communicator. He wants us to know his thoughts, his precepts, his wisdom and guidance. This characteristic sets God of the Bible apart from most other religious systems.

Today, God's word is available to us in our language and in hundreds of others as well. The Bible is our primary source of understanding God and ourselves. Read it with joyful enthusiasm!

Pastor Dan Prout
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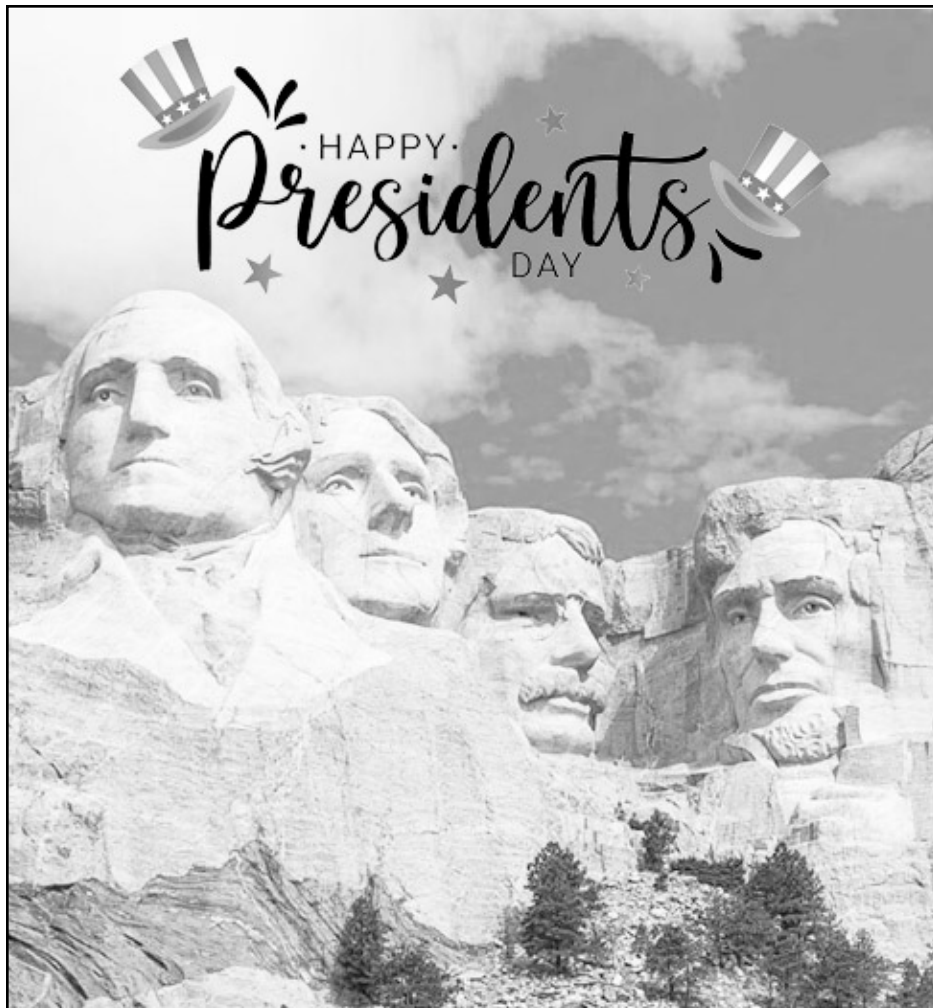
MENTAL HEALTH MINUTE

"The Brain is an Organ"

God's Word tells us that we are all broken and live in a fallen world (Rom 5:12). This is why there is sickness and pain. Suffering is one of the most talked about ideas in the Bible. For some, it shows up in physical illness or injury. There may be unceasing or recurring pain. When someone is diagnosed with cancer, for example, we rarely blame them but instead, we do what we can to help (bringing a meal, a visit, a card, etc). However, when it comes to Mental Health issues, that is often not the case. It is important to remember and maybe remind people that the brain is also an organ that is affected by

the fall of man and its brokenness. The brain also is responsible for so many things including the mind (thoughts, will, and emotions). It controls our mood. Trauma of any kind affects the brain. Brain scans prove it. Brain and Body Chemistry also affect these areas of the mind, will, and emotions. Those with mental health challenges not only need the support of their church, family, and friends, they deserve it as much as anyone suffering from more physical issues.

From the Facebook page "Helpful Tips for Christians Battling Depression & Anxiety" Jan 12, 2024- Seth Halpern



Finding Freedom in God's Perfect Peace

If you would like to experience the peace and transformed life that God can provide through Jesus Christ and you are willing to commit your life to the only one who can truly set you free from your sin, you can pray to the Lord right now and ask Him to forgive you of your sins. Because of what His Son, **Jesus**, did by dying on the cross, your sins will not be held against you by God anymore. You can experience freedom for the rest of your life on earth and then have a life in Heaven with God for eternity. God's part of the deal is already done. Your part is to confess your sins, repent (or change your ways) and believe that He is Lord. If your life is out of control, let Him take over control.

For help, questions, or more information, contact us at The Ambassador or any of the churches listed on page 3.



From an Ambassador Reader

△ GOD @ WORK △

I recently read the September issue of the Ambassador Newspaper. I very much enjoy this publication but I don't always read it in a timely manner - as in this instance. But when I read that you'd ask for stories of miracles and expected but did not receive many responses, I thought I ought to submit one. I hope this is not too late and that you have received many, many others because we know our God is a God of miracles!

Many years ago my infant brother was diagnosed with a brain tumor. At that time, the surgery was incredibly difficult, painful and dangerous. My mother asked for special prayer for him. When they went in for the surgery, in order to prepare to cut open his skull, they had to do a scan to pinpoint the location. They tried several times to locate the exact location of the tumor but they could not because the Lord had healed him, totally removed the tumor and with very few and short-lived lingering effects, he has been tumor free for more than 50 years!

I know this is not the only miracle about which I've been aware, but it was the first one of which I was aware and has always seemed like a huge, incredible miracle.

Treva Wilson

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8: "ANXIETY"

Word (ie, when Saul sought advice from the witch of Endor 1 Sam 28). We still rely on the Lord, His Word and His Holy Spirit, while employing all good things in our midst. For more on this topic, see the Mental Health Minute- "The Brain is an Organ" on page 13 of this issue.

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Bible Search Word "Names of God" Part 1

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Y S R O I V A S H L A L P H A
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A B M T G D S F E A T A T O D
G O O D S H E P H E R D D T R

ALPHA
GOOD SHEPHERD
GREAT I AM
HOLY SPIRIT
KING OF KINGS

LAMB OF GOD
LIVING WATER
MESSIAH
OMEGA
SAVIOR

THE ROCK
THE VINE
YASHEWA

ANSWERS ON PAGE 17

Do You Know The Bible? "Tithing"

Place the correct word on the right line.

- Genesis 14:20
And blessed be the most high _____, which hath delivered _____ enemies into thy _____. And he gave him _____ of all.
thine tithes God hand
- Genesis 28:20-22
And _____ vowed a vow, saying, If God will be with me, and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me _____ to eat, and raiment to put on, So that I come again to my father's _____ in peace; then shall the Lord be my God: And this stone, which I have set for a _____, shall be God's home: and of all that thou shalt give me I will surely give the _____ unto thee.
house tenth bread Jacob pillar
- Exodus 23:19
The first of the _____ of thy _____ thou shalt bring into the _____ of the Lord thy God. Thou shalt not see the a _____ in his mother's _____.
milk land firstfruits house kid
- Leviticus 27:30
And all the _____ of the _____, whether of the _____ of the land, or of the fruit of the tree, is the Lord's: it is holy unto the _____.
land seed Lord tithe
- Numbers 18:26
Thus speak unto the _____, and say unto them, When ye take of the children of _____ the tithes which I have given you from them for your _____, then ye shall offer up an heave offering of it for the Lord, even a tenth part of the _____.
tithe Levites Israel inheritance
- Deuteronomy 14:22-23
Thou shalt truly _____ all the increase of thy seed, that the field bringeth forth _____ by year. And thou shalt eat before the Lord thy God, in the place which he shall choose to place his _____ there, the tithe of thy _____, of thy wine, and of thine oil, and the _____ of thy herds and of thy _____; that thou mayest learn to fear the Lord thy God always.
year tithe flocks firstlings corn name
- Deuteronomy 14:28
At the end of _____ thou shalt bring forth all the tithe of thine _____ the same _____, and shalt lay it up within thy _____.
increase three years gates year
- Deuteronomy 26:12
When thou hast made an end of _____ all the tithes of thine increase the third year, which is the year of tithing, and hast given it unto the _____, the _____, the _____, and the _____, that they may eat within thy gates, and be filled.
widow stranger fatherless Levite tithing
- 2 Chronicles 31:5
And as soon as the _____ came abroad, the children of _____ brought in abundance the firstfruits of corn, _____, and oil, and honey, and of all the increase of the field; and the _____ of all things brought they in _____.
abundantly tithe commandment Israel wine

ANSWERS ON PAGE 17



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LIFE MATTERS presented by Yuba-Sutter Right To Life

After Years of 40 Days For Life Vigils, One of The Busiest Abortion Facilities In Texas Has Gone Out Of Business.

By Ramona Trevino - 40 Days for Life Outreach Director and Former Planned Parenthood Manager

Founded by infamous late-term abortionist Curtis Boyd shortly after the Roe v. Wade decision, Southwestern Women's Surgery Center in Dallas, Texas, had long stood for death, darkness, and despair.

"In a typical year...the clinic performed approximately 9,000 medication and procedural abortions," Dr. Allison Gilbert declared in a 2021 court filing. "I personally performed between 2,000 and 3,000 abortions at Southwestern over the last year."¹

Sidewalk counselor Paul Borchard's eyewitness testimony corroborated the industrial-scale loss of life at the facility.

The longtime McKinney, Texas, 40 Days for Life leader also went to Dallas several times a week to reach out to abortion-minded women in front of Southwestern. Paul tracked the number of abortions taking place at the facility each day as he sidewalk counseled. According to Paul, the number of women seeking services at Southwestern increased in 2015 following the closure of two other Dallas-area abortion facilities. It was then that Paul witnessed the shocking increase of up to 100 clients entering the abortion center per day, with approximately one-third of those seeking an abortion.

"Some of those in our office...were in complete disbelief," Paul recalled.

"They told me my numbers had to be off—that I must be miscounting somehow. I wish they were right—it's not easy seeing those kinds of numbers, even on paper."

Unfortunately, Paul's numbers were right. However, it became clear that



every minute he spent on the sidewalk was worthwhile when news broke that Dallas' largest volume abortion center would be shuttered. Southwestern Women's Surgery Center was added to the growing list of abortion facility closures throughout the country—all thanks to the power of prayer, the overturning of Roe v. Wade, and Texas' pro-life legislation.

Now, new tenants occupy Boyd's former abortion center. Not only do they provide real health care services, but the new business also has a most fitting name: Faith Ambulatory Surgery Center. It was faith, after all, that made all this possible in the first place.

Earlier this year, I had the great privilege of joining more than 100 other pro-lifers at the old abortion facility to continue praying for an end to abortion, to mourn the loss of thousands of babies, and to praise God for another great victory. There I stood as a former Planned Parenthood director, redeemed by God's love and mercy, alongside faithful pro-lifers who once upon a time prayed me out of the abortion

industry. "Bittersweet" was the word used by many to express their sentiment as we all stood on the very property that was once off-limits to everyone in attendance.

After sharing some brief words of my own, I could not help but marvel at God's goodness. Looking around at all the faces who had dedicated so many years of their lives to the most important cause of our lifetime, I became filled with emotion. I was among those choking back tears of joy, tears of sorrow, and tears of gratitude.

For over a decade, Southwestern Women's Surgery Center had been the site of numerous 40 Days for Life prayer vigils, many of which were held 24 hours a day. One vigil in particular set a participation record with a documented 6,000 volunteers praying, fasting, and publicly witnessing in defense of human life. That was certainly a year to remember!

Susan Platt, who led 40 Days for Life vigils in front of Southwestern for more than a decade, gave a moving speech at the closing celebration, thanking

everyone for their contributions toward filling vigil hours throughout the years. She shared her gratitude for everyone's faithfulness, sacrifices, and peaceful, prayerful witness on the sidewalk.

"I'm honored to know so many wonderful people who took the time to pray at Southwestern, to let the abortion-minded women and men know we can and will help them, and to let the workers know they aren't hated but are deeply loved," she shared. "We so desire for them to seek God's mercy."

When asked how she felt during the closing celebration and memorial service for the many tens of thousands of lives lost at Southwestern, Susan emotionally replied, "The day of the closing memorial prayer service was bittersweet for me. Babies being saved, but dear Lord, how many lost? And how many moms and dads in need of healing?"

Susan could not be more right. While many lives will be spared because of Southwestern's closure, we know killing continues elsewhere. More women, men, and families will be broken, and more lives will be lost. Gathered one last time at 8816 Greenville Avenue, we all were well aware that a significant battle had been won, but the war was far from over.

Come join the war

And sign up for The Spring 40 Days for Life Campaign at Planned Parenthood 430 North Palora, Yuba City, begins February 14, 2024. Monday through Friday 8am to 5pm

You can go to www.40daysforlife.com/yubacity to sign up or call Maureen Guth at 530-713-8570. We need your support. The moms and babies need your support.

(Previously published in The Ambassador's Feb 2008 issue)

What NOT to Give Your Sweetheart for Valentine's Day...

A box of chocolates, clumsily rearranged in an attempt to hide the fact you ate all the caramel ones.

Lingerie that you think will look almost as good on her as on the Victoria's Secret model.

Any clothing item with the words "push-up" or "slim-down" on the label.

Any food item with the words "diet", "light", or "high fiber" on the label.

Any video starring Sylvester Stallone, Jim Carrey, or Jenna Jameson.

Flowers from a hospital's gift shop--or worse, a mortuary's.

Poetry, no matter how heartfelt, that starts out "There was once a girl from Nantucket..."

Anything you ever gave another woman, including your mother.

Any household appliance, power tool or other item from Home Depot.

A gift certificate to Sportsman's Warehouse

Cash.

Anything you could have bought at the gas station mini-mart on the way over, even if you didn't.

An apologetic look and the words "That was today?"

God Loves
YOU!

John 3:16

Continued from Page 15 Bible Word Search Answers



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15: "DO YOU KNOW YOUR BIBLE" ANSWERS

- Genesis 14:20
And blessed be the most high GOD, which hath delivered THINE enemies into thy HAND. And he gave him TITHES of all.
- Genesis 28:20-22
And JACOB vowed a vow, saying, If God will be with me, and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me BREAD to eat, and raiment to put on, So that I come again to my father's HOUSE in peace; then shall the Lord be my God: And this stone, which I have set for a PILLAR, shall be God's home: and of all that thou shalt give me I will surely give the TENTH unto thee.
- Exodus 23:19
The first of the FIRSTFRUITS of thy LAND thou shalt bring into the HOUSE of the Lord thy God. Thou shalt not seethe a KID in his mother's MILK.
- Leviticus 27:30
And all the TITHE of the LAND, whether of the SEED of the land, or of the fruit of the tree, is the Lord's: it is holy unto the LORD.
- Numbers 18:26
Thus speak unto the LEVITES, and say unto them, When ye take of the children of ISRAEL the tithes which I have given you from them for your INHERITANCE, then ye shall offer up an heave offering of it for the Lord, even a tenth part of the TITHE.
- Deuteronomy 14:22-23
Thou shalt truly TITHE all the increase of thy seed, that the field bringeth forth YEAR by year. And thou shalt eat before the Lord thy God, in the place which he shall choose to place his NAME there, the tithe of thy CORN, of thy wine, and of thine oil, and the FIRSTLINGS of thy herds and of thy FLOCKS; that thou mayest learn to fear the Lord thy God always.
- Deuteronomy 14:28
At the end of THREE YEARS thou shalt bring forth all the tithe of thine INCREASE the same YEAR, and shalt lay it up within thy GATES.
- Deuteronomy 26:12
When thou hast made an end of TITHING all the tithes of thine increase the third year, which is the year of tithing, and hast given it unto the LEVITE, the STRANGER, the FATHERLESS, and the WIDOW, that they may eat within thy gates, and be filled.
- 2 Chronicles 31:5
And as soon as the COMMANDMENT came abroad, the children of ISRAEL brought in abundance the firstfruits of corn, WINE, and oil, and honey, and of all the increase of the field; and the TITHE of all things brought they in ABUNDANTLY.




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WHO DO YOU FEAR?

By Jon Skillman

The Bible speaks of both the fear of the Lord and the fear of man. As social beings we desire to be accepted, included, be liked...you know, able to join the club. So, out of fear of being rejected, we will go to great lengths to win man's favor, even to the point of abandoning our own integrity. This is one way we might fear man. *"For am I now seeking the approval of man, or God? Or am I trying to please man? If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ."* Galatians 1:10.

Then there is the fear of man which comes from the fact that we harbor evil in our hearts. We cheat, we steal, we even maim and kill each other...so why in the world would we not fear our fellow man? But the Bible tells us not to fear man, *"The fear of man lays a snare, but whoever trusts in the Lord is safe."* Proverbs 29:25. Hebrews 13:6 tells us, *"So we can confidently say, 'The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?'"*

These are hard concepts to grasp until we become a child of God and

are transformed by the renewing of our mind. This is when we can see and understand the difference between the world and His Kingdom. This is when we realize the importance of the eternal over those that are temporal...this is when our focus on fear is changed from terror to spiritual intellect. *"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge."* Proverbs 1:7. *"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom..."* Psalm 111:10. This is when we, as Christians, realize our fear of the LORD is really, Reverence and Awe of Who He is.

Now here is the crux of the matter of who we should fear. *"I tell you, my friend, do not fear those who kill the body, and after that have nothing more that they can do. But I will warn you who to fear: fear Him who, after He has killed, has authority to cast into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear Him."* Luke 12:4-5.

This means, if you are an unbeliever, you should fear man and be terrified of God. If you are a believer, you should fear no one and be in reverent awe of our gracious God.

"The Lord is my light and my Salvation - Whom Shall I Fear?"

The Lord is the Stronghold of my Life - of Whom Shall I Be Afraid?"

Psalm 27:1

The Ambassador accepts opinions and editorials (op-ed's) as long as they are well-written and less than 450 words. Op-ed's will be published purely at the discretion of the editor. If you would like to submit your op-ed, please email it (written in MS Word) to editor@ambassadornewspaper.com.

The deadline for submission is the 15th of the month for the next issue.

HAZBIN HOTEL – A RANT

Sometimes when I write an article on a TV show I make the mistake of saying something positive about it only to realize that later on in the series it goes a different, darker way that I would not promote. No fear of that for me this time. It's starts off terrible and I can't possibly see how it could redeem itself.

I'm referring to a new adult animated series on Amazon Prime Video called "Hazbin Hotel". Most "adult" animated series say that they don't cater to kids, but c'mon, really? Does anyone remember candy "cigarettes"? Pretty much all animated shows cater to kids, even if the producers and promoters say otherwise. Animation is inherently fast motion, colorful, and heavy in visual and audible stimulation. Nah, kids wouldn't be interested in that any more than they would sugar.

Getting back to this new & unimproved show. Here is the description according to Amazon:

"Hazbin Hotel follows Charlie, the princess of Hell, as she pursues her seemingly impossible goal of rehabilitating demons to peacefully reduce overpopulation in her kingdom. After a yearly extermination imposed by angels, she opens a hotel in the hopes that patrons will be "checking out" into Heaven. While most of Hell mocks her goal, her devoted partner Vaggie, and their first test subject, adult film-star Angel Dust, stick by her side. When a powerful entity known as the "Radio Demon" reaches out to assist Charlie in her endeavors, her crazy dream is given a chance to



Seth Halpern - Editor

become reality."

Oh, what fun!! I don't know if I need to add anything to this. "Princess of Hell" "rehabilitating demons". Who came up with this? Maybe a better question is "who approved this??" How much blasphemy is there in just the description. We don't need dig deeper for implied anti-God sentiments as we might do with Disney. This is blatant! The mockery doesn't need to be in the show (which it is), but in the creators and executives. Do they think that this is what people need or want to see. I know this is not the first corrupt, anti-biblical media given air time, but this one really irked me and I hope it does you too. I know that I could just "turn the channel" and not watch it, and I don't expect my frustration with this to change the culture, I just think that it's time these media executives in their high rise corner offices need to know how out of touch they are with a larger segment of the population. They need to know that they will be judged for the powerful negative influence they have over the masses.

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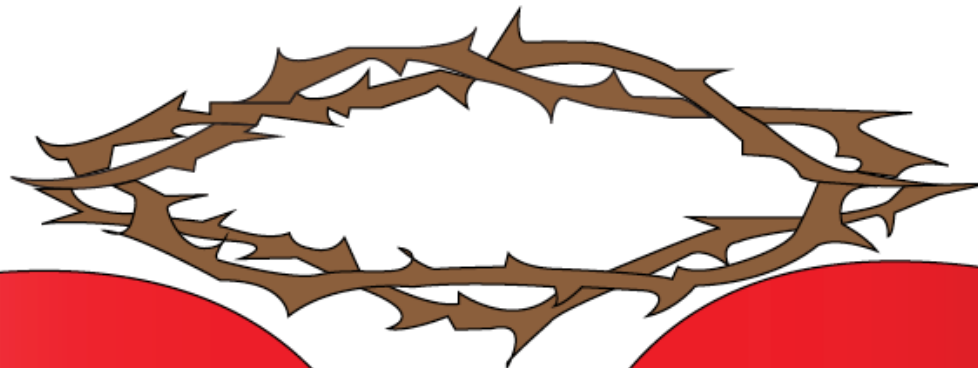
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For God so lo**V**ed the world,
That He g**A**ve
His on**L**y
Begott**E**n
So**N**
Tha**T** whosoever
Believeth **I**n Him
Should **N**ot perish,
But have **E**verlasting life.



JOHN 3:16