

THE WAY OF HOLINESS

*A Christian Women's Newsletter encouraging women to be strengthened through Holiness to face these Times
Isa. 35:8, 9*

Edited by Pastor Robert Hammond

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A Ministry of Long Hill Baptist Church

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LHBaptist.com

All Scripture from the Authorized King James Version

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Dear Sisters in Christ, "We Wish You a Merry Christmas."



God's Long Silence and the Birth of Jesus by Jacqueline Thorpe

Why was God silent for 400 years before the birth of Jesus? What was God doing during that time?

"But when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth his son, made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem them that were under the law,"
(Gal. 4:4, 5)

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The Book of Malachi closes out the Old Testament with a promise spoken through the prophet Malachi, that God would send Elijah to Israel before the day of the Lord. God did not speak to His people through a prophet again for 400 years! Where was He? What was He doing? Had He forsaken His people?

These years are referred to as the Intertestamental Period of history which denotes the span of time between the Old and New Testaments. During this time God is considered to have been "silent." No longer did He speak to men to write new revelation from Him, nor did He send prophets to Israel. No longer did

He send messengers to warn or exhort His people. He had said all He had to say. His people refused to listen and now God was letting them do what was "right in their own eyes." However, this is not to say that God was silent in the lives of individuals during that time.

What God was doing during the 400 years between Malachi (*about 432-424 B.C.*) and the birth of Jesus, was letting man do all that he could do in his own strength, until he failed desperately. Then God would divinely intervene and send a savior. God's pattern of this can be traced throughout the Old Testament as well as individual lives.

(Continued on page 2)

God's Long Silence and the Birth of Jesus, Continued



When the antediluvian world became desperately wicked, God sent Noah to speak for Him and to be a savior at just the right time.

The famine in the land of Jacob became a desperate situation for his family, yet all the while God was preparing Joseph as their savior who would come forward with help at just the right time.

When Egyptian oppression became desperately hard for the Israelites to bear, though they still hadn't learned their lesson, God sent Moses to be their leader. We see this pattern emerging in many such examples throughout the Bible.

So in the first century, at the end of the 400 years of silence, we see that God is finalizing His centuries of preparation for Jesus to step in as Savior of a Jewish people who's religious practices had gone so far astray they were hardly recognizable as having been laid down by God through Moses. We have the testimony of Christ himself that the religion that was practiced was a far cry from the doctrines of Moses, (Mark 7:8, 9). Jesus minced no words when rebuking the Pharisees and religious leaders of the time for leading the people into an apostate Judaism.

Looking back on the 400 years, we can see that God was setting the stage for the coming Messiah. God was allowing mankind to become desperate in his chosen sins and the Israelites to be punished by other nations. This long silence was part of God's eternal plan. This was His time to forge history in accordance with what He had already prophesied especially as spoken of in the Book of Daniel. Daniel foretold the rise and fall of each empire that would dominate Israel as well as the time of the coming of their savior, (Daniel 9:24-27). Each dominant culture that arose had a lasting effect on the eroding of Judaism.

"Paul speaks of history in just such a way in Galatians 4:4 when he writes about God sending forth His Son in the fullness of the time. Paul's statement in its surrounding context indicates that the time for the birth of the Messiah was not chosen haphazardly, but was the result of preparation on the part of the Lord. While the Lord could have sent the Messiah at any time of His choosing and with little or no preparation, a study of the history of the world and of the Jewish people in the centuries preceding the

the birth of the Messiah reveals the providential hand of God guiding the world and preparing His covenant people for the Messiah's birth. Paul says as much in his sermon to the philosophers on Mars' Hill in Athens (Acts 17:22-31) where he describes history as leading up to the momentous events of the Incarnation, Crucifixion and Resurrection, and Final Judgment." [http://](http://www.zionbaptistchurchtaylor.com/pastorspage/intertestamental_period_prep_christianity.pdf)

www.zionbaptistchurchtaylor.com/pastorspage/intertestamental_period_prep_christianity.pdf

God is so in control! Only an omniscient, omnipresent, all powerful, loving God could so orchestrate history right down to the smallest detail and with perfect fulfillment of prophecy,

After years of not speaking His Words to Israel through a prophet, He was ready to speak His greatest and most powerful Word through His Son, who is the Word, (John 1:1).

Though only a few outstanding events are covered, in the articles that follow, it is hoped that they will shine light on the various aspects of God's unre-



lenting preparation of the world and mankind for the birth and ministry of His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ to be man's Savior. This is the message of Christmas.

May this focus on the Intertestamental Period in history give us a greater appreciation of God's involvement with mankind, nationally and individually, wherein when man becomes frustrated enough and has exhausted his resources, is heavily into sin and feels he has no way out, God will divinely intervene and provide a savior. This is also the pattern He will follow at His Second Coming. Israel will be in the most desperate situation of all of history and Jesus will appear at Armageddon to save His people from their enemies and their sins.

Source: MacDonald, William. *Believer's Bible Commentary*. Edited by Art Farstad. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1995. "The Intertestamental Period." []



Shining a Light on God's Silent 400 Years of Preparation for the Birth of Jesus *The Intertestamental Period, 400 B.C.—A.D. 40*

“ We have also a more sure word of prophecy where unto ye do well that ye may take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your heart,” (II Peter 1: 19).

Prophecy Fulfilled God was active in world history during this time, causing major political and military events to occur as he had predicted in the Book of Daniel in order to bring about His divine plan. (See Daniel chapters 2,7,8,11). The prophet Daniel lived and wrote during the earlier Babylonian period and into the beginning of the Persian period. Daniel chapter 2 and chapter 7 contain vivid predictions of the four great empires that would rule Israel—Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome—predictions which were fulfilled during the Intertestamental Period.

Daniel’s dream revealed that God would turn over the Babylonian empire to the Meds and Persians. This occurred 400-334 B.C.

Next it was revealed to Daniel that eventually the Persian empire would fall to the Greeks, which it did. (334-63 B.C.) (Including the Egyptian, Syrian and Maccabean Periods)

The Grecian empire, it was told, would fall to the Roman and it did. (63 B.C.– A.D. 5) During these 400 years, each of these empires and their leaders had a significant impact on Judaism, each rendering it more and more apostate.

<http://www.ministryserver.com/dsmtxt/nttext02.htm>

During the cruel years of Babylonian and Persian domination, as well as during the Greek and Roman eras, many Jews were dispersed to various regions of the world. Generations later this necessitated the apostles to be called to go into all the world and spread the gospel, that the Jew might hear it first and then the gentile, (Romans 1:16).

A Common Language Established for the New Testament

When the Greek empire came on the scene it was ruled by Alexander the Great. (Continued above)

Through his conquests, he hoped to make the entire world Greek, i.e., Hellenized. He dreamed of a one world government. Everyone was required to learn Greek which was used first in commerce and later became the common language of all nationalities. Through the conquests of Alexander, the Greek language was spread – providing a common language into which the New Testament would be inscripturated.

Infrastructure for Spreading the Gospel Established Two centuries before the birth of Christ, God used the Greeks to provide globally for a way for Jews to understand that He would send their Messiah and how to identify Him.

Eventually Rome conquered Greece but Hellenization continued. Roads were built which would eventually aid in travel to spread the gospel. Under Rome, nations were not at war with each other, which also contributed to the spread of the gospel for travel was not restricted. Jesus would be born under the reign of Augustus, who, so to speak, fused together into one monarchy the many populations of the earth. Now the existence of many kingdoms would have been a hindrance to the spread of the doctrine of Jesus throughout the entire world.” livestransforming.com.

The Synagogues The ground work for the ministry of Jesus was being laid. During this era, synagogues came into their own as places of worship, education, mediation, settling disputes and social interaction. These would be necessary for a setting for Jesus’ teaching. God was creating an optimal environment for the expansion and fulfillment of the Great Commission before Jesus was even born.

The Pharisees The Pharisees are mentioned nowhere in the Old Testament. The Pharisees, Sadducees and Sanhedrin came into power during this “Silent Period.” Their addition of Oral Law to Moses Law totally distorted Judaism. This brought on them the wrath of Jesus. .[]

Note: This article mentions only a few of the many Divine happenings of the Intertestamental Period.

The Pharisees Arise During the Intertestamental Period - by J. Thorpe

Jesus was sent "To redeem them that were under the law," (Gal 4:5).

"It is often assumed by many people that the Jewish people in the First century (and before) were following Moses, and following him strictly. Nothing could be further from the truth. They had drifted far from Moses and had adopted teachings that Moses would not have recognized. Jesus accused them thus: "For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men as the washing of pots and cups: and many other such like things as ye do. And he said unto them, Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own traditions," (Mark 7:8,9). <http://www.askelm.com/doctrine/d020601.htm>

How Judaism Began to Differ from Moses

"With the advent of Alexander the Great a new type of civilization entered Palestine. He imposed on the Middle East the Greek language, Greek society, Greek customs, and most importantly, he attempted to blend together all religions in the world under his influence into a single religion which used Greek nomenclatures and theological opinions as its basis. This concept of "one worldism" (known as Hellenism) began to penetrate into the consciousness of most people of the Middle East. And though at first the Jews resisted its influence, with the death of the High Priest Simon (called the Just) in about 280 B.C. came the end of what we might call "the Old Testament form of religion" came into view."

"Jewish tradition knows of no religious teacher who taught any form of religion from the death of Simon the Just to about 190 B.C. In fact, Lauterbach (a Jewish scholar) simply states that there was no official activity of religious teachers in those years. In other words, for a period of about 80 years, during the time of Egyptian rule, there is no record of any religious activity among the Jews." <http://www.askelm.com/doctrine/d020601.htm> By Ernest L. Martin Ph.D., 1986. Transcribed and Edited by David Sielaff, June 2002

In the absence of scriptural guidance, new customs, ideas, and religious practices became attached to the The Law. "The division of Judaism into four sects occurred during the Intertestamental Period. (Cont. above)

The Pharisees, Sadducees, Zealots, and Essenes all originated during Maccabean times and played influential roles in Jesus' ministry as portrayed in the Gospel narratives." http://www.zionbaptistchurchtaylor.com/pastorspage/intertestamental_period_prep_christianity.pdf

Eventually the Zealots and Essences faded away. The Pharisees became the ruling religious class, while the more wealthy Sadducees became the politicians. Each sought power over the other. The Pharisees leaned toward the so-called "oral tradition" that was a large part of the Judaism at the time of Jesus and the apostles, and is still a large part of Judaism today.

"The Sadducees rejected the Pharisaic tenet of an oral Torah, and created new interpretations based on a literal understanding of verses." The two views had to be reconciled.

"Amazingly, the Sanhedrin* accomplished the task. They decided on an ingenious plan, a scheme that would inform the people that these new customs were actually old teachings of Moses that were not recorded in the Holy Scriptures when they were finally canonized by Ezra." <http://www.askelm.com/doctrine/d020601.htm> Christ said this placed on people "heavy burdens and grievous to be borne," (Matthew 23:4).

This is incredibly similar to the claims of Roman Catholicism which insist that the Oral Traditions of men are equal to the Holy Scriptures. The Jewish religious leaders "felt they had direct authority from the Almighty (being led by the Holy Spirit) to teach new laws even if contrary to the written word of YHWH." [askelem.com](http://www.askelm.com). In Catholicism, Constantine, the Popes and Cardinals since 313 A.D. have taken the same stand.

Moses sealed the Law

The Sanhedrin was condemned by Moses himself. "Read the passage below and determine for yourself if the Pharisees had authority to add to the "Law of Moses" (especially to change Moses and to deviate from the teachings of Scripture)? (Continued on page 5)

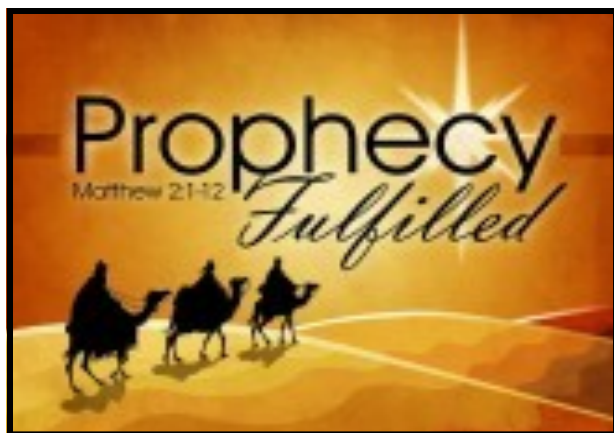
Pharisees Arise, Continued

"And it came to pass, when Moses had made an end of writing the words of this law in a book, until they were finished, that Moses commanded the Levites which bare the ark of the covenant to the Lord saying, 'Take this book of the law and put it in the side of the ark of the covenant of the Lord your God, that it may be there for a witness against thee.'" Deuteronomy 31:24-26

By the time of the arrival of Jesus, Palestine was a land that was politically and religiously turbulent. "The paradoxical realization that a tumultuous and ruthless historical and political atmosphere would usher the Prince of Peace into humanity can be difficult." <http://www.livestransforming.com/intertestamental-period/>

"The Jews were now despondent. Once again, they were conquered, oppressed, and polluted. Hope was running low; faith was even lower. They were convinced that now the only thing that could save them and their faith was the appearance of the Messiah." <http://www.gotquestions.org/intertestamental-period.html>

It was time to for God to send His Savior. The stage was now set for the first Christmas and the Silent Years were to end. []



faithclipart.com

* **Sanhedrin** (sānhēd' rīn), ancient Jewish legal and religious institution in Jerusalem that appears to have exercised the functions of a court between 63 B.C. and .A.D. 68. (The Free Dictionary Online)

Second Temple Period 515 B.C. - A.D. 170 *Third Temple Now Being Prepared - by J. Thorpe*

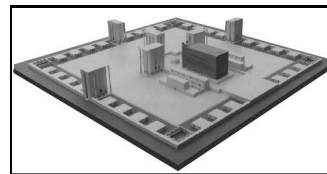


The Herodian Temple from the model of Jerusalem in the Second Temple Period. (courtesy, Israel Museum, Jerusalem) (Wikipedia)

The Intertestamental Period is also referred to as the Second Temple Period. Solomon's Temple was the first, while Ezra and Nehemiah's temple was the second (King Herod, The Great, added onto this Second Temple). The Herodian temple is the temple in which Jesus was dedicated to God by His parents. It was under Herod's son, Herod Antipater (Antipas) that Jesus was crucified. It was this temple that was destroyed in A.D. 70 by the Syrian/Roman armies.

We are now living in the days of the preparation of the Third Temple which will be standing during the Tribulation and Armageddon. It will be the Temple in which the Antichrist will sit and declare himself God.

The Third Temple is being prepared today according to the plan God gave to Ezekiel, (Ez. 40-48). This is a model of the Third Temple, yet to be built, found in a book by Paul Jablonowski, [Sons to Glory](http://sonstoglor.com/ThirdTempleEzekielsMillennialTemple.htm). <http://sonstoglor.com/ThirdTempleEzekielsMillennialTemple.htm>



Present day Jewish groups have been working for some years preparing the Temple vessels, instruments, and selecting and training those who will serve in the Temple. They are so near completion that were they to find a way to build on the Temple Mount, displacing the Islamic Temple of the Dome of the Rock, the Third Temple could be a reality six months later. In August, 2009 the alter was already being built. [john ankerberg.org Third Temple](http://johnankerberg.org/ThirdTemple)

"Temple Altar Construction Begins on Day of Destruction"

"(IsraelNN.com) The Temple Institute began work on the sacrificial altar Thursday, Tisha B'av, the day the Second Temple was destroyed almost 2,000 years ago.

The Temple Institute has already built several of the Temple vessels such as the Ark and the menorah, and has now embarked on an ambitious project to build the altar, which will ultimately measure 3 meters wide by 3 meters long and 2 meters tall.

The Institute plans on bringing the altar to its proper place on the Temple Mount when the Temple is rebuilt."



In all this, we see that God, in His infinite power and wisdom, may be setting the stage for the Second Coming of Jesus as He did Jesus' First Coming on that blessed initial Christmas Day. **Ladies, let's teach our children to "Look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh," (Luke 21:28). []**



Music for Christmas & Beyond



by Pastor Robert Hammond

One of my favorite parts of the Christmas season is the traditional carols that I've enjoyed singing and playing since I was young. I've never appreciated secular Christmas songs. At best, they miss the point of the holiday. And, at worst, they encourage believers to turn their attention from Christ to the secular aspects of the holiday. For me, this observation underscores the power of music in the life of a believer. And it highlights the importance of choosing to fill our lives with edifying music.

In the Bible, the use of music is almost always associated with worship. We understand that our goal in both personal and corporate worship is to please the LORD (Rev. 4:11) and to glorify Christ. The Bible does not directly define a style of worship music that is most pleasing to the LORD. That said, if our genuine desire is to please the LORD in our worship, it behooves us to search the scriptures for guidance in our approach to selecting music for the Christmas season and beyond. Below, I outline six guidelines that are based on Scripture.

1. Worship Music Should Teach Sound Doctrine

Did you know that the Bible commands us to worship in song? In his letter to the local church at Colossae, Paul implores the Colossians to "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord," (Colossians 3:16). In this verse, we see the two-fold purposes of worship music: (1) "to teach and admonish" and (2) "to sing with grace in our hearts to the Lord." Our worship music should teach sound doctrine and reflect grace in our hearts as we sing to the Lord.

The implications of Colossians 3:16 for churches are clear: (1) Our music should promote unity around sound doctrine rather than our individual preferences regarding musical style; (2) We should not use music that either
(Continued above)

teaches error or is likely to cause confusion about doctrine; (3) We should avoid music that is more likely to encourage emotion than sound doctrine; and (4) We should avoid music that encourages prideful focus on self. After all grace is the *unmerited* favor of God.

2. Worship Music Should Encourage Humility in the Presence of God

When we gather as a church for worship, we gather in the special presence of a very holy God! Indeed, in Matthew 18:20, Jesus said, "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." Let us never forget that the LORD has said, "For I am the LORD thy God, the Holy One..." (Isaiah 43:3). And let us never forget Peter's reminder that the Lord has commanded "Be ye holy; for I am holy," (1 Peter 1:16).

Our music should encourage us to come before our holy God with humble, reverent hearts. In John's vision of Heaven, he saw, "The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth forever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne ..." (Revelation 4:10-11). Clearly, our worship music should promote a spirit of humility before our holy God rather than a desire to be entertained.

3. Worship Music Must Encourage Worship in Spirit and Truth.

In John 4:23-24, Jesus said, "But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. ²⁴ God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship *him* in spirit and in truth."

Jesus is teaching that our worship must be genuine. It must be more about God than about a desire to experience emotional delight. As such, we should avoid music that emphasizes or encourages an emotional response over genuine worship. God gave us emotions. A strong emotional
(Continued on page 7)

Music for Christmas & Beyond, Continued

response to worship may indeed be of God. But certain styles of music have more potential to counterfeit genuine worship with empty emotion. For example, music that emphasizes a sensual beat tends to encourage a response that is more sensual than spiritual. As such, we should avoid the sensual beats that are typically present in rock, pop, bluegrass – and even Southern Gospel music.

4. Worship Music Must be Consistent With Our Call to Separation from the World

In 1 Peter 1:14-16, we are command to be “As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance: But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.” In 1 Peter 2:11, we’re urged to “...abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul.” And in 2 Corinthians 6:17-18, Paul commands that we be “separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing...”

The implication of our call to separation from worldliness is that our music should be different than the world’s music. It should not appeal to the flesh.

Another implication is that our music should reflect a commitment to *ecclesiological separation*, i.e. separation from unbiblical “Christian movements” (e.g. Pentecostalism, Charismatic movement). A large portion of contemporary Christian music (CCM) has originated in Pentecostal or Charismatic churches. While we care deeply for believers in those churches, we are called to separate from their doctrinal errors.

5. Worship Music Should Promote the Lord’s Desire for Decency and Orderliness in Worship

Paul commanded the local church at Corinth to “Let all things be done decently and in order,” (1 Corinthians 14:40). As such, we must avoid musical styles that tend to promote disorderliness. A church service simply isn’t a place where people should be comfortable jumping around to the beat of contemporary music!

(Continued above)

6. Worship Music Should Avoid Placing a Stumblingblock Before the Brethren

In his letter to the Romans, Paul urged, “Let us not therefore judge one another any more: but judge this rather, that no man put a stumblingblock or an occasion to fall in his brother's way,” (Romans 14:13-14).

In summary, our worship music should (1) Teach sound doctrine and reflect grace in our hearts (Col 3:16); (2) Encourage a reverent heart before the special presence of God (Mat. 18:20); (3) Encourage worship *in spirit and truth* vs. counterfeit emotionalism (John 4:24); (4) Be consistent with our call to holiness / separation from worldliness (2 Cor. 6:17); (5) Promote an atmosphere of decency and orderliness (1 Cor 14:40); and (6) Avoid placing a stumblingblock before the brethren (Romans 14:13). []

See online sources for conservative music at our web site: <http://lhbaptist.com/music-resources/>

Should We be Careful About Whose Praise Albums We Buy?

CCM (Contemporary Christian Music) Veteran Ray Boltz Announces He Is Gay in an interview with the gay publication *Washington Blade*
Posted by Joanne Brokaw, 2008 beliefnet.com

“For more than 20 years, Boltz has been a staple of the CCM industry, earning several certified gold albums, three Dove Awards and a string of 12 No. 1 hits. He’s probably best known for the songs, “Thank You,” “Watch the Lamb,” “The Anchor Holds” and “I Pledge Allegiance to the Lamb.”

“Boltz was married for 33 years, raised four kids, and was by all accounts a typical Christian music artist.. He’d been struggling for years with his feelings, to the point of clinical depression and thoughts of suicide. “

He and his wife divorced . He’s moved to Florida to start his life over. He’s dating and leading a “normal gay life. He now performs at Metropolitan Churches that have strong outreaches to the gay/lesbian/bisexual/transgender (GLBT) communities.

Ladies, perhaps we need to be wary of sharing our praise time with CCM people or any artist who is ecumenical, regardless of talent. []

Long Hill Baptist Church/ Ladies Ministry & Fellowship

The Lord has continued to bless the Ladies Fellowship meetings this year. Sisters Jackie and Dody did a terrific job hosting the October event. The theme verse for the night was Ephesians 5:20 "Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;". Sister Dody spoke about how she has been able to apply this verse to her life in good times and bad and encouraged the ladies to do the same. Jackie gave a card making demonstration as well as tips on how to create personal, purposeful cards. She challenged us to use card making as a ministry tool to encourage and reach out to others. It was also a blessing to have four first time attendees join us for this special time of fellowship. If you have never attended a Ladies Fellowship you encouraged to do so. It will be a blessing to you!

December



The next Ladies Fellowship will be Saturday, December 17 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Old Towne Restaurant, 60 Quality Street, Trumbull, Ct. Join us for a time of food, fellowship and fun!

To add to the fun, we will be having an optional Christmas Grab Bag. If you wish to participate in the grab bag simply bring a wrapped gift valued at \$10 or less. Everyone who brings a gift will receive a gift.

Also, if you are a Secret Sister, please bring your Secret Sister's Christmas gift with you. We will be revealing our secrets today.

Please arrive at the restaurant no later than 12:45.

For a sneak peek at the menu, visit oldtownrestaurant.net.

Please R.S.V.P no later than Wednesday, December 14th by adding your name to the sign-up sheet in the foyer. We look forward to seeing you!

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Services:
 Sunday School (all ages) 10:00 A.M.
 Morning Worship 11:00 A.M.
 Sunday Evening Service 6:00 P.M.
 Wednesday Bible Study 7:00 P.M.
 Saturday Evening Prayer 7:00 P.M.

The Way of Holiness is a free monthly publication of Long Hill Baptist Church. This publication is designed to encourage woman to be strengthened in their walk with Christ (Isaiah 35:8). Sign-up to receive a free e-mail subscription at:
<http://lhbaptist.com/ladies/>

Long Hill Baptist Church
 Statement of Faith can be found at
LHBaptist.com

Is Yoking Together for "Christian Unity" Acceptable to God?

It has often been said that CCM is the glue that binds together the ecumenical denominations and Catholicism which has always been a leader in ecumenism.

Excerpt from: **CONTEMPORARY CHRISTIAN MUSIC AND ROME**

Updated August 26, 2004 (first published November 28 1998) (David Cloud, Fundamental Baptist Information Service, P.O. Box 610368, Port Huron, MI 48061, 866-295-4143, fbns@wayoflife.org) -

“The broad range of participants who joined Kathy Troccoli in recording “Love One Another” demonstrates the ecumenical agenda of Contemporary Christian Music. The song witnessed Catholics, Pentecostals, Baptists, etc., yoked together to call for Christian unity. The New Testament repeatedly warns of widespread apostasy among those who claim to be Christians, yet the ecumenical movement ignores apostasy and calls for almost unqualified unity among professing Christians. While there is little doubt that God is grieved by some of the divisions among Bible-believing Christians, it is not true that the heart of God is grieved by all divisions within Christianity, because there are divisions He Himself has commanded. He has commanded that His people separate from those who follow doctrinal error.”

“ ‘Aside from its commercialism and its increasing resemblance to the world, contemporary Christian music is becoming a religious melting pot.’ ” CATHOLIC CHURCH” (*Making Musical Choices*, Bob Jones University, 1986, p. 86). []



Do You Know the Lord Jesus as Your Savior? By Pastor Bob Hammond



Why do I need a savior?

“For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God,” (Romans 3:23). “As it is written, There is none righteous, no not one,” (Romans 3:10).

Where did sin come from?

“Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin, and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned,” (Romans 5:12).

What are the consequences of sin?

“For the wages of sin is death but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord,” (Romans 5:8).

Jesus paid the price for our sins.

“But God commandeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us,” (Romans 5:8).

What do I need to do?

Turn away from your sin and place your faith in Christ for forgiveness of your sins.

“Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out...” (Acts 3:19).

“that if thou shalt confess with thy mouth, the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart God hath raised him from the dead thou shalt be saved,” (Romans 10:9).

God gave His Son

“For God so loved the world that he gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life,” (John 3:16).

Please see Pastor Bob if you would like to learn more about how you can know for certain that your sins are forgiven. []