

Christ- Centered



Biblical Training

Matthew 6:33; 1 John 2:6;  
2 Chronicles 16:9

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**OVERVIEW SUMMARY DOCUMENT  
SIGNS, CHARACTERISTICS, BELIEFS, AND  
PRACTICES OF BEING OR BECOMING  
HIGHLY MATURE IN CHRIST-LIKENESS**

(Needed for Now and in Eternity to Know and to Relate  
to Our Perfect God Toward His Fullness in His Depth-  
Breadth)

by

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**THE SIGNS, CHARACTERISTICS, BELIEFS, AND PRACTICES ●<sup>1</sup>**

*Hebrews 6:1 .... let us press on to maturity ....*

This paper presents our view of biblical signs, beliefs, practices, and characteristics that we will have (or are growing toward - not having yet arrived) at the higher skill levels of having high maturity●<sup>2</sup> in Christ-likeness. In this pursuit, we are seeking God's best for our Christian

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1. **SOURCE:** These signs, updated and greatly enhanced in this document, were taken from the end of my detailed website paper: *Keys to Becoming Mature in Christ-likeness In Godly Relationship Living*. Much discussion, understanding, and Scripture derivation and needed training topics (I have taught many in the past) to become mature are in this website document. You are invited to read this document first or next. **Many signs and characteristics were taken from others. My gift is integrating them. Send us your signs etc. and we can add them. We are a team.** What is presented is not a complete list. I update this report when I learn more. Much information and development is found in my report on God's Plan for history: *God's Plan over History for Man to Become Mature in Christ Needed to Eternally Know and Relate to Our Perfect God in His Greatness*.

2. **MATURITY:** When we use the word: "maturity" in this report, we mean to have a maximum mature "experiential" high-skill spiritual ability walk in Christ-likeness living in the same manner as He does. It is to live in head-subordinate relationships that He had with the Father with everything for life coming from God the Father as a source (nothing from us as a source.) It does not mean having the same capability as Christ does. This is not possible for He, as God, has capability that we cannot and will never have. In practice, we will only obey the Bible, directly or in application (even taking faith-action steps), as led of the Holy Spirit. ***The greater maturity we have, the more we can know and glorify God.*** When we are mature, we are living the life experientially, not just from having Bible knowledge. People must see Christ in us, not us, as we live out our lives. There are many skill levels and different degrees of maturity at each skill level. **The Bible teaches indirectly that the maturity we have at death, we will very likely have forever. (For example, in this lifetime, as believers, we have both a divine nature that cannot sin and a depraved nature that does. When we make mistakes in our development, we sin as we use our depraved natures. As we go into heaven, our depraved natures are removed from us. With only our divine natures in heaven, we cannot sin. We can only follow God with the maturity that was developed in our divine natures in this lifetime.)**

*1 John 2:6 - the one who says he abides in Him (Christ) ought himself to walk in the same manner as He (Christ) walked. John 5:19-20 - Jesus therefore answered and was saying to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, unless it is something He sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, these things the Son also does in like manner. "For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all*

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**lives, ministries, and worship services that bring maximum obedience and glory to God.**

We are calling this mature life (with all direction coming from God the Father) living in Christ-likeness. Maturity is a life that is lived in thought and action, founded on Bible doctrine led of the Holy Spirit. It is not one of having mainly knowledge. It includes a set of beliefs that we stand on and generally for most of these, for which we are willing to die. The maturity God commands that we pursue, then is becoming mature in living out the techniques experientially at maximum skill levels in response to the leading of God the Father through the Lord Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. This is becoming complete in Christ. It is a growth process. The concept, as stated, is that when people see us, they see God, because we are only living out what God is working in us. (Everything good comes from God.) Then, when He is working in all of us believers, it will be God all in all. (Other people should see a difference in us as we live this way. We are no longer living as the world lives.) **The main job of the church is to train her people, including her youth, to become greatly (maximally) mature in Christ-likeness.**●<sup>3</sup>

Many of the signs and a few doctrines that signal we have (or growing toward having) a large degree of maturity in Christ●<sup>4</sup> with needed beliefs, ministries, and practices are as follows:●<sup>5</sup>

- \* We will have an appreciation of God's infinite Greatness, including His attributes and character qualities. We will know what they are. He, being perfect, is the only one who can direct our lives.
- \* Appreciating God's infinite Greatness, then, we will search the Scriptures for all He wants for us to become (outcome) and for all the ways (procedures) to gain the specified outcome (become mature in Christ-likeness). We will record these in a computer and update our findings when we learn more. We will obey these procedures directly or in application as led by the Holy Spirit. And

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*things that He Himself is doing; and greater works than these will He show Him, that you may marvel.*

3. **DOCUMENT PURPOSE:** Because of the subject matter ( contents) of this document, it could be one of the best and most needed we could read for this time in history.

4. **PROCEDURE:** To become mature in Christ, we must as a minimum, **in excellence seeking God's best:**

(1) Appreciate God's absolute Greatness such that we search all the Scriptures for all He wants us to become and do - and then live them out - doing all of God's will. Then we become a person after God's own heart, doing all His will, which will greatly glorify God; (2) We must live in head-subordinate relationships as the Father had with the Son; (3) We must live as Christ lives with everything in thought and action coming from the Father - then when people see us, they see the Father because we, from ourselves, are doing nothing; (4) We must live by faith trusting God to fulfill His promises and activating our faith with the instructions with the promise - then we live without sin and receive revelation of the Scriptures from God; (5) We must live by sacrificial love, keeping (obeying) God's commandments - then we live holy and righteously with the result we come to know God and serve each other; (6) We must be involved in God's work of evangelism, discipleship, planting churches, building godly families, and helping the needy;(7) We must stand strong on the Christian-Faith Doctrines; (8) We need to have daily devotions with prayer and Bible reading-study; and (9) We must obey the Holy Spirit such that we obey the Scriptures with the result that we sing melody from our hearts to the Lord.

5. **CONTENTS:** We do not know them all. What follows in this report are aspects in our view we will have in our lives that represent significant maturity. Many-many aspects were taken from others. I regularly review this report so see where I may need to make improvements. We can use your comments and inputs.

we will do nothing else. We can update these as we learn more. We can help each other.

- \* We will believe the entire Bible, both Testaments (66 books) “in the original manuscripts,” are true without error and came only from God (inerrant and inspired by God) and meant for our life guidance and direction. (None of the original manuscripts came from man.) The Bible alone is God’s only ultimate authority on the earth. No person, church, religion, or other book is an ultimate authority from God. But chosen people of God (such as church elders, ministers, and Christian workers) can represent that authority and train from the Bible.

*2 Timothy 3:16-17 All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.*

- \* We will use only the Holy Bible for life’s direction and our authority for life. We will do only that found in the Bible directly or in application. We can take faith-action steps to help determine God’s will, especially in application. **We will not do what is not found in the Bible directly or in application for Christian living and ministry.** When we do, we are trusting ourselves, not God, to work all things together for good. We act as a god even though, this certainly is not our intention. This is sin. For example, we will train to maximumly mature our people in Christ with a complete curriculum. We will not mainly or only use, but elementary training. **We will choose music that allows us to sing melody from our hearts to the Lord.**
- \* We will be eternity oriented and know sound doctrine. We will know that our maturity we have at death, we most likely will have forever. This is because our sin natures will be taken from us as we enter eternity and with our divine natures remaining with us, we cannot sin (make spiritual mistakes). (Also the training environment of the world, flesh, and the devil will not be in heaven.) We need maximum maturity to relate to God in His greatness, and of course, God commands that we pursue maturity in our lifetime. The Cross of Christ was necessary so we could appreciate the greatest sacrificial love that may exist by which we are to live to become mature. **The main reason we are on earth is to gain this maturity so we can know and relate to God more toward His maximum in eternity. So gaining maturity in Christ-likeness must be the “main ministry” of the church and family heads.** This concept is discussed further later.
- \* Thus, being eternity oriented, we will help to maximally mature our people in Christ-likeness toward the maximum and do area-wide evangelism (particularly of the children) with high priority and with excellence as our main ministries. Church elders and teachers will train with a prepared complete curriculum that represents God’s Whole Counsel that helps to bring their people to maximum maturity in Christ. **We will know the skill levels to the degree we can and know the many topics that are to be known and lived out experientially that compose God’s Whole Counsel (a complete and full curriculum) in order to do adequate training to gain maximum maturity in Christ-likeness. Can you list them?** This curriculum can be updated and augmented. We can use different type training sessions such as in church services, seminars, special training classes, and self study. We will avoid going primarily to low level basic teaching.

*Hebrews 6:1 Therefore leaving the elementary teaching about the Christ, let us press on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God.*

*Colossians 1:28 And we proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, that we may present every man complete in Christ.*

*Acts 20:26-27 "Therefore I testify to you this day, that I am innocent of the blood of all men. "For I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole purpose (counsel) of God. (Comment mine.)*

- \* Essential minimum parts of God's Whole Counsel include (I have taught these many times in the adult Sunday school, home studies, and in seminars taking information from many sources): (1) glorify, honor, praise, and obey God, seeking His best - doing and obeying what comes from as a source; (2) live godly in head-subordinate relationships (especially in families) as Christ does with the Father with everything for life coming from the Father as a source; (3) live by faith in God to fulfill His promises, acting our faith with the instructions with the promises, and by sacrificial love (keeping God's commandments), serving God and others; (4) be in God's work of evangelism, discipleship, building Godly families, planting churches, and helping the needy; (5) Stand strong on the basic Christian-faith doctrines (we will have our own doctrinal statement of beliefs); and (6) have a personal devotional life of regularly reading and studying the Bible with a maximum prayer life praying about most everything that God puts on our hearts. We for our life structure will be based on biblical theology including that for our families. Thus, we will live in head-subordinate relationships patterned after the relationship of the Father with the Son. We will train our families in these relationships. This is essential.
- \* We will use the most accurate Bible translations (available) (e.g. KJB and NASB - there are several others) and avoid using (especially largely) paraphrased editions that contain much interpretation and can be in error, incomplete, and/or misleading. (Paraphrased editions are not the Bible, but contain man's interpretation (not a translation) of the Bible.) (However, paraphrased Bibles are often used in evangelism for easier reading. But we should avoid their use in our church services and in our Bible training.)
- \* We will commit to going all the way with God even if others do not. Our purpose for living is to fulfill God's (not our independent) Plan for our lives. We will follow Christ and God with great commitment and then with excellence. **We will be doing regular critical analysis to see how well we are actually doing against Scripture and make needed corrections and changes.** Christ, the Father, and their Bible (and then along with our families) will always be the center of our lives and the reason we want to live. It helps to have close friends and families who have similar beliefs where we can discuss the issues and help each other learn and understand our situations.
- \* We will believe that the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit are the one and only single and true God. They have always existed (pre-existed). None were created. They have created all things including all people. Nothing came by evolution. There is no other god. Thus, the Lord Jesus Christ has always existed (pre-existed). He was not created. Christ is the visible image of the invisible God. In heaven we will see Christ, but not God the Father because He is omnipresent. Christ is our only role model that we see. His life and teachings show us the Father.
- \* We will believe that salvation is founded only on the complete work of Christ on the Cross in His death, burial, and bodily resurrection. The Cross is efficacious - a complete work in itself. We will not (can not) add anything to it. We are saved only by faith in Christ's work with our faith activated by a prayer to God, being water baptized, or by our confession of Christ dying on the Cross to others. We are only saved by Christ's work, never by our activations (works). God draws us to Himself to be saved.
- \* We will believe that all believers (both Jews and Gentiles) are in Christ and are His Body without ethnic division and compose and are the Church. The Church is not an organization or a group

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of buildings. Christ is the only head of the Church, our head. Thus, believers (in this sense) do not go to church, but instead, the Church (as believers) assembles for worship. We live in relationship to Christ. We will (can) attend Church meetings regularly: e.g. in buildings, in the park, in vehicles, or in homes. God uses elders and deacons to help in the worship services and ministries.

- \* We will believe that Christ (and the Father) now rules the Kingdom of God (Ephesians 5:5; Colossians 1:13; Hebrews 1:8; 2 Peter 1:1) from heaven with Christ sitting on David's throne (Acts 2:29-34). The Kingdom of God rules over the entire earth in relationships of those who are Christians (John 3:3). We are to seek this kingdom and living by God's righteousness first in life. Then God from our activated faith in Him to do so will supply all our needs (not necessarily our wants). The Kingdom of God is a relationship kingdom now over the entire earth, not a physical kingdom located on earth or elsewhere.

*Matthew 6:33 "But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added to you.*

- \* We will believe that we have eternal security in Christ as Christians (We are guaranteed to be with Christ in eternity.) We can never lose our eternal-life salvation. This is because we received a new divine nature at salvation that cannot sin - it now legally represents us. We still have the depraved nature (which no longer now legally represents us) by which we still sin. But this nature even though effecting our current life does not effect our going to be with God and Christ in eternity. But by not being obedient (being disobedient) using our depraved nature, we can gain less maturity for eternity (Sanctification). And by being disobedient, we can receive divine discipline. We will make mistakes in our growth. This is sin, and we can confess it to God for forgiveness - being cleansed by Christ's blood.
- \* We will live to glorify God, not ourselves. We can only glorify Him when we give back to Him in faith-love obedience what He has given to us for direction and work - we live out what comes from Him as a source. We will know the Scriptures for doing this. God does not receive glory from us such as when we do things in our churches that did not come from Him as a source. This is because our independent actions are sin. For our church and family lives, we will do only that which is in the Bible directly or in application. We will do nothing that is not in the Bible directly or in application.

*John 17:4 "I glorified Thee on the earth, having accomplished the work which Thou hast given Me to do.*

*John 5:41 "I do not receive glory from men;*

- \* We will have a regular hunger to know the Bible to lead us in a close walk with God and will read and feast upon it regularly, hopefully daily. We will have a deep and personal devotional life with God as we walk in relationship to Him and do daily devotions reading our Bibles every day and have much prayer. He and Christ with the Bible are the centers of our lives and our family's lives. We will live by and obey the leading of the Holy Spirit to obey God's Word in all of life. We will study the Bible and use Bible helps for faster learning, but check out all things in the Bible to confirm their truth. We will read the works of others for more insights, checking all things with the Bible to confirm their truths.
- \* We will have a regular, strong, and unceasing prayer life. We should pray for needed things for life, our families, the ministry, and for the salvation and needs of others. We have not because we ask not. Whatever we ask believing we shall receive.

*Matthew 21:22 - "And all things you ask in prayer, believing, you shall receive."*

*1 John 5:14 - And this is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.*

*1 John 3:22 -and whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do the things that are pleasing in His sight.*

*1 John 1:9 - If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

*1 Thessalonians 5:17 pray without ceasing;*

- \* We will have been disciplined by the Lord for our spiritual growth.

*Hebrews 12:5 - and you have forgotten the exhortation which is addressed to you as sons, "My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, Nor faint when you are reprov'd by Him;*

*Hebrews 12:7-8 - It is for discipline that you endure; God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom his father does not discipline? But if you are without discipline, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate children and not sons.*

- \* We very importantly will let and trust God to work all things together for our good. Thus, to activate our faith in Him to work all things together for good, from our love of Him, we will keep (obey) His commandments and from His purpose for us help to accomplish His will and work. (This means we know the commandments.) This requires us to die to self rule. We will take up our cross daily (die to self rule) and follow Christ under His rule. Dying to self-rule is of utmost importance if we want the best of God and for Him to work His intended best in our lives. (Working all things together ourselves, acting like a god, was the great sin of Satan and is now causing our churches to fall away.)

*Romans 8:28 And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.*

- \* We will be humble and die to self rule - and live under God's rule. We realize that most of our problems and sin come when we do not die to self and be humble before the Lord, and then, we attempt to work all things together for our own good by ourselves using our own ideas, instead of only the Bible's (God's). We believe wrongly that we can. When we do, we act as head, instead of trusting God to be head, we actually, as stated, act as god over our lives and churches. We must believe that only God is capable to work all things together for our good.

*James 4:10 Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you.*

*Philippians 3:21 who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.*

- \* We will have an overall comprehension of Bible teachings, doctrines, and Christian-life principles so we will not be swayed by people leading us in wrong or inadequate directions, causing us to live the wrong way or inadequately, and to believe wrong or inadequate doctrines, such as in false religions with false (no) salvation and worship. We will choose the best methods and biblical music to bring maximum worship to God - this will allow us to worship and praise Him, singing melody from our hearts, even going to our knees in worship. We will not be persuaded to use wrong - non

biblical - music.

*Ephesians 5:18-20 .... be filled with the Spirit; Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;*

- \* We will have our own (self generated or adopted) written doctrinal statement from and with Scriptures upon which contains our foundational biblical beliefs upon which we stand. (See my doctrinal statements (short and detailed) on my web site for my beliefs.) We can update our statements as needed.
- \* We will have an intimate fellowship and unity walk with God and with each other. We will be aiming at holy and righteous living as defined only by the Bible. We will seek unity and fellowship with all others, especially in our churches and families, as far as it depends upon us.
- \* We, in our church, will work **to have unity in all things**, including in that of music in our Sunday Schools and Church services.

*Philippians 2:2 make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose.*

*Ephesians 4:3; 13 (3) Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. (13) Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:*

- \* We will live by priority. It will be God first in personal life, then God in the family, then life support of the family - job, then personal assigned ministry, and then church. (Ministry to our personal (and church) families must have priority over all other ministries, unless there are emergencies.)

**We will have a higher priority to mature our own people over gaining numbers, even though we will do both.** The Bible teaches that our greatest priority is to mature our own people, not work for numbers.

*1 Timothy 5:8 - But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith, and is worse than an unbeliever.*

- \* Husbands and wives should love and support each other and work for unity in all things.

*1 Peter 3:1,7 In the same way, you wives, be submissive to your own husbands so that even if any of them are disobedient to the word, they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives, You husbands likewise, live with your wives in an understanding way, as with a weaker vessel, since she is a woman; and grant her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.*

*Ephesians 5:22, 25, 28 (22) Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord; (25) Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her; (28) So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself;*

- \* We as Church leadership will not train just (or only) with Bible content (knowledge). But instead, and very importantly, will use the Bible to train people to live the Christian life (experientially walking with God) in worship, godly living, God's work, to stand strong on basic doctrine, and have

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personal devotions. We will be life, ministry, and worship oriented - living out the life - not just have knowledge. Leadership will train with the what to's and the how to's with biblical examples and personal testimony - how they lived out the teachings. They will place their people in several forms of on-the-job training such as in families, in ministry, and in their jobs. People only become mature when they "live out" the teachings, not just know them. In other words, we should be Discipleship Training centered to train people to have an experiential walk with God, gaining maturity on-the-job, and not just gaining mostly Bible knowledge (doctrine and content) oriented, even though we must know it.

- \* We should train our young people to accomplish ministry. Most, adults and young people, will never leave God once they see God working in them experientially and using them in the ministry especially to lead a person (particularly a child) to become a Christian.
- \* We, as stated, will train with God's Whole Counsel in its depth-breadth with excellence and commitment - 80% of our time to at least the gung ho and the very faithful. Then we will not be guilty of the people's blood. We will not dumb down our main training for the sake of new people. However, we will provide extra basic training for them and encourage them to take the more advanced training. We will especially train our children and youth with a version of God's Whole Counsel. Most of our training (high percentage of our time) will be with the gung ho and the very faithful to bring them maximum maturity in Christ. If we do not do this, our church life and ministry will plateau. We will become transformed, or maintained to be, an immature Church.
- \* We will be persons after God's whole heart, seeking to do all His will. We will search out God's and Christ's will from the Bible. Regardless of the past, we will be seeking to make the future the best we can have. We will walk humbly before the Lord, giving Him first place in all things.

*2 Chronicles 16:9 "For the eyes of the Lord move to and fro throughout the earth that He may strongly support those whose heart is completely His. ...."*

*Acts 13:22 ".... 'I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after My heart, who will do all My will.'*

*Philippians 3:13 Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead,*

- \* We, personally, will be involved in one or more ministries somewhere in evangelism (especially the children), discipleship (gaining maximum maturity), planting new churches, building godly families, and reaching out to and helping the needy. We, as Church and family leadership, will train with God's Whole Counsel (a complete curriculum) and Purpose. We will know the topics involved in the training. We will train to do area-wide evangelism, not just do some evangelism. We will train to help people to grow to maturity, not just work for some Christian growth. We will be outcome oriented (knowing the characteristics of a maximally mature person in Christ) and know the procedures to gain the required outcome. Thus, we will train to gain an outcome, not just implement a procedure.
- \* We will do regular self critical analysis to determine how well we are actually maturing our people and are doing adequate effective evangelism. Are our people in ministry and are we having regular water baptisms of new converts from the community?
- \* We will work to do much evangelism in the community. We will emphasize evangelizing the children and the youth in "a high priority" ministry. (85% of those coming to Christ do so in the age

range 4-14. Most of our adult ministers will come from this group such as Billy Graham, Dobson, and Henrietta Mears.) We will use a variety of methods such as having (establishing) tens of after-school Bible clubs, many 5-day clubs, special one time outreaches, VBS, responding to divine appointments especially out in the community, and establishing crusades.

- \* We will regularly experience having the fruit of the Holy Spirit and Christ's vine as we obey Christ through the Holy Spirit's leading. We will have this fruit as we live our lives and do ministries. God produces the fruit in us by the Holy Spirit as we obey Him (faith obedience). When we do, we are filled with the Holy Spirit. We will have much fruit (results) in the ministry.

*Galatians 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.*

*John 15:5 "I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me, and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing.*

- \* We will walk by strong faith believing God is maintaining our salvation (being true). We will trust God to fulfill His promises to help guide our lives and ministries and bring the results. We will learn and memorize the promises and carry out their instructions to activate our faith. God will do things according to His promises. We must trust Him to do so and activate our faith by obeying the instructions with the promises. Walking by faith must be a key ingredient in our lives.

*Romans 1:17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "But the righteous man shall live by faith." Romans 14:23 .....whatever is not from faith is sin.*

*Hebrews 11:6 And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.*

*2 Peter 1:4 For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, in order that by them you might become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust.*

- \* **This is key.** We will recognize by faith when God is leading us (revelation) for changes, corrections, and additions to our lives (including for spiritual growth) and for ministry that needs to be done. When we are in the community, we need to walk by faith for whom to witness the Gospel. We will step out in faith in life and in ministry not knowing what will happen in advance, trusting God to reveal things to us and to open doors for life and ministry. We will trust God to take care of us in all things. Many Bible people lived by faith to obey God not knowing how things would turn out in advance (Hebrews 11). I call this taking faith-action steps. We will also by faith obey God's commands not knowing everything in advance, especially to help other people.

- \* We will walk by sacrificial love, serving others sacrificially, according to the Bible's ways. We will obey and love God with our total beings demonstrated by keeping His commandments. Thus, we will know what they are. We will not let the details of life overtake us.

*John 14:21 "He who has My commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves Me; and he who loves Me shall be loved by My Father, and I will love him, and will disclose Myself to him."*

*John 15:10 "If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father's commandments, and abide in His love.*

*John 15:12-13 "This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you.*

*"Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends.*

- \* We will have and live out the principles of love in 1 Corinthians 13:1-8.

*1 Corinthians 13:4-8 Love is patient, love is kind, and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails; but if there are gifts of prophecy, they will be done away; if there are tongues, they will cease; if there is knowledge, it will be done away.*

- \* We will be involved with other Christians for fellowship, worship services, training, ministry, mutual support, and accountability. This can be in the ministry and especially in small groups.
- \* We will remain faithful to God and to Christ throughout our lifetimes, worshiping them, living godly, and helping to accomplish their work. We will endure to the end. We will stand strong in prison without falling away under the persecution and martyrdom.
- \* We will not have (will try to avoid having) mental (fantasies) or physical immorality (and adultery) or be pursuing it.
- \* We will have and live by the spiritual requirements required for elders and deacons. We will live by the beatitudes. We will know what they are.
- \* We will stay in unity fellowship with all others as far as it depends upon us. We will work to restore any lost fellowships, marriages, without writing people off. We will work to restore others to fellowship and help rehabilitate others from sinful conditions. We will attempt to never continue, as far as it depends upon us, in disagreement with others (in disunity) including that of music structure - we want to be in fellowship with unity. (However, if they choose to continue to sin, we have another type problem.)
- \* We will be supportive to our church elders and leaders in the areas of their leadership. But our true and ultimate head for all of life is God, Christ, and the Bible with its doctrine - not the elders, any Church leader, or any Church. Only the Bible is our written and ultimate authority and what it teaches. Others can represent it, but they cannot act in place of it or have anything that supercedes it or adds to it.
- \* We will not be addicted to drink alcohol. Limited drinking is not sin, but it does not generally provide a good example to others that might become addicted - particularly the youth. We can allow others and ourselves to drink a little wine for our stomach's sake as the Bible teaches. But we should not be addicted to it or become drunk or high. Some red wines especially including pomegranate wine, used in limited amounts, are actually very good for the health. (Our Lord changed water to wine.)
- \* We will never support same sex marriages, bigamy, and abortion. We will not support children's rights allowing them to operate apart from (independent of) their parents. Doing so is great sin.
- \* We will not be double minded. We will work to serve only God and accomplish His will, but not (or also) the desires of the flesh, however strong. This is a growth situation.
- \* We will work out what God and Christ are working in us.

*Galatians 2:20 "I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me, and delivered Himself up for me.*

*Philippians 2:12-13 So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.*

- \* Dwell on the best things of God.

*Philippians 4:8 Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, let your mind dwell on these things.*

- \* Some key thoughts (taken from Watchman Nee): (1) We will be more concerned about what we are becoming than what we are doing; (2) We must give up working for Christ, but instead to work out what Christ is working in us; (3) We must be humble before the Lord (no pride) in order to be used greatly by the Lord; (4) Understanding truth does not come from preaching, but from an enlightenment from God; (5) We must not only determine not to sin, but very importantly to live by God's righteousness; (6) We will do what God wants, not what we want, when we appreciate God's infinite and absolute Greatness; (7) We must think in terms of eternity and in the Greatness of God; (8) Attainment in Christianity is union with God with a complete loss of self; (9) One should do what is in the Bible, not what the Bible does not talk about; (10) Having a testimony before the Lord defeats Satan, not just teaching and having knowledge; (11) To follow the Spirit is to walk contrary to the flesh. Not following the Spirit is walking by the flesh; and (12) Those who follow the Lord must be brought to the place of having no confidence in the flesh.
- \* We will choose music in our fellowship groups and in our church services with in-depth training that is honoring to God, bringing Him maximum worship, and not taken from the world. We will choose music, especially the hymns and like music, that causes us to sing "melody" from our hearts, spirits, and souls unto the Lord (as the Bible requires), **taking us to our knees.**●<sup>6</sup> This music ministers to the spiritual side of man. **Choosing music that allows us to sing melody from our hearts to the Lord is God's requirement.** God's requirements for worship and music from the Scriptures are as follows (we should use what comes from Him, not from ourselves to have God's best and bring Him maximum glory - doing the latter we sin):

*Philippians 2:9-10 - Therefore also God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, **that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those who are in heaven, and on earth, and under the earth,***

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**6. AWESOME AND GREAT SPIRITUAL SINGING:** I attended a CEF international conference where there were 1100 people from 87 different nations attending. "**ALL**" the people were in the ministry, "**ALL**" the people were Christians and "highly committed" to Christ, and "**ALL**" the people had led tens of kids to Christ. When they sang the great hymn: *To God be the Glory*, it was absolutely awesome. They were singing from their hearts, souls, and spirits unto the God they love and serve. The tears ran down my face. Such great worship is not possible under rock music. They had this great and wonderful worship because God had used them greatly in the ministry. They saw His greatness at work when He brought salvation to people, especially to the children.

*John 4:24 "God is spirit, and those who worship Him "must" worship in spirit and truth." (Emphasis is mine.) (The meaning of "must" in the Greek is: "it is necessary.") (Truth is only what is in the Bible.)*

*Ephesians 5:18-19 - .... but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord;●<sup>7</sup>*

*Psalms 98:5 Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre; With the lyre and the sound of melody. Isaiah 51:3 Indeed, the Lord will comfort Zion; .... And her wilderness He will make like Eden, And her desert like the garden of the Lord; Joy and gladness will be found in her, Thanksgiving and sound of a melody.*

*Colossians 3:16 - Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.*

*Matthew 26:30 - (At the Lord's supper in the Gospel period) And after singing a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.*

**The above Scriptures indicate the type music that God wants for us to use.** Thus, in worship, when filled with the Holy Spirit, we will be on our knees singing melody to the God we love and serve (and will not be jumping around to rock satanic music, satisfying self for the experience and entertainment.) We will sing the great hymns (and like music - even Gospel and black people's spiritual music - and in application even fun and exciting music with drums under control with rhythm, but with melody) of the faith from the heart that describe God's Greatness and Glory. We can choose music in variety that has dominate melody. (E.g. We will sing: *How Great Thou Art, To God Be the Glory, and The Lord's Prayer.*) These hymns express our great worship to the Lord, we love and serve, and tell of His Greatness. In our worship services, we want to bring great and maximum worship to God from our hearts in spirit and in truth. This will be especially true in our experience if God has used us in ministry to lead children to Christ where we could see God at work.

- \* It is interesting to note that trained professional musicians tell us that good music must have the melody dominate, then the harmony, and the rhythm last and under control.●<sup>8</sup> The above Scriptures teach that when we are filled with the Holy Spirit, we sing melody unto the Lord from our hearts. Having and using drums etc is not wrong in our church services as long as they are played properly (allowing melody to be dominate), but not in loud dominate rock beat. Rhythm brings fun, life, and dynamics to the music - such as a full orchestra does. With this music we can sing from our hearts to the Lord. (In dominance and or in balance, the melody reaches our spirit and heart, the harmony our souls and mind, and the rhythm our bodies and sensuality. Sacred music is for the Lord, not for our entertainment as is rock music.)●<sup>9</sup>

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7. **HYMNS:** We realize that the hymns of the Bible and those of today have some differences. But they both require us to sing melody to the Lord from our hearts - never rock and role.

8. **REFERENCE:** *Music in the Balance* by Dr. Warlock and Dr. Woetze;

9. **BUILDING INTELLIGENCE:** Playing and listening regularly to classical music that has the melody  
(continued...)

- \* It is interesting to note that there are no drums or guitars in the Bible. Instruments used include the lyre, tambourine, lute, stringed instruments such as the harp, cymbals, and trumpets. The cymbals and trumpet are often played loud, but there is no evidence of a repeated or syncopated beat. The trumpet sounded to give warning or direction to Israel. There was occasional live music in the Old Testament that caused David to dance before the Lord, but no rock music.

*2 Samuel 6:16 .....Michal the daughter of Saul looked out of the window and saw King David leaping and dancing before the Lord; and she despised him in her heart.*

- \* **Those mature in the Lord, in my view, will sing melody unto the Lord in worship of Him as the Bible requires, and not use rock music●<sup>10</sup> - which is not in the Bible. (See Appendix One re rock music.) They can use hymns and like music that has the melody dominate. Drums are okay if they are controlled.●<sup>11</sup>**
- \* We will understand the spiritual warfare and Satan's tactics so we will avoid using or being taken over by them. We will understand that we are placed into trials, testings, and temptations for our spiritual growth as we apply Scripture to life and trust God to get us through them. We will realize that when teaching but little of God's Word (not His Whole Counsel), not gaining high maturity, and doing but little evangelism (especially with the children and youth), we are implementing satanic strategy. Having same sex marriages and abortion is satanic strategy. Having these, the elect might not be born. Using loud repetitive drum beat rock music, not being found in the Bible, is satanic strategy and not of God because it helps to produce the immature Church and give Satan some worship and does not have the melody dominate. And because it produces the immature church, it gives Satan more power to operate and have the churches do less in ministry.

## KEY OVERVIEW THOUGHTS IN SUMMARY

We (especially leaders), as introduced, will be doing regular critical analysis to determine how well we are actually obeying God - maturing our people and ourselves with a detailed curriculum, avoiding major sin, using His choice of music, and are actually doing local area-wide evangelism, especially of the children. We will be observing the trends and signs around us and the world for world changes that signal the endtimes are soon coming, and make needed changes and urgently work to mature our people in the limited time remaining. **Signs now signal loudly the endtimes can come at any**

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9(...continued)

dominant has been known to boost intelligence. This happened to Einstein. (Ballum, Michael: Audio Tapes: *Music and the Mind* and page 92 of *Music in Crisis* by Dr. Wheaton.) Thus, then should not churches use melody dominate music such as the hymns? This will help Church people learn more from the sermons. Would not God use this kind of music? This is what I think. (When I study and type reports, I listen to classical type music.)

**10. OUR CURRENT SITUATION:** However, as will be discussed, our youth have been transformed to use rock music. To draw the youth, we may not have a choice, but to use rock music. Our church people should be told of this possible circumstance if the church is to use rock music.

**11. ROCK MUSIC DISCUSSION:** Read Appendix One for the story on rock music in our churches and why it is wrong and sinful to use it. However, there is a circumstance today where we may have no choice, but to use it.

time.●<sup>12</sup> We should teach endtimes prophecy including what people will experience when they come. We will be urgently warning and preparing our people (including putting in some supplies - e.g. 3 or more months) for the soon-coming bad endtimes (Calamity and Tribulation) so they will not be caught blind sided. We will ensure our children and youth are well trained, particularly to walk by very strong faith. The Church will go through the endtimes Tribulation because her falling away is the cause of its coming. (See my website report: *The Pattern View of Prophecy*.)

**WHAT WE CAN FORFEIT IF WE DO NOT BECOME MAXIMALLY MATURE AS WE COULD (AND SHOULD) AND DO NOT ACCOMPLISH GOD'S ASSIGNED WORK AS WE SHOULD AS HE COMMANDS** - Knowing and relating to the infinite perfect God is all there is including as He leads with the Holy Spirit for us to do His will and work to become what He has planned for us. But, it requires a certain amount of God led and developed spiritual ability for us to respond to Him greatly. By not becoming greatly mature and not following the leading of the Holy Spirit as we should, we will not know as much about the perfect God and be used of Him in great work than we otherwise could, both now but especially in eternity. This is a great forfeit. It is a much greater major forfeit in eternity. God, as I understand the Scriptures, will direct every thought and action we will ever have in eternity, very likely commensurate with our maturity - our trained ability to respond. From what we know now, our maturity level is most likely fixed at death. We are here now to develop this maturity. Because God is infinite, we should not want to limit God in what He has planned for us for our knowing and relating to Him. **Thus, we should pursue maturity as He commands to have the most maximum we can have from Him.**

**We must remember that God reveals His Word to us as we walk by faith. When we do, we live without sin. We must know and memorize the promises and obey the instructions with the promises. When we live by love, keeping God's commandments, we live holy and righteously and get to know God. These two aspects must be center to our daily lives in order for us to have a successful walk with God and gaining in maturity. We must memorize and know the commandments.●<sup>13</sup> It may be helpful to re-read and review that which was presented earlier. We are talking about eternity (forever) here.** Not being mature, we will do less of God's directed work, and thus, will glorify God less. We, even without our realization or desire, will attempt to go our own way, even in the church, to gain numbers using our (the world's) ways. We will not work God's way that will glorify Him. Thus, we will send less spiritual riches on ahead. We will not receive as many heavenly rewards that God wants to give. The biggest forfeiture is that we will not know as much about and relate to our perfect and infinite God and our fellowship with God both now and in

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12. **SOME OF THE SIGNS:** (1) the acts of God in areas of severe weather, flooding rains, fire storms, mud slides, hurricanes, tornados, earthquakes, and tidal waves; (2) the coming of the endtimes International government; (3) great increase in immorality, *particularly sodomy - same sex marriages*; (4) people cannot discern the difference between the holy (such as hymns) and the profane (such as loud rock beat music); (5) churches teaching mostly pabulum to reach the youth, instead of teaching in breadth with depth. They no longer know sound doctrine; (6) unholy reforms in our public schools including teaching sodomy; (7) great debt in the US and in the world; (See my book: *Watchman Warning*, pages 30-34, for more details and the many Scripture references.) There are many more.

13. **GREAT HELP:** Obtain my document: *Living By God's Righteousness* from my web site. It contains many Psalms by which to praise God, promises to memorize, commandments to know, the attributes of God, principles of love, and requirements for church leadership.

*Signs, Characteristics, Beliefs, and Practices of Being or Becoming Highly Mature in Christ-likeness*

eternity, as we otherwise could.●<sup>14</sup> We have fellowship and unity when we hold things in common - first with God and then with each other. Having unity fellowship is most important. Otherwise we can be going our own way - this can be sin.

*Matthew 6:20-21 - "But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.*

*1 John 1:6-7 If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth; but if we walk in the light as He Himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.*

*2 Timothy 1:14 - Guard, through the Holy Spirit who dwells in us, the treasure which has been entrusted to you.*

*1 Corinthians 3:10-15 - According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building upon it. But let each man be careful how he builds upon it. For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any man builds upon the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each man's work will become evident; for the day will show it, because it is to be revealed with fire; and the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work. If any man's work which he has built upon it remains, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work is burned up, he shall suffer loss; but he himself shall be saved, yet so as through fire. Guard, through the Holy Spirit who dwells in us, the treasure which has been entrusted to you.*

*1 Timothy 6:17-19 - Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy. Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is life indeed.*

*Revelation 22:12- "Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to render to every man according to what he has done.*

We can expect to gain more maturity when we worship under the hymns than we can under the

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**14. GREAT ETERNAL HARM:** Be greatly aware that if we work mostly at the horizontal with rock music, teaching only small portions of God's Word, working for numbers and world peace and not in the vertical greatly maturing our people, singing the hymns with melody, we bring them great eternal (for ever and ever) harm. (We build the immature church with a loss of biblical intellect and with but a low plateau of biblical knowledge.) They will know and relate to God in eternity to a much lessor extent than they otherwise could. God is infinite and has the only value that exists. So knowing and relating to God in His greater depth-breadth living by His most holy and righteous ways is all there is. Thousands of our churches are now using these wrong horizontal methods that results in bringing a major world-wide falling away of our churches to become the immature church. They are mainly current world oriented and not sufficiently eternity oriented. Many of our youth now no longer attend church after leaving for college. Their leaders, in my view, can expect great judgment. Their people are not being matured as God desires.

*Roman 8:18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.*

Devil's loud rock brat music. However, with more and more churches going to rock music and pablum teaching, we can expect the trends of less of God's major work actually being accomplished. We are bringing more youth in numbers into our churches, but how many are actually being saved and growing to high-level maturity. I do know they know insufficient doctrine because they cannot answer my questions. So in time, we are producing the immature church with a loss of biblical intellect and with a low plateau of Bible knowledge. Fewer are gaining great maturity and are involved in God's work. These are precursors and warnings we are heading into Revelation's endtimes. Signs all around us now signal loudly the endtimes can come very soon. Few are now prepared for eternity. Apart from the signs, the endtimes will come suddenly without warning like a sudden earthquake when sufficient churches have fallen sufficiently away.

**IMAGINE:** Imagine what it will be like to live holy and righteously, knowing and relating to our perfect God and fellowshiping with Him toward His maximum and each other forever and ever. Since He is perfect and inexhaustible in perfect Domain and Glory, we need a spiritual ability (that He desires for us) to know and relate to Him in His depth-breadth. Is not this something we should want to have and live out? Is this not of infinite value? Should we then not train with God's Whole Counsel under His direction to reach the highest maturity level in Christ-likeness we can have? We will need to find teachers who know the doctrines and have lived them out, particularly in families. (I can help here having raised a family, and having taught many of the principles in my church for many years. But I am still learning and growing.) Again, imagine what it will be like to live under His Greatness in the greatest way? How mature will you and your family be in Christ when you and they die? How mature will I be? We need to help and be there for each other as team players. We can and need to help each other because we have different gifts, experiences, and Bible knowledge - insights. We can and need to learn from each other. This is why I read many books by others.

**In summary, please realize that apart from us having mature high-skill spiritual ability in Christ-likeness in relationship living so we can know and relate to God toward His fullest throughout eternity, living holy and righteously in close fellowship with Him and each other, there is nothing. Thus, we should attempt to pull some out of the rock music services to attend hymn services to sing melody from their hearts unto the Lord. Our churches must be eternity oriented and living to bring maximum glory to God as we obey Him in what has come from Him as a source. As stated, Christ is our only role model. The main reason we are here is to gain this spiritual maturity in Christ-likeness. We must pay attention and cooperate with God to gain this ability. What we have at death, we will most likely have for all eternity.**

## **IMPORTANT (NEEDED) READING**

**Read the following detailed documents containing the "detailed overview" with Scriptural development located on my website to gain the depth-breadth of the "entire overall picture" of what God has planned for us in biblical history and for eternity:** (1) *God's Plan Over History for Man to Become Mature in Christ Needed to Eternally Know and to Relate to Our Perfect God in His Greatness*; (2) *The Pattern View of Prophecy (Post-Tribulation Rapture View)* with a description of the endtimes sequence and the many endtimes doctrines with their derivation; (3) *Keys to Becoming Mature in Christ*; and (4) Chapter 5 of my book: *Watchman Warning that presents the derivation and description of the endtimes sequence.*

## **APPENDIX ONE**

### **ROCK MUSIC, IN OUR VIEW, HAS BROUGHT CONTROVERSY INTO THE CHURCH AND HAS TRANSFORMED OUR CHURCHES IN A SINFUL DIRECTION IN THESE LAST DAYS●<sup>15</sup>**

\* Today there is controversy in our churches about the use (or never use) of loud dominate drum repetitive beat rock music. It is now a major departure from using the hymns and God's command to use (sing) melody from our hearts. Thus, we present a large discussion of it use. Rock music is being presented and discussed in length in this report as a practice our churches are using, but should not implement unless there is no other way to reach the youth in today's environment. The latter will be shown to be the case. But is this allowable by God?

Using rock music with pabulum teaching and with little evangelism of the children in the community has caused a major falling away of our churches from God's best. It is transforming our churches to become the immature church with a loss of biblical intellect and with a low plateau of Bible knowledge. It is preventing our people from becoming maximumly mature in Christ.

Research sources (many reports and books) show the dangers of using rock music because of its harmful effects on our people and that rock music has been used in voodooism (to call up evil spirits and demons) and in many cults (groups and individuals) and does not have melody.●<sup>16</sup> This is Satan's way. Using rock music brings honor and some worship to Satan and has detrimental effects on our people. So why would God use it? (It is the music structure with its great loudness that makes rock music satanic.)

*Ephesians 6:10-17 Finally, be strong in the Lord, and in the strength of His might. Put on the full armor of God, that you may be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore, take up the full armor of God, that you may be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand firm therefore, having girded your loins with truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to*

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**15. USE OF ROCK MUSIC IN CHURCHES:** We should not use things that are not found in Scripture. Rock music (and the drum) is not found in Scripture. The use of rock music in our churches came from man (Satan), not from the Bible. Thus, when man decides on his own to use loud rock music, he acts like a god.

**16. REFERENCES SHOWING WHY ROCK MUSIC SHOULD NEVER BE USED IN OUR CHURCHES:** (1) *Rock Music, Christian or Satanic* by Ric Llewellyn; (2) *Rock and Roll* by Bill Fortenberry; (3) *Christian Rock, Blessing or Blasphemy* by Terry Watkins; *Crisis in Christian Music* by Dr. Wheaton; *Why I Left the Contemporary Christian Church Movement* by Dan Lucarine; *Music in the Balance* by Warlock and Woetzel (Drs'); *Notice of Complaint Against The Unrecognized Enemy of the Church* by Institute of Basic Life Principles; and *What the Bible Has to Say About "Contemporary Christian" Music; Ten Scriptural Reasons Why the Rock Beat is Evil in Any Form* by Institute of Basic Life Principles.

*extinguish all the flaming missiles of the evil one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.*

- \* *Music is not neutral. There is music that encourages demonic activity, and there is music that encourages Holy Spirit activity. There is music that ministers to the carnal side of man and there is music that ministers to the spiritual side of man, Rock beat music has always been associated with the carnal and demonic. It has no legitimate place in Christian life and ministry.*●<sup>17</sup> Research shows that long term sitting under loud beat rock type music brings harmful effects to our physical bodies including brain damage. It shortens our life span. Even plants are harmed. Satan brings things into our lives that look right, but are of him.

*2 Corinthians 11:14 ..... for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.*

- \* To me, when one chooses loud rock drum beat structured music that is not found in the Bible, we are being disobedient to God and one most likely cannot tell the difference between the Holy and the Profane. They could not determine the difference between the holy and the profane in the Old Testament (e.g. Ezekiel 22:26). Rock music, to me, is profane.●<sup>18</sup> **Choosing rock music is giving the people what they want, not what God wants and what gives Him worship.** Using it and using only limited teaching to meet people's felt needs as they see them, instead of in-depth expository preaching with the hymns, in my view, one no longer endures sound doctrine and one is not eternity oriented. We have the lukewarm and the immature church. There is much other contemporary music that our church people use that is loud and has some of the effect of rock music. Good contemporary music that has the volume and beat under control can be used in our contemporary church services. God reveals His Word to us as we walk by faith. **Churches use rock music and low level training to reach numbers, not mature their people in Christ. It is working in the horizontal rather than in the vertical. God wants us to work in the vertical.**

*2 Timothy 4:3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; .....*

**To me, those who believe rock music is okay and of God, are walking by very inadequate faith. They do not have the faith or pro-action to do research for the sake of their people that shows where rock music came from, how it has been used, and what harmful effects it has on people. To me, if they loved God and their people, they would automatically do this research particularly because rock music is not found in the Bible. Then they would never use it. Again, there is no rock music (and drum) in Scripture. Appreciating God's Greatness should take us to our knees. For the life of me, I do not know how anyone can be highly mature in Christ and bring rock music into a worship service and sit regularly**

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17. **REFERENCE:** From *Christian Rock, Blessing or Blasphemy* by Terry Watkins.

18. **ROCK MUSIC:** *Rock music was meant to be loud, repetitious, carnal, and extremely suggestive sexually. It is a dangerous mistake to think that you can take the rock format and add Christian lyrics and the result will be okay. It is not. The body will be getting the sensual message of the music. The mind will trigger the fight or flight syndrom, stimulating aggressiveness with increased energy, but the human spirit will be receiving a watered-down, simplistic message. The Christian will most likely go with the body and the mind, than with the lyrics. Is this not a most dangerous way to package the message of grace to an unsaved and sick world? Why would mature Christians want to hear it? (Concept taken from page 64 of *Crisis in Christian Music* by Dr. Wheaton.)*

under it unless there is “no other alternative” in the circumstances. **However, this can be and is happening today.**

**However, much to our chagrin, our country has been transformed. Most of our youth (from being children) are now growing up now listening regularly to rock music. Because they only want to listen to rock music (not to the hymns), it appears now that it may no longer be possible to get most of our youth and young people into the hymn services and to become highly mature in Christ-likeness. We can offer optional seminars for Christian growth. But will the youth and young people come? We should and must search for the few in the rock services that will come to the hymn service so they can become much greater mature in Christ - particularly for the sake of eternity. But we must remember that, when we use rock music, we are, in some degree, worshipping Satan even though our youth hear some of God’s Word in the preaching. We should do all we can to draw our youth into ministry and into seminars that train to become mature in Christ, even if only a few participate. How many youth are in ministry who sit under rock music? I know some work in VBS in a concentrated time period. Is most of the ministry being done by those who attend the traditional service with the hymns?**

**Thus, because our country has been (is being) transformed, we may not have much choice but to use rock music church services to reach the youth today - but this is great compromise. But the youth may not otherwise come. At least they can hear some of God’s Word even though it is most fundamental, even though most very likely cannot gain maximum maturity. At least they will have some maturity. And we may have some exceptions who will gain more maturity.**

**We can have a hymn service for our adults. And given the choice, we should have verse by verse expository preaching in depth-breadth for the hymn service, which we are not doing much of today. This would be my choice. Then we can have greater spiritual growth. As the older people, who want the hymns, die or leave the church, there may no longer be hymn services.**

**Those churches that refuse to use rock music today may not reach many of the youth. The youth will come with their parents to the hymn services who want the hymns. So we will reach some with the hymns. Thus, in our churches, we should have a talk with the parents who attend rock music services and brief them on the evil source and harmful effects of using rock music. Maybe some will come to the hymn services and bring their youth.**

- \* *And when we have two church services with different music where some believe one type (rock music) is not of God, the elders should act to find God’s will and attempt to bring unity - not leave the situation unresolved. How can we sing the above hymns in melody in a rock music service? (When we have two church services (one traditional and one contemporary) where the attendees have strong different beliefs, especially of the music being of God, we have disunity and, in reality, two different churches. We can be in agreement with other ministries.***

- \* **If we have a rock music service, we should also have a separate hymn and like-music service with in-depth expository verse by verse teaching from God's whole counsel without any rock music. Then we will have a church service that honors God.**
  
- \* **Then, in summary, using loud structured drum beat rock music and pablum Bible training has greatly transformed our churches with a falling away from God's best and general requirements. These churchless generally teach with only a small portion of God's Whole Counsel and their leaders and attendees wear casual (hippie like) clothes. Some girls wear low cut blouses, short skirts, and tight clothes. Most do not come out for Sunday evening services and events. This signals something is wrong with this type church environment. These have brought an immature compromised lukewarm church life, bringing the world into the church, even though bringing in numbers. It leaves church people without maximum maturity needed for great ministry now and for eternity. This is satanic strategy and disobedience to God to help bring the endtimes Calamity and Tribulation. These actions and results show that the use of rock music is wrong and sinful. *But being transformed with the young people mainly listening to rock music may be the best we can have today in most of our churches if we are to reach today's youth with the gospel and some maturity. This transformation is happening to thousands of our churches. And the situation is helping to bring the endtimes. It represents a major falling away from God's requirements.***

***God draws people to Christ using His Word and music with melody, not with rock music, even though rock music may draw people into a church service or into a crusade to hear the Gospel. But does it bring any worship to God? The Bible teaches we are to use melody. Our evangelistic and worship services should be kept separate.***

***However, as stated, the way our country's youth have been transformed to listen to rock music, we may now have no or little choice but to use it in our churches to gain the youth for salvation and some limited maturity. We must reach the youth for Christ, but it hurts to use non Biblical sinful ways. But, as presented, using it transforms our churches to become the immature church with a loss of biblical intellect and with low plateau of Bible knowledge. It, in my view, brings little if any worship to God. This falling away, as stated, is helping to bring the endtimes with Satan's endtimes program.***

***It brings Satan's program (His strategy) because the falling away brings less ministry (fewer people will be saved and progress to maturity) and allows the endtimes to come over which Satan will rule through his man. Church leaders involved can expect great judgment from God.***

- \* ***Regardless of the state of our youth and the reason they come to church, we should attempt to pull as many who will come into the hymn services. Maybe only a few will come. But we need to do this so they can gain a maximum maturity for the sake of their eternity. It is so they can worship God in Spirit and in Truth.***

## **APPENDIX TWO**

### **QUESTIONS TO ANSWER**

**Can you answer these questions? (Highly mature people should be able to answer many or most.) (All of our upper-level high school on-fire students should be able to answer them. All of our gung ho and faithful in the church should. But, are we teaching them?)**

1. What is (one of) God's major purpose(s) for putting us on the earth?
2. How do we walk close to God and come to know Him?
3. How do we become maximumly spiritually mature in Christ-likeness?
4. How do we build godly families, living in unity?
5. How do we solve spiritual relationship problems in our families and churches? What do we have to know?
6. How do we walk by faith and live by love? What is our life like when we do? What do we need to know?
7. How do we live pure and avoid immorality (mentally, spiritually, and physical)?
8. How do we find God's work that He wants us to do?
9. How do we train others to witness the Gospel and lead people to Christ?
10. What do we do when things go wrong; how do we make corrections? (How do we know what they are?)
11. What happens to us when we become Christians? Can we lose our eternal life salvation (justification)? Why not?
12. What are the meanings of redemption & atonement for iniquity?
13. What are the biblical characteristics of God's choice for a husband and wife? How are husband and wife to relate to each other? (What characteristics should a young person look for when looking for a spouse?)
14. How do the endtimes unfold and why? What allows them to come?
15. What do I do to be a person after God's own heart?
16. What do I do to glorify God? How am I living and what am I like when I bring glory to God.
17. How do we become filled with the Holy Spirit? What happens to me when I am?
18. How do we worship God in Spirit and in Truth?
19. What music should we choose for our worship services that brings maximum worship to God so we can sing melody from our hearts, souls, and spirits and worship God in spirit and in truth?
20. Explain what it means to be both outcome and procedure oriented?
21. What is one of the highest priority ministries of the Church?

***Signs, Characteristics, Beliefs, and Practices of Being or Becoming Highly Mature in Christ-likeness***

22. How do we do and live such that life's directions and actions only come from God as a source?
23. Should we use paraphrased Bibles in our church services or Sunday School classes? Why is our choice important?
24. What attitudes should I have? What types or categories are they?
25. Why is it necessary that, in all of life, all thought and action come from God the Father?
26. By what methods and techniques should leaders use when teaching to ensure actual training is taking place?
27. What is meant by the baptism of the Holy Spirit (nothing to do with tongues)? What happens to us? How are we changed and what is the significance?
28. How do we gain the fruit of the Holy Spirit? What are they?
29. How do we live in head-subordinate relationships? What principles do we follow?
30. Why should we warn and prepare our people for the soon-coming endtimes Tribulation? What happens to them if we do not warn and prepare them? How many know endtimes prophecy? How do the endtimes unfold?