

Introduction: The David Slayton years as pastor.

It was after attending a Sunday morning "worship" service at South Norfolk Baptist, in which a youth group (that, now former pastor, David Slayton had invited from his undergraduate Liberty University), danced, pranced, and played rock music, that I felt compelled to examine further what was happening at South Norfolk Baptist. (After that particular service, {as referenced in detail, in the Introductory PDF document below,} one of the choir members saw me later and stated, "I saw you in the service; I'm sorry you had to see this; it was not the Sunday you should have come." It was also the last Sunday a long-time member and his wife attended....they moved their membership.)

I was appalled at what I have found: not only cheap music that was theologically unsound, but heresy being taught, as if it were the "Gospel." I decided that this church was being driven into the "Seeker Sensitive" mold by "Pastor David."

Then, I found out that worldly amusements were being brought into the church at Slayton's request:

Worldly amusements like a pool table, secular dance classes, Hip-Hop and Rap Music, are now offered at the church....with the pastor's approval. These have no place in a church, and are counter-productive to Christian Ethics and Discipleship Training. A local businessman, I was told, now rents one "former" Sunday School classroom. Why? And what has happened to the many Hamilton upright pianos, built by Baldwin Piano Company, that were in every Sunday School assembly room? Sold for funding?

In December 2007, after a Sunday morning service while on a visit, I went up to the pipe organ and played a few hymns. I came back that night, and after the evening service, took some pictures of the

console for the Organ Historical Society database, at their request. But, when I attempted to play the organ again, I found that someone had gone up to the console in the intervening hours, and forcibly broke the Swell pedal. Someone, between the time of the end of the morning service, and the beginning of the night service, had gone up to the console and vandalized the organ. It looked like someone had taken their foot and deliberately stomped that pedal until it became dislodged and broken.

Who? I'm sure that someone who is reading this website has knowledge of who that individual was. It clearly had to be someone who had access to the church building, probably after-hours, or entered the auditorium while no one was looking, and was not in favor of the organ being used in a service. Maybe someone who did not appreciate the great hymns of the church, maybe someone who objected to it's use, or my playing it; but, really, someone who has no real respect for God's House. And they know who they are....and God knows who they are....and one day they will have to answer for that.

It became much clearer in the next year or so, when I became aware that Pastor Slayton did not want to use the organ, and in fact, orchestrated the removal of the console into a side classroom. Of course, the \$50,000 free gift/grant that had been offered to bring the entire organ to a fully-functioning instrument, and would have easily fixed that deliberately vandalized pedal, was on the table in 2012, but he rejected the offer that I was prepared to facilitate.

Rev. Slayton apparently approved of the pagan "Hip-Hop" and "Rap" music, as evidenced by his son Jonathan filming young people dancing to this "style" of music, in the church Auditorium and on top of the 3-story Educational Building (which has no safety guardrail). (Full discussion is in the Introduction PDF about the "Hip-Hop & Rap

Music in South Norfolk Baptist Church"). (Jonathan Slayton's name was listed on the film's end credits).

This type of behavior was so bizarre when it was brought to my attention by a former member of the church (who no longer attends due to the entertainment value of the 'worship' offered); but he had discovered it on the Internet. It took my breath away just watching it. And there was a second time (2015) this type of activity had been filmed and placed on the Internet for all to see.

This is an endorsement of the things of the world: it brings dishonor to God and His Word, it sets a bad example to young people, it hurts the witness of the Church, and it brings disgrace to the name of Jesus. I simply cannot understand why any pastor or body of Deacons would tolerate this type of ungodly behavior in, and on top of, a church building!

As it was related to me, on May 1, 2016, a visitor to the church asked a member sitting next to them, "where their choir was." The member told them that they no longer had enough people for a choir. That is sad.

On this webpage, "Worship in the 21st Century," you will be introduced to some of the worldliness that has been imported into many Baptist churches. You will see examples of trying to be "relevant" to the culture....trying to do anything in order to "grow" a church with "numbers" without substance; with examples of a pastor and "guest" pastors, who preach pabulum....little "talks" that have no Biblical substance... that are Eisegetical nonsense. Often they include biblical references that center in on a word or two taken out of context, and have nothing in common with the original meaning in the text.

Listening to the now-resigned Pastor Slayton's sermons online was revealing, especially how he ripped a verse of scripture out-of-context (i.e., changing the meaning) then attempts to apply it to an individual's life (usually his "own" sans "yours") and means nothing of the kind, and has been misinterpreted, for a congregation, that is none the wiser. I have learned more about his personal life and family in the past 3 years, than I have about the Bible. His sermons became a sort of psychological strip-tease.

Lest you think that I am "cherry-picking" one or two sermons here or there, in and, in addition to those sermons previously reviewed on this page (and in the Introduction found in the first PDF file below, titled "Worship in the 21st Century") details sermon after sermon after sermon, where this is found. I have been able to sit and listen to a sermon, (take your pick, any date) and tell you how that sermon will unfold.

"Pastor David" (the informal title he preferred) had an agenda, and, although it was not evident to me at first, it became clear. One of his goals was the reorganization of South Norfolk Baptist Church, so that it became a community resource distribution center, rather than a place where sound Biblical doctrine is taught and proclaimed. He ensured that any staff, like the last full-time Minister of Music, that were not sympathetic to his philosophy, were shown the exit door. What was his model?

He was, enamored with the now-disgraced "Richmond Outreach Center" (ROC) in Richmond, Virginia, where he grew up; until 4 of their 'pastors' were forced to resign; the senior one was convicted of a felony, and went to jail. The "ROC" was so disgraced, that they had to change the name of their so-called mega-youth 'church' which only held a rock-concert/service on Saturday nights; the rest of the time during the week was devoted to "Social Gospel" outreach). He took some of the South Norfolk Baptist lay leadership to their facility (they

should have asked more questions), in order to be indoctrinated in their methods; he wanted to remake South Norfolk Baptist into the "ROC" image. He told in one sermon that he and his wife had attended one of their Saturday night 'services' and said that that was what was needed at South Norfolk.

What else was Slayton's model? He is a "Vision Casting" pastor who had, for at least 4 years, put up a written statement on a poster board, behind the pulpit platform, below the movie screen, which depicts his "vision" for each new year. He bought in the "Purpose Driven/Church Growth" 'message' of Rick Warren, Dan Southerland, Lynn Hardaway, et.al. (See information on "Vision Casting" in the Introduction PDF).

Let me say again for emphasis, and let there be no mistake about this: he turned South Norfolk Baptist into a resource distribution center, with all the pagan "bells and whistles," rather than a place where Biblical doctrine was taught and proclaimed. He would teach books written by heretics, while letting a Deacon lead a Bible study on Wednesday nights. It was a form of the "Social Gospel" movement from a previous generation. (Full discussion of the "Social Gospel" false teaching can be found on the webpage by that title).

His "mission" also included the push for unity in the "visible *ecumenical* church," as indicated in his public endorsement of this in his sermons, and on the South Norfolk Baptist Church Facebook page; of men and their heretical theology; who are "Word of Faith" heretics, "Seeker Sensitives," and "Prosperity Gospel" heretics. (They are listed in the Introduction PDF, with information on each one of these, whom he has either endorsed in the pulpit, or was teaching their heretical books to the congregation. Separate webpages deal with each type of heresy). He even attempted to do psychological testing of the lay leadership; and the teaching of "business model methods" books on Wednesday nights, instead of the Bible.

He made the following statement in a non-mainstream Baptist publication: "I believed that God wanted our church to look more like our community." Yes, South Norfolk Baptist definitely looks more like the worldly "community" today, than a church of the Lord Jesus Christ. So much so, that every door, to every Sunday School classroom has had to be locked because of security problems, as detailed to me by a former church secretary. And there has been a spiritual and psychological price to pay, as long-time members have departed for other churches, and the music program has deteriorated along with what passes for 'worship.'

It is nonsense for him to state that "God wanted our church to look more like our community." Where does he find that in the Bible? God never said that was the purpose of His church!

This resultant false theology of "the church as a community" emerged at South Norfolk, under the leadership of David Slayton. I cannot recall any previous minister at South Norfolk pushing such nonsense. It was evident in almost all of his sermons, either by innuendo, or outright statement; and is front and center in the church's mission statement:

"Welcome to South Norfolk Baptist Church. We seek to be a community... (a community of whom? a community for whom?) There has never been, since he arrived, any Biblical, Southern Baptist, doctrinal statement on the main church webpage. Absolutely nothing about the "Baptist Faith and Message," which contains the basic Southern Baptist beliefs. Nothing about what this church has historically stood for.

In the fall of 2016, he attended the Virginia Baptist Conservative "splinter" group meeting in Roanoke, VA.; the group which had broken off from the mainstream Southern Baptist Convention 20 years previously, and does not support the historic Southern Baptist General Convention of Virginia. This "splinter" group was recognized by one of Slayton's predecessors, Roger Mardis, who convinced the church to leave the historic Southern Baptist, and join this group; Mardis was responsible for the first major split in the congregation; a split of major proportions, which had not happened in the history of church. He was another "my way or the highway" pastor who had no interpersonal skills and engaged in some doctrinally unsound sermons, and the re-baptism of many already-baptized Christians. He was also into the "Social Gospel" movement, and preached heavily against abortion. On one Sunday, he had set up small crosses all over the front lawn of the church. (See the Introductory pdf for details about this "splinter" group).

Slayton claimed that the church exists for non-believers and the people who are not there. This philosophy is strictly "Seeker Sensitive" nonsense.

You can tell what a pastor stands for, by looking at who they affiliate with, whose books they teach, and what they have to say about certain people and their teachings, as Slayton did in his sermons, where he endorsed known heretics. (And these individuals are probably not known to the church members). And this is why we have listed, per each of Slayton's sermons, where he clearly endorses a heretic/heretical teaching, then, information about the heresy and the one who teaches it, so you can see the biblical truth for yourself).

You can also tell what someone believes by those who have been allowed to speak at SNBC, like Lynn Hardaway, head of the Bridge Network of Churches (formerly the Norfolk Baptist Association). When you listen closely to David Slayton's sermons, you also find there is a connection between him and the philosophy and teaching

of Peter Drucker, Rick Warren, Mark Driscoll, and other major "Seeker Sensitive/Emergent Church" players; there is also a connection in his sermons with those who have written books filled with heresy and theological nonsense, which he has endorsed in the pulpit.

Slayton apparently had zero accountability to the congregation, which became apparent, with his disregard for the adult membership, the choir, and Minister of Music (full discussion in the first Introduction PDF). But.....the people are accountable to him for accomplishing the "vision" that he "casts." He has proven with his public endorsements of books, written by known heretics, that he also has zero accountability to God, when it comes to his pastoral and preaching duties, as outlined in the Bible.

I previously indicated to one member of the church, in 2014, that this particular part of the website would be deleted; but when I found that Rev. Slayton's endorsement and teaching of heretical theology was so extensive, I changed my mind. It was so unbelievable; i.e., that no one would openly challenge this man and his teaching, that it was apparent to me that something had to be done to expose the heretical teaching which was destroying the witness and work of God, through the worship and teaching ministry at South Norfolk Baptist where I had served and worshiped myself.

Therefore, the central purpose of this webpage was, and is, to educate those who still attend South Norfolk Baptist Church, and serve as a warning to other Christians, as to what can happen/how it can happen, in their own church; especially when the pastor resigns, as Slayton did in April 2017; taking his little bag of sermons, and going off to another church to repeat the same scenario. They need to be careful when examining a pastoral candidate and not be in a hurry.

And then, to those who still attend, but have remained silent, I would encourage you to find your voice, and oppose what you know to be heretical and incorrect teaching, in the future. I would encourage you to prayerfully consider the information presented here; not only what I have discovered, but what other pastors and seminary leaders are saying, as presented in some of the written statements and films of Seminary Presidents and other SBC Pastors, on this webpage, and other pages, that address the heresy that David Slayton was teaching; the modern day heresies and those who teach them and are leading men and women, boys and girls astray. And some of these individuals may be, even now, interested in seeking the pastorate at South Norfolk.

Several major Internet websites have been established by informed Christians and seminary-trained theologians, who have examined many of these heretical teachers, some who prominently present themselves on TV, and others not so well known, but have led, and are leading, many people astray, from the Gospel of Christ. I have included some on the "Recommended Websites" page. Most of these individuals have advanced degrees in Biblical languages and understand what is the correct method of interpretation and Biblical exegesis of scripture. One was started by a fellow graduate of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary (one of our 6 Southern Baptist Seminaries). Some I have personally consulted for the sermon reviews of David Slayton, which previously appeared on this page and are now referenced in the Introductory PDF.

Many in the church today believe that the only way to reach the world is to give the un-churched multitudes what they want, which is Rick Warren's "Seeker Sensitive" model. Hundreds of churches, including South Norfolk, have followed precisely that theory, actually surveying unbelievers to learn what it would take to get them to attend.

Subtly, the overriding goal, is church attendance and worldly acceptability, rather than a transformed life. Preaching the Word and boldly confronting sin are seen as archaic, and an ineffectual means of winning the world. After all, those things actually drive most people away. Why not entice people into the fold, by offering what they want, creating a friendly, comfortable environment, and catering to the very desires that constitute their strongest urges? As if we might get them to accept Jesus by somehow making Him more likable or making His message less offensive.

That kind of thinking badly skews the mission of the church. The Great Commission is not a marketing manifesto. Evangelism does not require salesmen, but prophets. It is the Word of God, not any earthly enticement, that plants the seed for the new birth (1 Peter 1:23). We gain nothing but God's displeasure if we seek to remove the offense of the cross.

My complaint is with an unbiblical philosophy and heretical theology that relegates God and His Word to a subordinate role in the church. I believe it is unbiblical to elevate entertainment over biblical preaching and worship, in the church service and educational ministry. And I stand in opposition to those who believe salesmanship can bring people into the kingdom more effectively than a sovereign God. That philosophy has opened the door to worldliness in the church.....in South Norfolk Baptist Church.

The things you will find in the Introductory PDF may indeed be shocking, and I shall be sorry if certain opinions expressed in the following paragraphs appear to any reader, and especially any still-attending current member, whom I have known for some time, to be harsh; but I make absolutely no apology, and shall comfort myself with the reflection that every word was written, in an earnest

endeavor, to check what I believe to be a real evil, and to promote a deeper interest in the true worship of God and the preaching of His Word.

With the church unable to give David Slayton a raise for the last 4 years, he left South Norfolk Baptist, for Rocky Mount Baptist Church, VA, it is time for the new Pulpit Committee at South Norfolk to reassess where the church has been, and where it needs to go. Having watched videos of him on his first two Sundays at Rocky Mount Baptist, preaching on a "stage" with rock and roll band instruments, and wearing a polo shirt, he continues to recycle his old sermons and illustrations, with the same theme of "social gospel" et.al. It was "deja vu" watching him doing the same thing again, to yet another unsuspecting congregation.

It is common knowledge among seasoned pastors who are grounded in the Word and have the maturity to pastor a church, that individuals like this, will do the same thing over and over in church after church. When they leave, they leave a trail of problems for the now-smaller congregation, that is left to pick up the pieces.

Dr. John MacArthur made a cogent statement about this very thing, when he said that many of these "seeker sensitive" pastors who pander to the world, with sermons that are theologically tissue-thin, "will try to build big programs that mimic the larger seeker sensitive churches; but not have the money at their feet, as do the larger churches; then pick up their little bag of sermons and go to another church, leaving the previous church to pick up the pieces. Then, do the same thing over again."