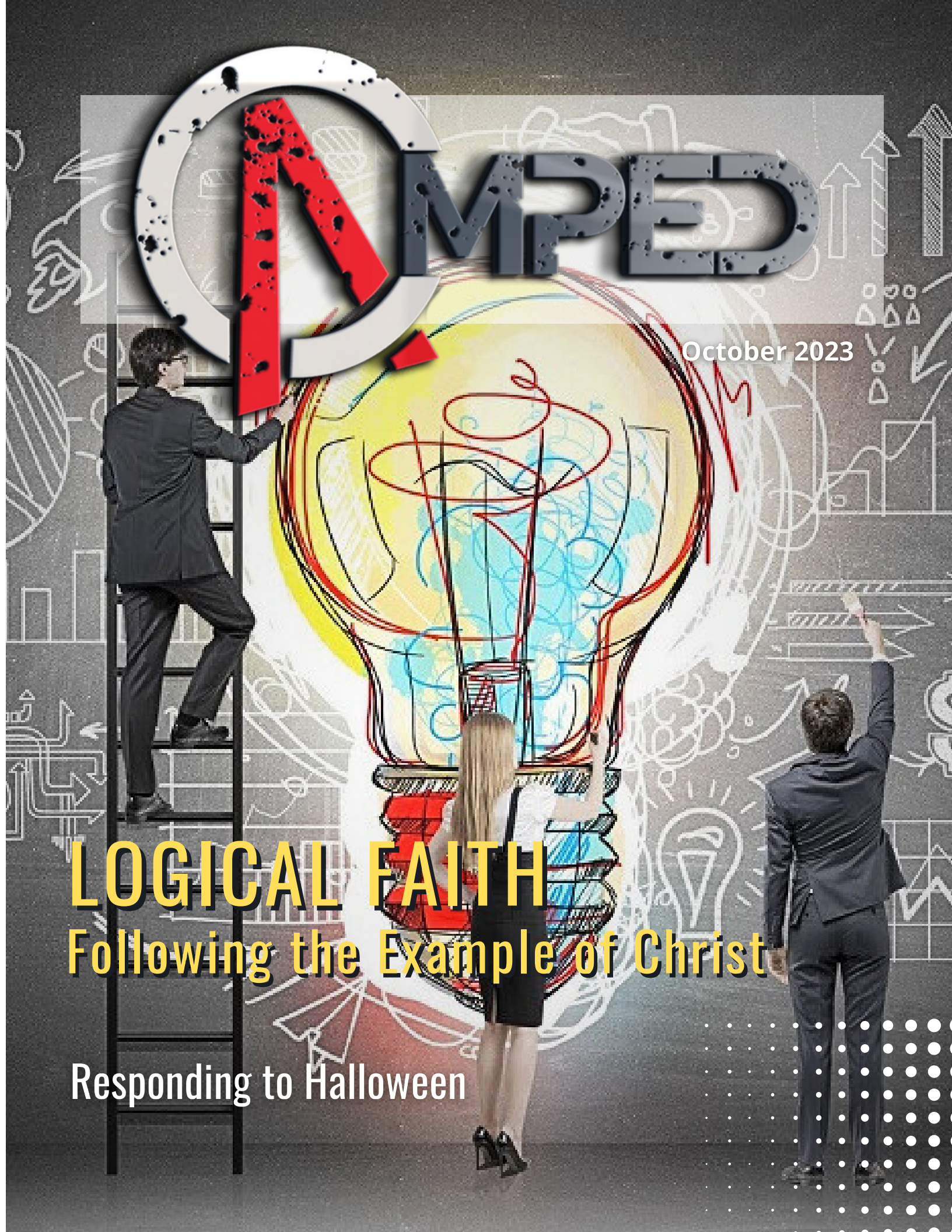


LAMPED

October 2023

LOGICAL FAITH Following the Example of Christ

Responding to Halloween



CONTENTS

Apologetic. Ministry. Preparing. Educated. Disciples.

"But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect."



I continue having the great opportunity of meeting young Christian adults in various places around the states. While there is so much that concerns our collective consciences in these dangerous times, we can feel optimistic about an upcoming generation truly sincere about serving Christ. The pages of Scripture provide repeated promises concerning the blessings of God upon a remnant generation. The Lord promised to pour out the Holy Spirit on the sons and daughters of the Christian faith.

Check Us Out on the Internet
www.billyanger.com



Contact Information
5517 Denton Highway
Haltom City, TX 76148
(940)867-8080

or
1211 Resaca Place
Pittsburgh, PA 15212
billyanger@hotmail.com



3

Logical Faith

The Christian would be wise to learn from the skills Jesus incorporated when dealing with His critics. Logic was one of those tools.

4

Partners Needed

Consider teaming with AMPED today in order that we might expand our impact for Christ on the culture.

6

Organizing the 2024 Schedule

Pastors, I would like an opportunity to speak with your congregation, members both young and old alike.

7

Questions and Answers

This month we examine the question regarding the Christian response to the Halloween holiday.

9

AMPED T-Shirts

Grab an AMPED T-shirt and let the world know that Jesus has been raised from the dead.

10

Upcoming Schedule

Locations we will be visiting in the next weeks.

LOGICAL FAITH

Following the Example of Christ

By Betty Anger

The more one studies the life of Jesus, the more that person identifies particular features about Christ that were not immediately recognized previously. The Savior of mankind spoke with such profound simplicity that those with a teachable disposition ultimately comprehended eternal truths. Those who thought about Him accurately typically loved Him supremely. Unfortunately, this principle is evaporating rapidly today. A significant miscalculation within contemporary Christianity is that our devotion to Christ is a matter of the heart. The mind, which is the capacity to think distinctly from the heart, which is the source of emotion, is necessary for the action of love.

Jesus displayed the quintessential example of love, grace, and personal sacrifice. Christians are resultantly quick to articulate these characteristics of the Savior, and rightly so. But when was the last time anybody heard a teaching, lesson, sermon, or conversation about the logic of Jesus Christ? The answer is probably a resounding 'never,' which is tragic considering the Gospels repeatedly provide examples of Jesus utilizing logic to arrive at the truth. This same practice should be a driving goal of every Christian, as each believer is called to imitate Christ (I Corinthians 11:1).

While it would be impossible to thoroughly investigate the logical territory Jesus traversed, four specific areas are noteworthy. Learning to think in these ways requires discipline and practice.

Jesus clearly articulated THE LAW OF IDENTITY, which reveals that something cannot be anything other than what it is. He taught that a fishing boat could not be a winepress, nor could a threshing floor be a thatched roof. To this point, Jesus knew who He was, which explained His purpose on earth. Juxtaposed to this truth, He asked his disciples if they knew His true identity. They immediately deferred to the crowd's opinions when they indicated Jesus was John the Baptist or one of the prophets (Matthew 16:13, 14). Jesus rejected their answers because it conflicted with what He knew.

This principle of identity counters the idea of religious pluralism, which states all faiths possess equal value. Salvation requires having an accurate understanding of who Jesus is. This essential truth does not allow for a personal idea or individual opinion of Christ. He is not subject to such

variability.

The second principle of logic Jesus voiced was THE SYLLOGISM. A syllogism is a type of logical reasoning that obtains the conclusion from two linked premises. Here is an example: An apple is a fruit. All fruit is good. Therefore, apples are good. Jesus used this argument to refute the Pharisees' accusation that He used Satan's power to cast out demons. Jesus responded: "Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation, and every city and house divided against itself will not stand. If Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then will his kingdom stand?" (Matthew 12:25-27).

Jesus exposed the hypocrisy of the Pharisee's criticism in this exchange. He contended that Satan certainly would not give Him the power to expel demons and divide his evil kingdom. That is illogical. This truth then introduces the question concerning the origins of Jesus' authority. If it was not sanctioned by the principal of darkness, it obviously came from somewhere else.

The brilliance of Jesus was displayed multiple times when He exercised THE ARGUMENTUM A MINORE AD MAIUS. This Latin phrase speaks to an argument that reasons whatever is valid on a small scale is equally true on a larger scale. Christ utilized this logic in Matthew 12:10-12 as He entered a synagogue on the Sabbath and encountered a man with a deformed hand. The Pharisees placed the fellow there as a plot to test Christ regarding the legality of healing someone on the Sabbath (verse 10). The comeback Jesus presented in His opening proposition was phrased as a rhetorical question: "What man is there among you who has one sheep, and if it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will not lay hold of it and lift it up?" (v.11). He then seamlessly transitioned into a stronger proposition about humans: "How much more value then is a man than a sheep? Therefore, it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath" (v.12).

His logic stumped the religious elite. Taking His signal from their speechlessness, Jesus proved His point by healing the injured man. The combination of reason and righteousness met emphatically at the destination of compassion.

One of the most common arguments against Christianity is called THE FALSE DILEMA. It is quite remarkable how very

Partners Needed!

**THE COST OF MINISTRY IS SIGNIFICANT.
I CANNOT DO THIS WITHOUT PARTNERS.
GO TO THE WEBSITE, BILLYANGER.COM,
AND STAND WITH US.**




often Christians succumb to this logical fallacy. Jesus likewise dealt with the ploy but constantly exposed the logical error for what it was. For all their trying, the charlatan Sadducees could never snag Him on the horns of a dilemma. They challenged Him with choosing between two propositions that were not acceptable in any instance.

The example cited in this article is taken from Matthew 22:23-28. The Sadducees began their manipulative maneuvering by revisiting the law of Moses, reminding Christ of the obligation that a brother assumes should his brother die and his widow be left childless. They proposed a nonsensical scenario in which a woman is married initially to a man who dies and then marries his six brothers successively because each preceding sibling died (Deuteronomy 25:5-10). Each marital relationship failed to produce a child, and eventually, the wife died.

The inquisition forwarded by the Sadducees regarded the resurrection and to which brother the

wife would be married at that time.

The religious leadership in the New Testament would have been well-served spending their time rightly dividing the Scriptures instead of weaponizing them for personal gain. They assumed the institution of marriage would continue after earthly death, exposing their illiteracy of the Old Testament. According to the Pentateuch, which the Sadducees should have thoroughly known, Jesus articulates that there will be no marriage in the resurrection. The hypothetical woman will not be married to anybody, for the institution will be obsolete in Heaven. This portion of knowledge refuted the faulty premise of the Sadducees and dissolved the false dilemma. This bunch of religious cons stood no chance.

The Bible documents the reaction of the onlookers who were privileged to observe the actions Jesus took and the words He spoke. With Christ's profound logic, it is no wonder the Bible says, "They who heard Him were astonished at His teaching." 

— FOLLOW US ON —
FACEBOOK




Be Sure to Send Your Questions

No Topic is Off Limits

questions@billyanger.com

PASTORS, CAN WE PARTNER IN 2024?

LET'S WORK TOGETHER TO ANSWER THE QUESTIONS OF THOSE CONSIDERING ANOTHER ALTERNATIVE TO THE CHRISTIAN WORLDVIEW. I AM SCHEDULING 2024 AND WOULD APPRECIATE THE OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK WITH YOUR CONGREGATION, BOTH YOUNG AND OLD ALIKE.



**WRITE ME
BILLYANGER@HOTMAIL.COM
CALL OR TEXT ME
(940)867-8080**

Q&A



HOW SHOULD CHRISTIANS RESPOND TO HALLOWEEN?

Here is one question I would rather not answer, but that option has not been offered. My hesitation in addressing this subject is found in the fact that Halloween is quite a contentious issue among various Christians. Some believers feel that participation is acceptable. Others propose peace through accommodation. And, of course, many forcefully condemn Halloween and take umbrage with those believers who do not embrace such an impassioned denunciation of the holiday. Perhaps evaluating this annual event's history might provide a more nuanced answer, which is this article's goal.

Halloween is grounded in an ancient Celtic (a collection of Indo-European people) feast called Samhain (sah-ween). The day marked the end of summer and the harvest, starting the dark, cold winter. This time of year was frequently linked with human death. Celts believed that something spiritually negative took place on the eve of Samhain. The boundary dividing those living in the present world and the dead in the realm beyond was punctured, resulting in hordes of demons being released to reign terror on the inhabitants of the Earth. Along with witches and hobgoblins, these agents of evil maliciously attacked people.

These human victims sought a way to escape the assault by devising the strategy of disguising themselves. Veiling themselves as witches, sprites, and phantoms, they hoped to dupe the evil spirits. The people also attempted to ward off malevolent spirits by carving gruesome faces on gourds. These cucurbits were lit with candles, and various treats were offered to the spirits, hoping they would be placated.

The Celts incorporated the aid of Druids during these challenging times. The Druids were a high-ranking priestly class serving as legal authorities, medical specialists, and political consultants among the Celts. They were employed to predict the future, and it was believed the ghosts of the dead made this task easier. The prophecies were received as comfort during the extended winter months. The occasion was marked by the Druids building enormous bonfires that were considered sacred, where the people assembled to burn crops and animals as sacrifices to the Celtic gods.

The Roman Empire conquered the majority of Celtic territory by A.D. 43. Over the following 400 years, the Romans incorporated two festivals with the celebration of Samhain. Feralia was a day in late October when the Romans traditionally observed the passing of the dead. The second was a day to honor Pomona, the Roman goddess of fruit and trees. On May 13, A.D. 609, Pope Boniface IV dedicated the Pantheon in Rome to the remembrance of all Christian martyrs, and the Catholic feast of All Martyrs Day was established in the Western church. The first evidence for the November 1st date of celebration and of the broadening of the festival to include all saints as well as all martyrs occurred during the reign of Pope Gregory III (731–741), who dedicated a chapel in St. Peter's in Rome, on November 1st in acknowledgment of all saints.

October 31st became a noteworthy day as it was designated to be a spiritually edifying holy day to proclaim the supremacy of the gospel over the superstition of ghosts. "All Hallows Eve," from which the word Halloween is derived, was an attempt on the part of Christianity to overwhelm the traditions of ghouls with the truth of Jesus Christ.

Today, Christians should not be at odds with one another concerning their handling of the holiday. For millions of believers, Halloween is when children dress up in costumes and gather candy from their neighbors, having a night of innocent fun. Other Christians see nothing blameless about that type of participation and view everything related to Halloween as demonic. Many of these Christians have been delivered from a life of witchcraft and occultic practices and are guarded regarding this holiday.

Paul's teaching of Christian liberty might seem well-advised in this instance. While comparisons are odious and typically illogical, we might be well to remember that nearly everything we do has an element of possible wrongdoing. The argument can be made that Christians should never watch TV because every program and commercial has a component of opposition to God's holiness. The Christmas and Easter celebrations have elements of paganism attached to them. Even so, Christians commemorate these days despite their disagreeable aspects. The one caveat to the principle of Christian liberty is that such benefits are never to be used so they become a stumbling block to another Christian (Romans 14:13).

HOW CAN GOD POSSIBLY NEED REST?

There are many verses in the Bible that describe God as being omnipotent, which means all-powerful. Genesis 17:1, details the story of God engaging in conversation with the patriarch Abraham. In that interaction He personally describes Himself with the words, "I am Almighty God." The supremely powerful nature of God is witnessed repeatedly in the Bible. In Psalm 147:5, the writer penned, "Great is our Lord, and mighty in power; His understanding is infinite." These verses reveal that God can accomplish anything by His supremacy. The very nature of divinity is that God never weakens, tires, or requires any type of recuperation. As Isaiah wrote: "Have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth, neither faints nor is weary" (40:28). This reality leads to confusion concerning the Genesis account of Creation that states "on the seventh day God ended His work, which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done" (Genesis 2:2). So, what gives? What does the Bible mean when it says that God rested? Were the demands that came with creating the universe so severe that God was compromised and in need of a reprieve? Did His person need to be revitalized in some capacity?

When the English verb "rest" is used in a statement, people generally think of someone being tired or needing to recover spent energy. The Hebrew word translated "rest" in Genesis 2:2 does not carry that same idea, though. Actually, the initial two characterizations given for the Hebrew word rendered "rest" (shābat or shābath) are to "cease, desist." The Enhanced Strong's Lexicon documents that, of the 71 times it is used, 47 of those occasions it is basically translated as "cease," and only 11 of those times is it described as "rest." So, the explanation of the statement that God rested is rather quite simple.

God did not get tired upon accomplishing the work of creation. Furthermore, He did not need time to replenish His strength. He simply ceased fashioning the world. He finished His work in six days and stopped on the seventh. Upon doing so, He instituted the pattern for a seven-day week. God never needs to rest, per se. If He did, He would be fallible. God "neither faints nor is weary."

ARE MEN AND WOMEN REALLY DIFFERENT?

Are you serious? Forget the personality and emotional differences; think about the physical. Men typically have thicker skin by about 25 percent. They also have higher densities of the protein collagen. During exercise, women's primary fuel is fat. For men, it's carbohydrates. Women typically carry their body fat in their hips and thighs. Fat tends to deposit around men's stomachs. Women have better senses of smell and taste. Men normally have more red blood cells. The second longest finger for most women is next to their thumb, the index finger. For men, it is the very opposite. The finger next to the pinkie, the ring finger, is the longest.

*THE TOMB WAS EMPTY.
YOUR MIND SHOULDN'T BE!*



AMPED

FASHION T-SHIRTS

Special Edition

Order online at our website
or call (940)867-8080

\$25

No Shipping or Handling Charge

UPCOMING

SCHEDULE

October 9, 2023

University of Texas Dallas
Founders Room
800 West Campbell Road
Dallas, TX

October 24, 2023

University of Texas
Red River Room
701 South Nedderman Dr.
Arlington, TX

October 17, 2023

Vision Church
Pastor Doug Martin
4024 Dakota Trail
Lake Worth, TX

November 5, 2023

Teen Challenge
Benjamin McArdle
3332 Leesburg Road
Columbia, SC

November 12, 2023

Full Life Assembly
Pastor Roger Restin
800 South Rogers Street
Waxahachie, TX

November 19, 2023

Minnesota Pentecostal
Assembly
Pastor Tinku Thompson
700 Summit Avenue
Saint Paul Park, MN

ASKING QUESTIONS, SEEKING TRUTH

AMPED with Billy Anger
5517 Denton Highway
Haltom City, TX 76148

U.S.
Postage
Paid
Fort Worth, TX