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### **Against the Flow**

*Learn not the way of the nations, nor be dismayed at the signs of the heavens because the nations are dismayed at them, for the customs of the peoples are vanity.*

*Jeremiah 10:3 (ESV)*

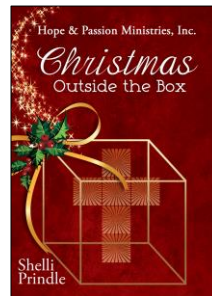
AGAINST THE FLOW, COMBATTING THE NORM, and WEIGHING ALL THOUGHTS AND ACTIONS AGAINST THE UNCHANGING STANDARD RATHER THAN THE POPULAR WAY. These are essential phrases for the child of God. In the Bible verses above, Jeremiah was speaking God's Word to a people who were woefully lost in the culture of their day. The people of Judah were caught in the same web of sin as the general population of godless people. The Babylonians watched the heavens – stars, eclipses, etc. – and idolized these things as their god. Other nations revered created things instead of the Creator. They became “dismayed” because of certain movements or changes in the skies, but Jeremiah warns that *the customs of the peoples are vanity*. When we revere what is fleeting, we also become fearful of what we should not be afraid. Were the people of Judah to actually focus

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### **Upcoming Events**

- Sundays Apologetics Course** ~ Sunday School  
 9:45 am at Norwin Alliance
- May 6 *The Reliability of God***  
 2:30 Chapel  
 Cheswick Christian Academy
- May 12 *Hens and the Higher Love of God***  
 10:15 am - Sunday Service  
 Union City Alliance
- May 17 - 18 *Last Words***  
 W PA Alliance Women's Retreat  
 Saturday Seminar Speaker  
 Butler Community Alliance
- June 17 *Kick-off Summer in the Word***  
 Men and women welcome!  
 6:30 pm Somerset Alliance
- July 19 *Beat the Dog Days***  
 Join us and be refreshed in the Word!  
 Men, Women and Youth  
 6:30 pm - Norwin Alliance

Email us at [hope.passion.ministries@verizon.net](mailto:hope.passion.ministries@verizon.net) for additional details. **We hope to see you soon!**



### **Christmas Outside the Box**

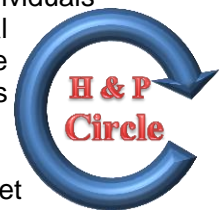
We are pleased to announce that the DVD of this anointed message is now available. Whether you were there in person or not, this is a message that you will want to have and share with others. Learn about the glory of God -

first contained in the Holy of Holies, then released through the cross of Christ, and finally fully realized when the New Jerusalem descends from heaven. Available for \$15 including tax.

Fulfilling our mission to:

- ❖ Equip believers with a thoroughly Biblical worldview

We would love to expand the H&P Circle and include you! We are looking for individuals who will be our voice in local churches. If you would like more information about the role of this vital group, please call Bria at 724.552.3122 or email us at [hope.passion.ministries@verizon.net](mailto:hope.passion.ministries@verizon.net)



## ***Apologetics Activated!***

**This apologetics and Biblical worldview course, is designed to equip believers with the basics of apologetics, a reasoned and intelligent defense of the Christian faith.** Our faith is based on facts, not wishful thinking.

Shelli is currently teaching this course in Sunday school at Norwin Alliance. In the past it has been taught at various churches, at the Teen Challenge Induction Center in Harmarville, PA, and for a week-long adult VBS. One of the Teen Challenge students had this to say:

“I want to thank you so much for the wisdom and knowledge you shared with us. . . . you answered so many questions that I’ve had and pondered for so long.” – Antoine



This course includes Shelli’s well-known teaching about the monarch butterfly migration as it relates to Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our faith.

Fulfilling our mission to:

❖ Equip believers with a thoroughly Biblical worldview

### *Against the Flow continued*

their lives on the true God and trust completely in Him – going against the flow of the culture – they would find strength rather than misery.

Today, our culture idolizes many things – perhaps the movement of heavenly bodies – but certainly the shifts of the stock market, the applause of people, the busyness of a life filled with activity and stuff, the American dream, a life characterized primarily by ease and comfort, and days of wrong priority (devoid of depth with God). However difficult it is for God’s people to do so, the call remains the same, *Learn not the ways of the nations*. The “nations” and the “customs” seem so prevalent, natural and important; but they are vanity and a vapor soon to disappear.

Our lives should be different – incredibly different! Allow God’s Spirit to convict you and Jesus to cleanse you. For, *the Lord is the true God; he is the living God and the everlasting King. At his wrath the earth quakes and the nations cannot endure his indignation.* (Jeremiah 10:10, ESV)

Fulfilling our mission to:

❖ Inspire believers with dynamic Bible messages



**Visit us and like us on Facebook!**

### **Our Vision: Sharing a Jesus-view of Reality that Produces True Hope and Passionate Living**

We are very grateful for all those who have generously supported our work, especially those who have become monthly partners. We are diligently seeking the Lord’s direction and will for the ministry and truly appreciate your prayers and support. Our desire is to expand as God provides the necessary resources.

We are a registered 501(c) 3 organization and all donations are tax deductible. **We now accept credit cards for orders and donations.** Call 412.779.1357 (Karen) if you wish to use your credit card for a purchase or donation. You may also use the enclosed form and envelope to make a purchase or donation.

As so many of you get excited when the Word of God is taught with clarity and passion, please know that **Shelli is available and would love to speak or teach at your event or church.** Visit the website ([www.hopeandpassion.org](http://www.hopeandpassion.org)) and click on the Speaking Inquiries tab, or get in touch with us using the information below.

Visit our website [www.hopeandpassion.org](http://www.hopeandpassion.org) for Biblical commentary, devotions, and information about the ministry and events.

You may call us at 724.552.3122 (Bria) or e-mail us at [hope.passion.ministries@verizon.net](mailto:hope.passion.ministries@verizon.net) .

Gratefully serving Him with passion,

*Shelli*

*Sharing a Jesus-view of Reality that Produces True Hope and Passionate Living*