

CN Morning Rundown: Another High-Profile Christian Walks Away

Here's a quick summary of the top stories on :

Another High-Profile Christian Walks Away—What's Going On?

A headline this week has many people scratching their head: "Former *Desiring God* writer Paul Maxwell announces he's no longer Christian." How can this happen? Did he lose his salvation?

Below is my response about salvation that I've shared before. I also just released this short clip that goes into more detail on why Paul Maxwell may have fallen away.

A common question for many is, "Can I lose my salvation?" I've heard both sides of the argument, and only God truly knows a person's heart—but I can share a few thoughts. The reason there is a debate is because the Scriptures teach that salvation is a gift from God that cannot be earned, but they also offer warnings about falling away.

Why Has John Piper's Son Become a Bible-Bashing TikTok Star?

On a regular basis, we are hearing reports of high-profile Christian leaders renouncing their faith, most recently, Dr. Paul Maxwell, an author, former Moody Bible Institute professor and writer for *Desiring God*. Yet, for many of us, it was even more shocking to learn that Abraham Piper, son of the influential pastor John Piper, had become an internet sensation, best known for his videos mocking his former evangelical beliefs.

As reported by Ruth Graham for *The New York Times*, "Abraham Piper became a sensation on TikTok nearly overnight. He posted

his first video in November, and he now has more than 900,000 followers, many of them young people who thank him for capturing their experiences so precisely. His unlikely path to online stardom: irreverent critiques of evangelical Christianity aimed at others who have left the faith.”

It turns out that Abraham had fallen away from the faith at the age of 19, so his non-belief is not news in itself. (Personally, I knew nothing of John Piper’s family, so all of this was new to me.) What is news is the popularity of his videos, recorded in an upbeat, conversational tone that no doubt appeals to today’s youth.

Vaccinated Tourists Can Visit Israel Starting May 23

Israel on Tuesday said it will reopen the country to vaccinated foreign tourists in May, more than a year after closing its borders to most international visitors due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The Tourism Ministry said a limited number of tourist groups will be allowed to enter the country starting May 23, with individual visitors allowed at a later stage. All foreign tourists entering the country will be tested for coronavirus before boarding flights to Israel and must present a serological test to prove they have received a COVID-19 vaccine.

Israel suffered a major economic blow due to the coronavirus pandemic. In recent months, it has carried out highly successful vaccination program that has allowed it to reopen most sectors of the economy. But the tourism industry, limited only to serving Israelis, remains blighted. {eoa}

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