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30% of U.S. evangelicals don't believe Jesus is God, survey says

September 3, 2020 World Net Daily reported: "According to a preliminary release on the findings of the 2020 State of Theology survey, 52% of American adults believe that Jesus was a great teacher, but he is not God.

Among those surveyed who identified as evangelicals, 30% agree that Jesus was merely a great teacher, and 'nearly 65% still agree with the statement, Jesus is the first and greatest being created by God.'

Ligonier Ministries' biennial State of Theology survey 'provides key findings on what Americans think about God, truth, the Bible, worship, and ethical issues,' the authors say."

Philippines will not follow US in blacklisting China firms

September 2, 2020 spacewar.com reported: "The Philippines will not follow the US lead in blacklisting Chinese companies involved in the construction of artificial islands in the disputed South China Sea, the president's spokesman said Tuesday, arguing Manila needed Beijing's investment.

Washington last week announced sanctions against 24 Chinese state-owned companies — including subsidiaries of China Communications Construction Co, which is involved in a \$10 billion airport project in Manila.

The US has been pushing back against Beijing's military buildup in the South China Sea, where sovereignty is contested by several countries — including the Philippines.

China claims the majority of the area, invoking its so-called nine-dash line to justify its alleged historic rights to a key waterway through which trillions of dollars of international trade pass every year..."



Iran, world powers agree to work to preserve nuclear deal

September 2, 2020 Arutz Sheva 7 reported: "Representatives of Iran and the world powers working to save the 2015 Iran nuclear deal on Tuesday agreed in Vienna to do everything possible to preserve the agreement, *The Associated Press* reported. The representatives met for the first time since the United States announced a bid to restore United Nations sanctions against the Islamic Republic.

Helga Schmid, the European Union representative who chaired the meeting, said afterwards on Twitter that the 'participants are united in resolve to preserve the Iran Deal and find a way to ensure full implementation of the agreement despite current challenges.'

Iranian representative Abbas Araghchi did not comment after the day of talks, but ahead of the meeting said the US move would 'definitely be an important discussion' topic with delegates from France, Germany, Britain, Russia and China.

US President Donald Trump in 2018 withdrew from the 2015 nuclear deal and reimposed sanctions that have crippled Iran's economy.

Iran has gradually scaled back its compliance with the 2015 deal in response to Washington's 'maximum pressure' policy..."

Egypt has dealt the Muslim Brotherhood a serious blow

September 1, 2020 Arutz Sheva 7 reported: "On Aug. 28, Egypt reached an important milestone in its war against radical Islamic terrorism. After an intense seven-year search, Egyptian security forces arrested Mahmoud Ezzat, the acting leader of the Muslim Brotherhood and the head of its military wing, responsible for a series of terrorist attacks in Egypt.

In 2013, following the arrest and imprisonment of Mohamed Badie, a previous Muslim Brotherhood leader, Ezzat took over the movement. Ezzat was convicted in absentia on terrorism-related charges and twice sentenced to death and three times to life sentences.

According to Egypt's interior ministry, he was captured in eastern Cairo, in a residential apartment that he used as a hideout. The authorities said they found in the apartment documents, computers and telephones with encryption software used by Ezzat to communicate with Brotherhood members in Egypt and abroad. Ezzat ran the Muslim Brotherhood movement throughout Egypt from this apartment and established contacts with the leaders of the movement, who fled Egypt to Qatar and Turkey after Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi came to power..."

India accuses China of new ‘provocative’ border action

August 31, 2020 spacewar.com reported: “The Indian military on Monday accused China of carrying out ‘provocative’ movements on their contested Himalayan border near where 20 Indian troops were killed in a battle in June. A defence ministry statement said the incidents happened in eastern Ladakh on Saturday night but did not indicate whether there was a new clash.

Chinese People’s Liberation Army troops ‘carried out provocative military movements to change the status quo’ at the border, it said. It added the two sides were holding military talks on Monday.

On June 15, troops from the two sides fought hand-to-hand combat in which 20 Indian troops were killed. China also acknowledged casualties but did not give numbers...”

Atheist, armed with new law, to report Bible, church sermons for ‘hate speech’

August 31, 2020 World Net Daily reported: “The United Kingdom’s Christian Institute is warning that the Bible could be criminalized in Scotland if a hate-crime bill becomes law.

Ian Stewart of the group Atheist Scotland recently told U.K.’s The Courier that atheists see ‘merit’ in the proposed Hate Crime and Public Order Bill for Scotland. He said it ‘will enable the prosecution of all Scotland’s religions and their holy books for spreading hatred.’

‘We fully intend to monitor all holy books, sermons in places of worship and the social media accounts of the various religions and report any hatred to police Scotland for criminal investigation,’ Stewart said...”

U.S. warship sails near disputed islands in tense South China Sea

August 31, 2020 spacewar.com reported: “An American warship sailed near the disputed Paracel Islands in the South China Sea, the US Navy has said, challenging Beijing’s claims on the resource-rich waterway and prompting a warning from the Chinese military.

The Thursday operation came a day after China fired ballistic missiles into the sea as part of ongoing live-fire exercises, inflaming already high tensions between Washington and Beijing.

The US regularly conduct ‘freedom of navigation operations’ in the area to challenge Chinese territorial claims.

The US Navy’s Pacific Fleet said in a statement that the USS Mustin, a guided-missile destroyer, sailed Thursday ‘in the vicinity of the Paracel Islands to ensure critical shipping lanes in the area remain free and open’.

The Chinese military on Friday accused the US ship of entering ‘China’s territorial waters’ near the islands ‘without authorization’. Chinese forces tracked the warship and then warned it to leave, said military spokesman Li Huamin...”

Turkey Slams France Over Syria-Style ‘Red Lines’

August 29, 2020 sputniknews.com reported: “The Turkish Foreign Ministry has issued a response to President Macron’s recent comments about setting up a Syria-style ‘red line’ in the eastern Mediterranean dispute, saying it was up to Ankara, not Paris, to set red lines in areas that belong to it.

“Those who think they drew a red line in the Eastern Mediterranean are challenging our country’s resolute stance,” the ministry indicated in a statement cited by Anadolu Agency.

“If there is a red line in the region, it belongs to Turkey and the Turkish Cypriots based on international law,” the ministry added, suggesting that “the period of determining [France’s] imperialist understanding by drawing lines on maps is over.”

Ankara stressed that it has a powerful enough military to “deter anyone” who challenges its interests “by deploying an armada,” and urged for the conflict to be resolved via negotiations on an equal playing field, not provocations.

The statement comes following remarks by President Macron on Friday in which he said that France had set up a “red line policy” in the Mediterranean to challenge Turkey by deeds in addition to words, and pointed to a similar policy in Syria before the 2018 bombing of the country by French, British and US warplanes.

In addition to joining the European Union in threatening sanctions against Ankara, France recently sent warships to the region to join Greek, Italian and Cypriot navies for drills in the area under dispute.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan cautioned Athens and Paris against trying to stop Turkey from its gas exploration activities, warning that unlike Greece and France, Turkey was “determined to pay any price” to defend its interests.” ...”



Turkish President Erdogan

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