

THERE IS A WAY THAT *seemeth* RIGHT
UNTO A MAN, BUT THE END THEREOF
ARE THE WAYS OF



Death

PROVERBS 16:25

The
Berean
Call

SEPTEMBER 2007

WEANING EVANGELICALS OFF THE WORD—PART 3

by T.A. McMAHON

NEW! WHEN WILL JESUS COME? RADIO BROADCAST SERIES

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THE COVER ART is based on a section of the labyrinth in the courtyard of St. George's Cathedral in Cape Town, South Africa (which is a replica of the Chartres Cathedral labyrinth in France). Labyrinths, according to Cathedral historians, are "an archetype, a divine imprint, found in all religious traditions." Protagonists and parishoners of the Emerging Church

Movement, like pastor Dan Kimball (author of *Vintage Faith*) would agree: "Meditative prayer like that we experienced in the labyrinth resonates with hearts of emerging generations."

THE BEREAN CALL

"[The Bereans] . . . searched the scriptures daily, [to see] whether those things were so."—Acts 17:11

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Weaning Evangelicals Off the Word - Part 3

T. A. McMahon

The previous two parts of this series (TBC, 2/07, 3/07) made some observations that should be of great concern to those who consider themselves Bible-believing Christians. Paul warned that there would come a time when "sound doctrine" (2 Timothy 4:3,4) would give way to what "seemeth right unto a man" (Proverbs 14:12) in determining what is true. There will be apostate "teachers" who advance an experiential mode that panders to the lusts of the flesh, promoting self-serving "fables" or myths. Furthermore, these "deceitful workers" and lying "ministers of righteousness" (2 Corinthians 11:13,15) would draw upon the teachings of "seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils" (1 Timothy 4:1). Paul certainly had such teachers in mind as he warned the Ephesian elders that after his departing "grievous wolves" would enter among them and teach "perverse things, to draw away disciples after them" (Acts 20:29,30). There is no doubt that these verses are being fulfilled in our day.

Although there are far too many examples of apostasy influencing the church today to cite in this brief series of articles, there is one spurious trend that encompasses nearly all of what the above verses address. It's called the Emerging Church Movement (ECM). The ECM is a development among evangelicals that appears to have some worthwhile goals: 1) It professes to speak to today's culture about the relevancy of Christianity and the value of the gospel of Jesus Christ; and 2) It desires to keep young evangelicals continuing in the faith. The movement involves a number of churches (mostly non-denominational), some supportive ministries and parachurch organizations, and the support of a number of prominent evangelical leaders and authors.

The ECM has no official organization or leadership, although some of its adherents have "emerged" as recognized leaders and spokesmen. For many of those helping to promote the movement, their motivation to "try something different" grew out of the frustration of their own very limited success in evangelizing and discipling young people. Some of the leaders were in seeker-sensitive and purpose-driven churches, and they saw firsthand that their church-growth marketing schemes were not effective for drawing those

in their late teens, 20s, and early 30s. The main fare of most consumer-driven churches features contemporary music with shallow, repetitive choruses, topical 30-minute-or-less sermons (mostly psychology-based), a host of social programs to attract the lost (and the fleshly nature of Christians), and "Bible studies" that address everything but the Bible (see "Consumer Christianity I & II", TBC, 2/05, 3/05). For a surprising number of young adults, that was a spiritual turnoff.

In his book *The Emergent Church* (with contributions and endorsement by Rick Warren), Dan Kimball relates his own breakthrough in overcoming the frustrating experiences in trying to motivate the young people in the evangelical church where he was youth pastor. He tells about watching a concert on the youth-oriented MTV network late one night that was a candlelit, all-acoustic performance. Recognizing that MTV certainly knows its audience and the youth culture, he refashioned his church's youth room into a subdued, "catacombish," candlelit environment and had the worship band use acoustic guitars, forgoing their usual flashing light show and loud electric music. He was delighted by the reaction of one usually unresponsive teen who said, "I like this. This was really spiritual."

That was an epiphany for Kimball. As he expanded the service with what he considered more "authentic Christian" elements and liturgy, it attracted hundreds, young and old alike. He is convinced he's found what the church of today needs: "As the emerging church returns to a rawer and more vintage form of Christianity, we may see explosive growth much like the early church did."

On the contrary, the "explosive growth" in the early church came from an approach that is almost nonexistent in the ECM. Peter's confrontational address to the crowd on Pentecost in Acts chapter 2 is directly at odds with the *modus operandi* of the emergent leaders. In the power of the Holy Spirit, Peter's preaching brought conviction of sin, repentance, and belief; 3,000 came to Christ that day. Kimball's "vintage form of Christianity," featuring rituals, ceremony, candles, incense, prayer stations, and images to create a spiritually experiential atmosphere for evangelicals is "vintage" only in the sense that it is an imitation of the later unbiblical Eastern Orthodox and medieval Roman Catholic liturgies. The early New Testament church knew nothing of this idolatrous and sense-oriented worship.

Ironically, emergent churches around the world, in their attempt to "reconstruct" the church, are passing each other like ships in the night. Kimball's efforts at spiritual stimulation by introducing to young evangelicals the liturgical bells and smells of Catholic, Orthodox, Lutheran, and high-church Episcopal and Presbyterian rituals, stands in contradiction to some European cathedrals and churches going emergent. Europeans are trying to revive their congregations, deadened by centuries of imagery and ritual, by covering their gothic interiors with decorated drapery, exchanging the organ and traditional hymns for electric guitars and contemporary choruses, and adding throw pillows for comfortable seating to create a seeker-friendly environment. These churches are abandoning the very things that are "spiritually" alluring to American emergent evangelicals. Regarding both sensual approaches, Scripture tells us, "the flesh profiteth nothing."

In reading the works of the ECM leaders, we would agree with many of their criticisms of current Christianity. There is plenty to oppose as apostasy and the abandonment of the Word increases in Christendom. The ECM's corrections, however, rather than having restorative value for the church, are just as contrary to the Scriptures. Even worse, they go far beyond subtly "weaning evangelicals off the Word" to rendering the Bible and its doctrines as *the enemy* when it comes to drawing the world in general and, specifically, our postmodern culture, to the love of Jesus.

The Emergent Church Movement claims to desire—above all things—to show the love and life of Christ to a culture that is distrustful of the Christianity it perceives as oppressive and absolutist. We're assured by ECM writers that "numbers of postmoderns are attracted to Jesus but detest His church" and can therefore be reached by the emerging church approach. It professes to be more amenable to the culture, more viable in its practice of Christianity, and truer to what Jesus had in mind for His church on earth.

Admirable—but let's see how true it is to the Scriptures. As Isaiah exhorted, "To the law and to the testimony [i.e., God's Word]: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them" (Isaiah 8:20).

First of all, one has to wonder what a postmodern—a person characterized chiefly

by his or her general disdain for authority and absolutes, particularly those dealing with moral issues and religion—thinks about this “Jesus” to whom he or she is supposedly drawn. The critical question is “Jesus who?” Is it the *biblical* Jesus they like, the one who declared absolutely, “I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father but by me” (John 14:6)? What about the *authoritarian* Jesus, who announced, “If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love” (John 15:10)? His words weren’t referring only to the Ten Commandments but rather to every *instruction* He gave. Is that the Jesus a postmodern desires? What about the Jesus who gave mankind an ultimatum: “He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him” (John 3:36)?

The biblical Jesus certainly does not accommodate postmodernism, which is one more example of humanity’s rebellion against its Creator. The good news is that Jesus offers deliverance from the delusion of postmodernism, as well as all the other man-centered *isms*: “If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free” (John 8:31,32). The bad news is that the emerging church approach attempts to accommodate Jesus and the Scriptures (actually “another Jesus” and a corrupted and emasculated Word) to our postmodern culture.

Although some regard the Emerging Church Movement as nothing more than a passing spiritual fad among young evangelicals, its potential for shipwrecking the faith of our next generation (should the Lord not yet return for His saints) is staggering. Here are just a few of the faith-destroying beliefs as espoused in the writings of the emergent leaders. First of all, foundational to the ECM is the subversion of the Bible. It’s akin to Satan’s scheme to destabilize Eve’s trust in what God commanded: “Yea, hath God said...?” (Genesis 3:1). They give lip service to the importance of God’s Word while undermining its inerrancy, authority, and sufficiency.

Rob Bell writes in *Velvet Elvis*, following 22 pages of weakening the authority of the Bible (making statements such as “It is possible to make the Bible say whatever we want it to, isn’t it?” and “With God being so massive and awe-inspiring and full of truth, why is his book capable of so much confusion?”): “[L]et’s make a group decision to drop once and for all the Bible-as-owner’s-manual metaphor [i.e., God’s specific instructions for mankind]. It’s terrible. It really is... We have to

embrace the Bible as the wild, uncensored, passionate account it is of experiencing the living God.”¹ No! “Holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost” (2 Pt 1:21).

His view, common to most emergent writers, is that the key to the authority of Scripture is one’s interpretation, and that is most authoritative when the interpretation takes place in a community and validated by a “group decision”: “Community, community, community. Together with others, wrestling and searching and engaging the Bible as a group of people hungry to know God in order to follow God.”²

Although we find thousands of times throughout the Bible clear, direct, and absolute commands prefaced by phrases such as “Thus saith the Lord” and “The word of the Lord came to me,” we’re now told that understanding and obedience to what God said are subject to a community’s interpretation. Consequently, ECM churches disdain preaching and authoritative teaching, yet they delight in discussion, causing some to dump the pulpit in favor of a dialogued Starbucks environment. As the goals of the community change, we’re told the interpretation may also change.

The claim that the ECM approach has not jettisoned sound doctrine is either a delusion or an outright deception. This becomes clear when one asks for a biblical position on an issue. Kristen Bell acknowledges in a *Christianity Today* emerging church article, “I grew up thinking that we figured out the Bible...that we knew what it means. Now I have no idea what most of it means, and yet I feel like life is big again—like life used to be black and white, and now it’s in color.”³ Brian McLaren, the most prominent of the emergent leaders, echoes Bell’s “doctrine” of avoidance regarding what the Bible says about homosexuality:

Perhaps we need a five-year moratorium on making [doctrinal] pronouncements. In the meantime, we’ll practice prayerful Christian dialogue, listening respectfully, disagreeing agreeably. When decisions need to be made, they’ll be admittedly provisional. We’ll keep our ears attuned to scholars in biblical studies, theology, ethics, psychology, genetics, sociology, and related fields. Then in five years, if we have clarity, we’ll speak; if not, we’ll set another five years for ongoing reflection.⁴

TBC has received numerous letters from parents and evangelical pastors who find their young people seeking out emergent churches for the “new” experiences, which they offer in abundance: religious art (primarily impressionistic images of “Jesus”), “biblical” films, rituals based upon Catho-

lic/Orthodox liturgy, community, personal relationships, contemplative spirituality and mysticism (some include yoga), Bible dialogues, ecumenical interaction with “people of faith,” a social gospel, plans to save the planet, restore the kingdom, and so forth.

Regarding the seductive nature of such things, few evangelicals, young or old, have a defense. Too many function as biblical illiterates, meaning they know some things about the Bible and are capable of reading it but simply haven’t made any effort, outside of following along with their pastor’s teaching on Sundays. They are the spiritual con man’s delight.

Satan’s seduction of Eve began subtly, “Yea hath God said?” It was a confusion tactic, setting her up to believe his lie and reject what God had said: “And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die.” That was his punch line to destroy the human race. Eve fell for it; Adam went along.

One finds a strikingly similar approach in the writings of the ECM leaders in regard to destroying faith in the gospel: Brian McLaren leads with doubts about what God had said:

The church latched on to that old doctrine of original sin like a dog to a stick, and before you knew it, the whole gospel got twisted around it. Instead of being God’s big message of saving love for the whole world, the gospel became a little bit of secret information on how to solve the pesky legal problem of original sin.⁵

He says elsewhere, “I don’t think we’ve got the gospel right yet. What does it mean to be saved?...None of us have arrived at orthodoxy.”

British emergent leader and Zondervan author Steve Chalke delivers the punch line that unabashedly rejects the essential gospel belief that Christ paid the full penalty for the sins of mankind necessary to satisfy divine justice. Incredibly, he condemns that doctrine as a form of “cosmic child abuse” and a “twisted version of events morally dubious and a huge barrier to faith.”⁶ This is where these emergent pied pipers, wittingly or unwittingly, are seductively leading our youth.

Hopefully, the above will move you to prayer and action regarding the biblical strengthening of your own children and the youth in your fellowship. If you need more motivation (this brief article allowed me to give you only the tip of the “emerging” iceberg), see our *TBC* Extra page (p. 8) with multiple emergent leaders’ quotes helpfully compiled in Roger Oakland’s latest book *Faith Undone: The emerging church...a new reformation or an end-time deception?* (See resources.) **TBC**

Quotable

How sadly possible it is to take delight in conferences and conventions, to feast on all the good things that are brought before us, and yet to be unprepared to go out from them to self-denying efforts to rescue the perishing; to delight in the rest of faith while forgetful to fight the good fight of faith; to dwell upon the cleansing and the purity effected by faith, but to have little thought for the poor souls struggling in the mire of sin....If we can wash our feet while He is... alone upon the mountains, is there not sad lack of fellowship with our Lord?

J. Hudson Taylor, from Union and Communion

Why is the church weak? Why are individual Christians weak? It is because they have allowed their minds to become conformed to the "spirit of this age"....They have forgotten what God is like....

James Montgomery Boice

Q&A

QUESTION: Mr. Hunt, a question has been troubling me as long as I've been a Christian...and I've never heard a sensible response. How can God send the overwhelming majority of humanity into everlasting conscious torment? I know there must be punishment and justice, but the traditional view on this seems cruel and not consistent with God's loving nature. Undeserved eternal joy in His presence for believers shows God's love—but never-ending pain and torment from the God who "is love"?

RESPONSE: This question bothers many. John the Baptist, Jesus, and Paul all taught everlasting punishment (Mt 3:12; 18:8; 25:41, 46; Mk 9:43-48; Lk 3:17; 2 Thes 1:9). If the suffering in the Lake of Fire is not everlasting, then neither is the joy of heaven because the same Greek word for "everlasting" is used for both.

An equally troubling question would be why eating some fruit merited Adam and Eve's expulsion from the Garden, instant spiritual death, and brought the physical death, disease, destruction, pain, wars, and sorrows that mankind has suffered ever since. Isn't that contradictory and a denial of "God is love" (1 Jn 4:8, 16)? No, it is *because* of His unchanging love and character.

God is also holy and just. In love, He warned Adam and Eve of the dire consequences of disobedience. To go back on His Word would make Him a liar. Why would we believe anything else He said?

Lets start with "In the beginning God created..." (Gn 1:1). All that followed must

be *because of Him*. Because He *is love*, He made man in His image so that man could eternally love God and his fellows. God is an eternal Being. Thus, man, made in His image, could never cease to exist. God's loving purpose was that man would forever dwell with Him in intimate fellowship and love—not that he would suffer forever in the Lake of Fire.

God knew what Adam and Eve and their descendants would do—but He did not predestine man to sin nor to be in torment eternally. The Lake of Fire was "prepared for the devil and his angels" (Mt 25:41). God "will have [i.e., desires] all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth....Christ Jesus...gave himself a ransom for all..." (1 Tm 2:4-6). Salvation is for "whosoever believeth on him" (Jn 3:16). To forgive Christ-rejecters would undermine both God's integrity and His justice.

No one who spends eternity in the Lake of Fire (and many will) can blame God. They will have sent themselves there. In love, God designed man so that His love would not be "an extra" but as spiritually essential to life as water is physically essential. The analogies of water and thirst are used repeatedly in Scripture: "My soul thirsteth for God" (Ps 42:2); the rich man in hell likened his torment to thirst, begging for a drop of water on his tongue, saying, "I am tormented in this flame" (Lk 16:24). It is obvious that he didn't mean physical water, a physical tongue (his body was in the grave), or a physical flame, but something even more real.

The rich man was suffering from the spiritual thirst that sin's separation from God has brought and that Christ came to quench. But he had rejected Christ, trying to find satisfaction in food, sex, wealth, possessions, position, etc. Jesus told the woman at the well, "Whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst," and He said to the Jews, "If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink" (Jn 7:37). The final invitation in the Bible is "whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely" (Rv 22:17). Clearly, such passages refer neither to physical thirst nor to physical water.

Spiritual thirst results from sin's separation from God. Most people foolishly seek to satisfy that thirst with things of this world. Those who seek after God find true satisfaction in Christ. The central feature of heaven is "a pure river of water [obviously not physical] of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb" (Rv 22:1).

On earth, there is much to distract and tempt both saint and sinner, dulling true satisfaction for believers and turning them from God. For unbelievers, that thirst is

seemingly satisfied without God—until they die. Separated from their bodies, from all companionship and earthly enticements, they can no longer dull conscience or escape the innate thirst for God. That thirst will torment them eternally with regret and remorse as the horror of their sins is revealed in the fire of God's purity, holiness, truth, and justice.

QUESTION: I met you years ago. I'm 21, attending a Nazarene university, am at home in the Messianic Jewish community, and believe that Yeshua Jesus is the Messiah, Son of God, and Savior. But I've been struggling...is God fact or fiction...? I was taught Liberalism in public high school and that contributed a lot to these doubts. I had a good breakthrough with God last Wednesday, felt Him move in me and comfort me, but the feeling didn't last very long, though I know it was real. My mother retold to me her testimony of being saved out of the hippie movement... and seeing the Shekinah glory. That gave me peace...yes, God is real after all. I just wish I could see such a manifestation... as my dad and so many others have. Then I thought: "Just because God is real, does that make Him right?" The devil and demons are real but wrong... so how can we be sure God is right? I want more than anything to prove these doubts wrong and regain my confidence, once so strong, and I know you are the right person to ask.

I need God so badly...I want nothing else but Him for the rest of my life—but I have all these worries and doubts.... I've prayed and prayed and thought doubts were conquered but I guess not. Do you know what to do?

RESPONSE: Many young people in evangelical homes and churches have similar doubts but hide them. First of all, don't look to feelings—they fade or change, as you know. Experience is no better. All Israel experienced going through the Red Sea, the Shekinah glory day after day, daily manna, water out of the rock, audibly heard God declare the Ten Commandments from Mt. Sinai, promised to obey, yet rebelled.

"We walk by faith, not by sight" (2 Cor 5:7). Does that mean without proof? No, otherwise the Mormon, Buddhist, Hindu, Muslim, etc., could "walk by faith." No matter how ridiculous the belief, "believers" could say "I have faith." We could not reason with a JW, atheist, or even a Satanist who also has "faith."

Feelings? Mormons have a "burning in the bosom." *Experiences?* I've met people all over the world who've had the most amazing and seemingly miraculous

experiences possible, but many were into the occult.

For true faith, God has provided three powerful witnesses: *creation*, *conscience*, and the *Bible*. The sun has not been in the sky forever or it would have burned out by now. The same is true of all the other stars in the universe. So there was a time when the universe did not exist. *Nothing* existed because *things* (matter) wear out. Nor do we get *something* out of *nothing*. There is only one sensible possibility: some *One*, without beginning or end and with the power to create all from *nothing*, has always existed. This fact is beyond our comprehension; but we are driven to it by all we know. There is no other alternative! No atheist or liberal, no inner doubts, can change these facts.

Everything is made of energy, but energy, being a *thing* itself is not eternal but part of the material universe subject to the law of entropy and thus had a beginning. Nor could energy plan, design, and create the incredibly complex and intricately related parts of even a single cell, much less place on every cell in written language the DNA instruction manual that every cell (plant, animal, or human) must follow and without which there is no life. No physical life exists without written *words*!

Words convey information, and that can only come from an intelligence. The information on DNA requires an infinite Intelligence! The Law of Biogenesis says, "Life only comes from life," as Pasteur proved. The so-called Big Bang (which didn't happen) would have sterilized everything a trillion times over. No life could have come out of that ball of fire!

So our Creator, who always existed, must have been the source of all life. As I said, no atheist or liberal can change these facts. There are no sound arguments against the above. The very first verse in the Bible presents what all mankind is driven to, no matter how reluctantly: "In the beginning, God created..." There exists an eternal Being who is our Creator. The first verses in John declare that Jesus Christ is the Creator and that "in him was life" (Jn 1:4), and He is called THE WORD OF GOD. On this basis alone, we would believe the rest of the Bible; but there is more: *conscience*.

Why are you worrying about whether God is right or wrong, good or evil? Because all humans made in God's image innately have these concepts. Morals and ethics didn't come from energy, which knows nothing of right or wrong, nor from a Big Bang or from the molecules in your brain.

Again the Bible explains: "the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts

...accusing or else excusing one another" (Rom 2:15). Mankind lives for self in violation of conscience, like a cancer cell no longer following the DNA. Jesus said: "Ye must be born again." Peter explains, "Being born again...by the word of God...which by the gospel is preached unto you" (1 Pt 1:23-25). Unless the rebel believes the gospel and is reborn into harmony with the Word of God, he remains a cancer that must be cut out of God's universe.

Finally, *prophecy* is the supreme way God proves His existence and the infallibility of His Word. Hundreds of prophecies foretell the entire history of Israel, many already fulfilled, the rest in process of fulfilment. No one can deny this! As for Christ, there are scores of specific prophecies foretelling His coming that prove His identity that no one can refute.

Put your faith in the One who has revealed Himself in *creation*, *conscience*, and His infallible Word, especially through *prophecy*, and no doubts can come.

QUESTION: I have read most of your articles over the years. Perhaps I missed something, but if Christ was crucified on Thursday, then the high Sabbath that began the 7-day feast of the Passover would have been followed immediately by the weekly Sabbath. When could the Jewish leaders have asked Pilate to seal the tomb...and the women have bought linens and spices to wrap His body...without violating either of these back-to-back Sabbaths?

RESPONSE: Here's the picture. The Jewish day begins with *night* right after *sunset*, not with *morning* right after *sunrise*. No leaven may be in the home during the seven-day feast of unleavened bread that begins with the Passover supper. All leaven must be removed beforehand. This is done during a time called "the days of unleavened bread" (Acts 12:3).

The final 24 hours just before the Passover supper are called "the day of unleavened bread"—the day (Nisan 14) "when the Passover [lamb] must be killed" (Lk 22:7) by "the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel...in the evening" (just before sunset—Ex 12:6) to be eaten "that night [just after sunset] roast with fire" (v. 8).

Of course, Christ's disciples would need all of Nisan 14 (which began with night just after sunset) to prepare the "Upper Room" for the Passover supper the following night, removing all leaven and preparing a lamb slain just before the next sunset, to be eaten that night (not knowing that Christ would have been crucified). It was during the night that preceded the slaying of the lamb the next afternoon

that Christ was betrayed: "the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread..." (1 Cor 11:23). The "last supper," from which Judas went out to betray Christ, was not the Passover supper. The next day, the rabbis had not yet eaten the Passover (Jn 18:28).

Surely the rabbis would have obtained permission to guard the tomb immediately after Pilate's death sentence. They had no time to lose because of these two Sabbaths approaching. The women would have procured the spices and linens immediately for the same reason before the two pending Sabbaths.

News Alert.....

MSNBC News Services, 7/10/07 [Excerpts]: Pope Benedict XVI has reasserted the universal primacy of the Roman Catholic Church, approving a document released Tuesday that says Orthodox churches are defective and that other Christian denominations are not true churches.

Benedict approved a document from his old offices at the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith [formerly the Holy office of the Inquisition]...It was the second time in a week the pope has corrected what he says are erroneous interpretations of the Second Vatican Council....

Benedict, who attended Vatican II as a young theologian, has long complained about what he considers the erroneous interpretation of the council by liberals....

[This latest document] restates key sections of a 2000 document the pope wrote when he was prefect of the congregation, "Dominus Iesus," which set off a firestorm of criticism among ...other Christian denominations because it said they were not true churches but merely ecclesial communities and therefore did not have the "means of salvation."

Despite the harsh tone of the document, it stresses that Benedict remains committed to ecumenical dialogue.

[TBC: *Astonishingly, Rome's historically consistent bottom line ("She alone has the means of salvation") is completely ignored by leading evangelicals thrilled to dialogue and work with this apostate church. For all Rome's ecumenical talk, in the end all must submit to this "only true church, outside of which there is no salvation."*]

Endnotes.....

1. *Velvet Elvis: Repainting the Christian Faith* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2005), 044-45, 062-63.
2. *Ibid.*, 053.
3. Andy Crouch, "The Emergent Mystique," *Christianity Today*, November 2004, Vol 48, No 11, 36ff.
4. <http://www.christianitytoday.com/leaders/newsletter/2006/cln60123.html>.
5. Brian McLaren, *The Last Word and the Word After That* (San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2005), 134.
6. Steve Chalke and Alan Mann, *The Lost Message of Jesus* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2003), 182-83.

Speaking Schedule

Sep 7-9 (Dave/T.A.)	Great Lakes Prophecy Conference Appleton WI (920) 735-1242
Sep 12-14 (Dave)	Winnipeg Prophecy Conference Winnipeg MB (204) 853-7786
Sep 16 (Dave)	Schoenfelder Mennonite Church Pigeon Lake MB (204) 864-2740
Sep 30 (Dave)	Candlelight Christian Fellowship Coeur d'Alene ID (208) 772-7755
Oct 17-22 (Dave)	Brazil www.chamada.com.br
Oct 20 (T.A.)	Steeling the Mind Richland WA (800) 977-2177
Nov 11-13 (Dave)	Midnight Call Prophecy Conference Myrtle Beach SC (800) 845-2420

Letters

Hi there,

I'm sitting here watching your [video] *Israel, Islam & Armageddon*. I just wanted to say THANK YOU, thank you, thank you. Finally, someone who isn't afraid to speak the truth about Catholicism, false teachers in Christianity, and the truth about Islam. God bless you for preaching such truth. So many are afraid to teach this. Keep up the great work. TC (WA)

Dear Berean Call,

When I first got saved I got involved in the "name-it-and-claim-it, everybody-gets-healed, signs-and-wonders" movement. I was heavily chastised for not having faith when I got sick and needed several surgeries. I heard outrageous things come out of "Christian" mouths! I started seeking the Lord and He delivered me from all the error, but I saw it ruin many lives and cause many to turn from Jesus. Thank God I never turned away. Thank you for your book, *The Seduction of Christianity*. I've bought several copies and given them to members of my family who are involved in this occult error. CR (TN)

Dear TBC,

We have never attended a church that has taught us, warned us, informed us, as this ministry has! Praise God for His leading to find your ministry. We have been sharing these resources with our friends and are so grateful for God's care to bring us these timely and valuable ministry tools. It was when we finally left our...church due to Spiritual Formation and Purpose Driven agendas that would not be abandoned by the church leaders regardless of our many

years of attempts to expose and reform... that we heard of Dave Hunt's name for the first time in all our Christian lives. Our pastor accused Dave Hunt of being a legalistic fundamentalist who assumes the role of the Holy Spirit in people's lives. We left that day, wondering who Dave Hunt was and why we were put in the same camp as him. After an internet search, we soon discovered the joy of like-mindedness for the first time since our salvation in Jesus. ([My husband] is a scientist and I'm a homemaker... We are not new Christians, just weary but now rejoicing ones!)...Many children of God are at this time leaving large denominations by the droves, due to an apostasy that is appearing to be out of control, not knowing where to go to church! We know God is in full control, however, and look forward to His return for us. We are thankful to know we don't have to cry with the Elijah syndrome any longer. T&BW (WA)

Dear Dave,

I read an article about your belief that yoga opens people to demonic influence. I have now become painfully aware of that through firsthand experience. I have returned to Christianity but I am desperate for help with regaining my body and life back. (email)

Dear TBC,

I just finished *Judgment Day*, and all I can say is Wow! I have not wasted these past 10 years, and although I read a lot, there was plenty in this book I'd never heard of... This growing anti-Semitism is a concern to me as I think about what my children will have to endure. It seems like the church as a whole has either embraced anti-Semitism or replacement theology, which I'm sure will turn to anti-Semitism sooner or later...I have a good chance of being free next year and I wonder, "How many churches out there still preach God's Word and are not polluted by the above two?" At one time we had sound preachers and teachers who came in here, but not any more. I seldom go to chapel these days, it's so bad. Dave may well be right—we are at the door of that Day. RS (prisoner, FL)

Dear Mr Hunt,

I heard about your ministry two years ago in Calgary, Alberta, when I attended the Last Days Bible Conference there. T.A. McMahon was one of the guest speakers. You say things in print that I am thinking! I appreciate your solid stand for God's Word, and for truth. Thank you and keep going till Jesus returns! PP (Canada)

Dear Dave,

My message could take up pages, so

here is the short version....I just read *The Cult Explosion*. I was into a number of cults in my life...where I used the names of the deities for meditating that you wrote of. I believe that everything you wrote about cults is true. And just from reading your book, I feel much closer to Jesus than ever before. SY (email)

Dave,

I really enjoyed [your article] "Love, Justice, and Judgment" (6/07). I am surprised when I meet people who say they are Christians [but who] can't understand... why bad things are happening....I believe we are living in such blessed times....Life is easy (we have internet, automobiles, we can fly, abundance of food, money, knowledge, etc.)....The more the Lord blesses us the more we rebel against Him. The more abundant His blessings, the more we don't need Him. We forget to thank Him. We forget that these are His blessings—even to the unjust. God's judgment is imperative because if He doesn't [judge], there will be millions of lost souls who won't ever know Him. He blesses us with His love but we... live in our own ways....He has to judge because His blessings (love) have made us believe that we don't need Him. RT (CO)

TBC Notes

Be a Berean

We believe that many of the popular trends taking place today in Christendom are significantly and adversely influencing the spiritual state of the church. Although we give our reasons and provide information and documentation for every subject we address, we are definitely not the final word on any particular subject. God's Word is our final word! Our objective is simply to encourage believers to measure everything they do against the plumb line of Scripture.

In these spiritually perilous days before the Lord's return, each of us who professes Christ needs to diligently "study [the Scriptures] to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness" (2 Timothy 2:15,16).

T.A. McMAHON
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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Emerging Apostasy

“...There shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies...” [2 Peter 2:1a]

The following quotes are from leaders and well-known supporters of the Emerging Church Movement. The documentation and context can be found in Roger Oakland’s critical analysis of the movement, *Faith Undone* (see our resource pages).

“The emerging church movement has come to believe that the ultimate context of the spiritual aspirations of a follower of Jesus Christ is not Christianity but rather the kingdom of God....[T]o believe that God is limited to [Christianity] would be an attempt to manage God. If one holds that Christ is confined to Christianity, one has chosen a god that is not sovereign....The gospel is not our gospel, but the gospel of the kingdom of God, and what belongs to the kingdom of God cannot be hijacked by Christianity.”

—SAMIR SELMANOVIC

“During a recent Life Development Forum we offered a session on Christian practices. In one of the four weeks we introduced the act of making the sign of the cross on ourselves. This gesture has become a very powerful experience for me. It is rich with meaning and history and is such a simple way to proclaim and pray my faith with my body.”

—DOUG PAGITT

“In my case intimacy with Christ has developed gradually over the years, primarily through what Catholic mystics call ‘centering prayer.’ Each morning, as soon as I wake up, I take time—sometimes as much as a half hour—to center myself on Jesus. I say his name over and over again to drive back the 101 things that begin to clutter up my mind the minute I open my eyes. Jesus is my mantra, as some would say.”

—TONY CAMPOLO

“I let go of the notion that the Bible is a divine product. I learned that it is a human cultural product, the product of two ancient communities, biblical Israel and early Christianity. As such, it contained their understandings and affirmations, not statements coming directly or somewhat directly from God....I realized that whatever ‘divine revelation’ and the ‘inspiration of the Bible’ meant (if they meant anything), they did not mean that the Bible was a divine product with divine authority.”

—MARCUS BORG

“The book of Revelation is an example of popular literary genre of ancient Judaism....[I]nstead of being a book about the distant future, it becomes a way of talking about the challenges of the immediate present. It becomes a book of warnings and promises....If Revelation were a blueprint of the distant future, it would have been unintelligible for its original readers, as well as the readers of all succeeding generations....But if Revelation is instead an example of the literature of the oppressed, full of ever-relevant warnings and promises, it presents each generation with needed inspiration and wisdom and encouragement. In this light, Revelation becomes a powerful book about the kingdom of God here and now, available to all.”

—BRIAN MCLAREN

“For me, the beginning of sharing my faith with people began by throwing out Christianity and embracing Christian spirituality, a nonpolitical mysterious system that can be experienced but not explained.”

—DONALD MILLER

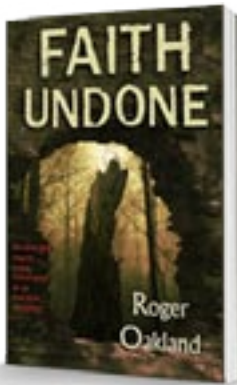
“My goal is to destroy Christianity as a world religion and be a recatalyst for the movement of Jesus Christ....Some people are upset with me because it sounds like I’m anti-Christian. I think they might be right.”

—ERWIN MCMANUS

“It has been fashionable among the innovative [emerging] pastors I know to say, ‘We’re not changing the message; we’re only changing the medium.’ This claim is probably less than honest....[I]n the new church we must realize how medium and message are intertwined. When we change the medium, the message that’s received is changed, however subtly, as well. We might as well get beyond our naïveté or denial about this.”

—BRIAN MCLAREN

EMERGING CHURCH EXPOSED: RESOURCES TO SEE AND SHARE



FAITH UNDONE

The Emerging Church—A New Reformation or an End-time Deception?

Oakland—*Faith Undone* shows that the nature of the Emerging Church's new reformation is anything but new and, when it comes to pass, could bring violence and persecution to those who defend the Bible as the true and literal Word of God. Is the Emerging Church movement just another passing fad, a more "contemporary" approach to church, or a bunch of disillusioned young people looking for answers? In fact, it is actually much broader and is influencing Christianity to a significant degree. Grounded in a centuries-old mystical approach,

this movement is powerful, yet highly deceptive, and it draws its energy from practices and experiences that are foreign to traditional evangelical Christianity. The path that the Emerging Church is taking is leading right into the arms of Roman Catholicism and ultimately to an interfaith perspective that has prophetically profound ramifications. Lighthouse Trails Publishing, 260 pages.

B01516


wt .9 \$12.00



The Emerging Church

Oakland—A trend is sweeping the world that promises to change the way Christianity will be presented in the twenty-first century. The Emerging Church endeavors to attract unbelievers to

Christ by providing these experiences. Many pastors and church leaders are weaving together elements from different religious traditions. Emergent Church leaders say that in order to go ahead, we must go back in time and reintroduce mystical techniques that include candles, incense, icons, statues, prayer stations, and the sacraments.

DVD149  60 minutes wt .3 \$15.00



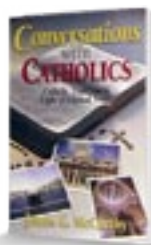
Queen of Rome, Queen of Islam, Queen of All

Tetlow/Oakland/Myers—According to the book of Revelation, a woman will reign over the kings of the earth in the final days. The apostle John marveled with

great amazement when he saw the woman who says in her heart, "I sit a queen" [Rev. 18:7]. The Bible's perfect track record guarantees that the activities surrounding the Queen will affect the entire world. How can we escape? What can we do to prepare for what may soon take place? This book presents God's answer. Eternal Productions, 154 pp.

B06112

wt .6 \$10.00

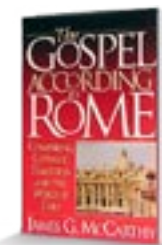


Conversations with Catholics

McCarthy—Capturing the heartbeat of the Roman Catholic way of life, *Conversations with Catholics* provides an insightful glimpse into the way Catholics think about God, the Church, getting to heaven, and the practice of their religion. With a compassionate heart, Jim McCarthy shares real-life stories that contrast Catholicism with biblical Christianity and point the way to a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Includes subject and scripture indexes. Gospel Folio Press, 195 pp.

B07040

wt .6 \$11.00

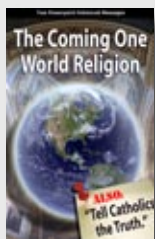


The Gospel According to Rome

McCarthy—When the recently released *Catechism of the Catholic Church* broke onto the *N. Y. Times* bestseller list, its astonishing success confirmed the overwhelming interest of Catholics and Protestants in understanding modern Catholicism. Has the recent openness among denominations affected Catholic teachings? In the new spirit of cooperation, is there any reason why Catholics and Protestants should remain divided? This powerful and insightful examination of the Catholic Church provides the answers. Harvest House Publishers, 354 pp.


B01077

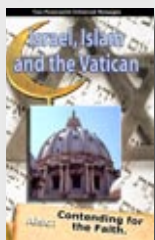
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The Coming One World Religion


Gendron—Discover the most effective way to witness to Catholics by using the most trustworthy authority for truth. Also discover how the Vatican's strategy for a one-world religion is taking place without any resistance from the Body of Christ.

DVD071  90 minutes wt .2 \$20.00



Israel, Islam, and the Vatican


Gendron—Video presentations by Mike Gendron, with PowerPoint. See how these three monotheistic religions are influencing the events leading to Armageddon. Also see why we must contend for truth in these days of great deception and compromise.

DVD092  93 minutes wt .2 \$20.00



Another Jesus?


Oakland—Rome teaches that Jesus is literally and bodily present wherever a consecrated Host is found. By chronicling the growing cult of eucharistic adoration and the trend of eucharistic evangelization, Roger Oakland points viewers back to a "more sure word of prophecy" and the true Jesus of the Bible.

DVD147  60 minutes wt .3 \$15.00



Messages from Heaven

Eternal Productions—Reports of paranormal and supernatural activity are on the rise worldwide. Does the Bible anticipate apparitions, signs, and wonders? How might the apparition of Mary and other paranormal events transform the world in the third millennium?

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Hunt & McMahon—Two new books are on the horizon from TBC: A new work titled *Psychology and the Church* and a revised and expanded edition of the bestselling classic, *Occult Invasion*. *Psychology and the Church* is scheduled for release by October, and *Occult Invasion* by November (we'll keep you posted).

In the meantime, we're offering FREE "sneak preview" copies of both books in a special 176-page paperback sampler with selected whole chapters from the books, now in production. Get a single copy FREE with any order (while supplies last) or better yet, help get the word out by ordering case quantities of these samplers for FREE distribution to your church, family, and friends.

The specially printed paperback "flips" to feature cover art from both books in one bound volume. The finished edition of *Psychology and the Church* will be a power-packed compilation of all of Dave & T.A.'s articles addressing psychology from past issues of *The Berean Call*, plus new material; it will be close to 300 pages in its full release, in paperback. The revised and expanded *Occult Invasion* will be over 600 pages in its full release, in hardcover.

When purchased in case quantities, these paperback samplers provide a meaty serving of Dave & T.A.'s newest books for about the same cost as a nice gospel tract. This is perhaps the nicest "giveaway" book we've offered, with the hope and prayer that you'll distribute them as generously as possible (the books are marked with a printed "sticker" as FREE and not for resale).

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Hunt—A must for the Berean soul-winner, this evangelistic booklet refines and condenses what Dave has written for believers to use

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Tozer—Though this book was written in the late 1940s it is most relevant today in pointing out one of the problems of the contemporary church in how the Word of

NEW!

God is expounded. For the author, people are not fed spiritually only by words but by God himself, and if believers don't find God in their personal experience, then the truths they hear will be of no benefit. CLC Publications, 190 pp.

B17105 wt .4 **\$7.00**



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The Battle for the Mind

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plemanship, and clearly articulating the faith for which we must "earnestly contend." Llamada De Medianoche, 254 pp.

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