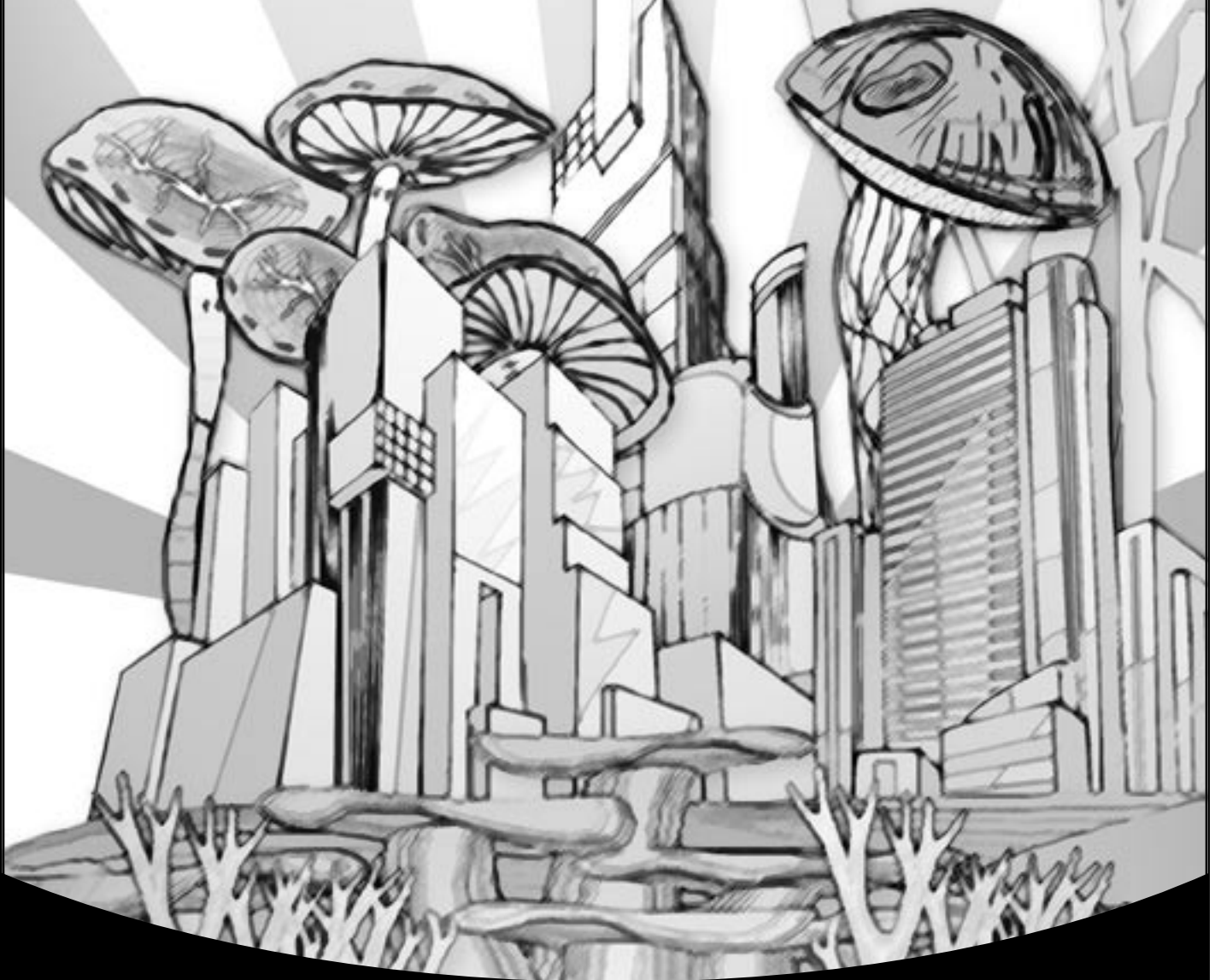


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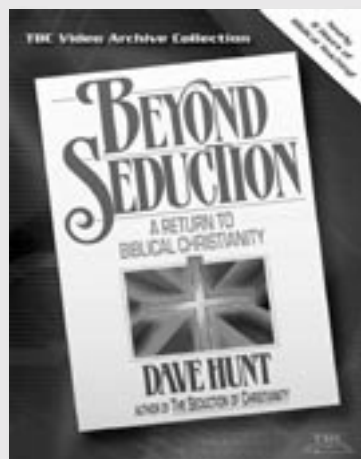
APRIL 2005

*NOAH FOUND GRACE*

*by DAVE HUNT*



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### Cover graphic

*Monuments to human achievement are overshadowed by the growth of religious teachings that flourish in the darkness of a neo-Babel culture.*

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## “Noah Found Grace”

Dave Hunt

Atheists argue that according to the “myth” of the Garden of Eden, evil had too innocent a beginning to be the root from which all the wickedness on this earth could possibly have grown. Adam and Eve merely ate some forbidden fruit—an act hardly worth getting upset about. “Eve talked me into it, Lord, and I did it to share with her, but I only took one bite....But the serpent deceived me, Lord; I thought it would make me wise... and it *was* delicious and nutritious.”

How could such a simple act bring the horror of selfishness, jealousy, lust, hatred, rage, revenge, crime, war, disease, suffering, and death that has plagued mankind ever since? The biblical claim seems absurd! For this one tiny mistake, God was so upset that He threw them out of the Garden and sentenced them to death? Why couldn't God have just forgiven them—given them another chance? Wouldn't that have been reasonable?

The answer to that question is what the Bible is all about. The question itself reflects an easy-going attitude toward sin and a lack of respect for authority that permeates our society and has even penetrated evangelical churches. “Give me one more chance” became the mantra of the human race, repeated endlessly by everyone from disobedient children to the worst criminals pleading with the judge. God knew that “one more chance” would only encourage evil-doers. But parents, schools, courts, parole boards, psychologists, and well-meaning do-gooders are still honoring this lame excuse—and with devastating results.

A raging epidemic of what the Bible calls “sin” has ravaged mankind. The courage to face that truth, however, is sadly missing from most of today's pulpits. Few dare call it rebellion against our Creator for which we need to repent. God's judgment and the coming day of reckoning are much too negative to hold the interest of modern congregations. Talk about God must be positive, uplifting, reassuring. None of this “separated from God by sin” talk will do. The “unchurched” are not going to be attracted to church if they are confronted with suggestions of guilt. Sermons should inspire listeners to feel comfortable about

God and about themselves. And they must be short, entertaining, and related to the “good life” the world dreams of attaining.

Yet the “good life” isn't life at all, but a plastic bubble defined by sit-coms and TV commercials, sold to us by a whole industry of denial and designed specifically to insulate us from the awful truth of which the Spirit of truth would convict us: “of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment” (Jn 16:8). The game is to glorify sin, mock the family, and pretend that suffering, sorrow and death aren't part of “our world,” or at least to push them into another compartment that doesn't have to be dealt with just yet.

The real world is inhabited by self-centered descendants of the original pair, who rebelled against God under the leadership of the serpent. What popular pulpits must avoid at all cost, however, is the horrible truth that man has been the devil's follower and in his service from the very beginning.

BY FAITH NOAH, BEING WARNED OF  
GOD OF THINGS NOT SEEN AS YET,  
MOVED WITH FEAR, PREPARED AN ARK  
TO THE SAVING OF HIS HOUSE...

—Hebrews 11:7

We'll solve our problems with technology, another committee, another day in court, another peace conference, more catchy slogans, positive self-affirmations, and a little religion of whatever brand seems appealing at the moment.

God had spoken in wisdom and love, His creatures had rebelled—and “rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft” (1 Sm 15:23). This has been the history of mankind. The world is getting worse, not better, and God's judgment is soon going to fall. But unlike Adam and Eve, who were ashamed and tried to hide from God, their descendants openly defy Him and flaunt their mutiny in His face. They have thrown God off this earth and would tear Him from His throne in heaven if they could.

The trees of the Garden behind which Adam and Eve sought to hide have metamorphosed into an asphalt jungle of high-rise apartments and office buildings, with every monument to human achievement crowded with inhabitants who desperately need to repent and return to God on His terms through faith in the One who died for their sins. Scattered throughout the

jungle have always been the mushrooms of religion, some more poisonous than others. And now something new has appeared—giant mushrooms spreading everywhere: mega-churches filled with congregants who are being taught a “positive” way to hide from God. He is praised with the lips, but there is no repentance toward Him or real faith in Christ as the Savior of sinners.

Instead of exposing modern culture's contempt for God and righteousness and its glorification of sin, the church embraces its decadence as a packaging that will make the “gospel” acceptable to those who don't know they need it. Our needing Christ as a shelter from the storm of God's wrath against our sins is not mentioned. The appeal is not to come to Christ to obtain forgiveness and to be rescued from eternity in the Lake of Fire—but to become happier on earth. Christianity is packaged as “spirituality,” a popular commodity today, and sold as a good deal that anyone who wants to be “blessed” would accept. The real issue, however, is sin, not self-esteem, self-love, self-image, etc.—but as we mention in the Q&A, not only the world but the church, too, is peddling the snake oil of self-enhancement as the cure-all.

Nor is this self-centered message confined to today's “seeker-sensitive” churches. Much of the evangelical church in America is preoccupied with “growth,” while millions suffering for Christ in much of the world are forgotten. The hundreds of thousands who are being slaughtered by Muslims in southern Sudan, in northern Nigeria, in Indonesia, and Christians suffering in other Muslim countries would be aghast if they knew that a major concern of Christians in America is how to feel good about themselves—and that when they don't, they have the comforting option of therapy from Christian psychologists!

Genesis chapter 6 presents an astonishing picture: not many generations after the creation of Adam and Eve, their descendants (to whom they surely had passed along the story of their expulsion from the Garden) are so evil that God is ready to destroy them all. And He would have done so but for one man: “but Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD” (Gn 6:8). Only one man out of millions obtained grace from God!

How can that be? Does God reserve His grace for a select company? No, God's grace is freely offered to all; it

cannot be earned or merited or it would not be grace. So why was it only Noah who “found grace”? To find, one must seek (Mt 7:7; Lk 11:9). Noah was the only one who sought God’s grace! Noah knew that he was a sinner and needed God’s grace—and he alone sought and found it.

Hundreds of times in the Old Testament this same Hebrew word (*matsa*), which is here translated “found,” is given the same clear meaning: “Seek ye the LORD while he may be found (*matsa*), call ye upon him while he is near: Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon” (Is 55:6, 7); “And ye shall seek me, and find (*matsa*) me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart” (Jer 29:13).

We must recognize our guilt in the face of God’s holy perfection, and come to Him in deep repentance seeking His grace, not to earn or merit it, but to obtain mercy at His throne of grace (Heb 4:16). Instead, the church offers God’s favor to achieve happiness, success, and earthly blessings. We don’t really appreciate God’s grace until we realize that His righteous judgment is hanging over this present world as it was in Noah’s day. “Seek ye the LORD, all ye meek of the earth...it may be ye shall be hid in the day of the LORD’s anger” (Zep 2:3).

We desperately need to understand something of the magnitude of sin, of evil, and of gross wickedness in this world if we are to appreciate our redemption. God’s love, grace, and mercy shine all the brighter against the awful reality of evil. Indeed, the very existence of evil is a powerful proof of God’s existence and holiness. God says, “I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil...” (Is 45:7). God creates evil? Yes, the same way that light exposes darkness.

A person who was born, lived, and died in total darkness in a cave deep beneath the earth would not know that he lived in the dark until someone came into the cave with a light and the darkness was revealed. In the same way, God’s goodness, perfect holiness, and righteousness reveal evil for what it is. Without God and the conscience He has given us we would not recognize evil. Indeed, evil makes good shine all the brighter—and this world is full of evil.

I’ve just finished writing a book titled, *JUDGMENT DAY: Islam, Israel and the Nations*\*[available in June]. It is a shocking expose of evil beyond one’s wildest imagination manifest especially as anti-Semitism and hatred of Israel on the part of Islam and all nations—including Israel’s frequent betrayal by even the

United States. God’s judgment is coming upon the entire world for its mistreatment of His chosen people. He declares, “I will also gather all nations [that includes America], and will...plead with [punish] them...for my heritage Israel, whom they have scattered among the nations, and parted my land [as every ‘peace proposal’ has done and Bush’s road map to peace intends]” (Joel 3:2).

Evil is at its worst when it poses as good and justifies itself with lies. For example, consider the full-page, truth-defying diatribe against Israel, masquerading as a special news report in the *National Catholic Reporter* (4/26/96), which justified Islam’s murder and mayhem and blamed Israel for mistreating “Palestinians” in the city of Hebron. (This is where Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and their wives were buried, but not one Arab or Muslim. Yet Muslims have taken control and built a mosque there.) It says trouble started when Jews “began moving into

IN THOSE DAYS THERE WAS NO KING IN ISRAEL: EVERY MAN DID THAT WHICH WAS RIGHT IN HIS OWN EYES.

—Judges 21:25

*Hebron 20 years ago.* In fact, though chased out periodically by invaders, Jews have been there for 3,000 years. Arabs only arrived after the seventh-century Muslim conquest and immediately began to brutalize the Jewish residents for failing to convert to Islam. That mistreatment has continued for more than 1,300 years.

In the vicious pogrom in Hebron of 1929 (one of many), synagogues were desecrated, 67 Jews were murdered, and the rest forced to flee. Jews were slaughtered all over “Palestine.” Typical of what happened was the following report from the British police chief of Hebron:

On hearing screams...I went up a sort of tunnel passage and saw an Arab in the act of cutting off a child’s head with a sword. Seeing me, he tried to aim the stroke at me but missed....I shot him....Behind him was a Jewish woman smothered in blood, with a man I recognized as an Arab police constable named Issa Sheril from Jaffa...standing over the woman with a dagger in his hand. He saw me and bolted into a room close by and tried to shut me out—shouting in Arabic, “Your Honor, I am a policeman.” I got into the room and shot him. (Cited in Peters, *From Time Immemorial*, p. 315)

Years later, cautiously and fearfully, some Jews began moving back into one

of their most sacred cities, a city where their patriarchs are buried. In 1948, Israel was attacked by six Arab nations. Jordan captured the West Bank and with it, Hebron. All Jewish residents were summarily expelled, synagogues destroyed. Only when Israel retook Hebron in 1967 could Jews return—and the *National Catholic Reporter* castigates them for doing so and blames the 400 Jewish residents under siege from 120,000 Muslims for causing trouble! Evil is praised as good—and seeker-friendly sermons don’t even acknowledge its existence!

The persecution of Jews in Roman Catholic Europe was mild compared with what Christians and Jews endured for 1,300 years in Muslim countries. The slaughter included more than 1 million Armenians in the last decades of the nineteenth and first of the twentieth centuries—at times with the tacit approval of Western powers. In the great 1915 massacre, “Turkish women were given the dagger to give the final stab to dying Armenians in order to gain credit [with] Allah for having killed a Christian.”

In Atatürk’s destruction of Smyrna (leaving nothing but the Turkish suburb) in September of 1922, about 200,000 Armenian and Greek inhabitants were massacred while English, American, Italian and French warships anchored in the harbor repelled fleeing victims who swam out to them for help. The Western powers didn’t want to offend Muslim Turkey! In his must-read book, *The Blight of Asia*, George Horton, U.S. Consul in that doomed city and eye-witness to the unspeakable cruelty of Islam, writes, “One of the keenest impressions which I brought away with me from Smyrna was a feeling of shame that I belonged to the human race.” Shades of Genesis six!

In its foreword, James W. Gerard, former U.S. Ambassador to Germany, describes Horton’s book as “the whole story of the savage extermination of Christian civilization [by Muslims] throughout the length and breadth of the old Byzantine Empire....” Horton himself writes, “This process of extermination was carried on over a considerable period of time, with fixed purpose, with system, and with painstaking minute details; and it was accomplished with unspeakable cruelties....”

Sin is a horrible fact, in spite of the aversion that popular preachers have for facing its reality. The “positive” sermons in today’s mega churches make a mockery of the judgment that God will shortly unleash upon this wicked world. To lull sinners into thinking that all is well is to fatally deceive those for whom Christ died and to keep them from repenting and finding refuge in Christ from the wrath to come. **TBC**

## Quotable

O Lord, Thy fingers fashioned Calvary's hill;  
Those skull-like stones were surely Thine  
intent.  
Well did'st Thou know, Thy Body dead and  
still  
Would crown its slopes and ev'ry rock be rent.

O Lord, 'twas in Thy mind, the tree was born,  
With living strength to point men up to Thee.  
Yet did'st Thou know, Thy members strained  
and torn  
Would hang from lifeless wood, and lifeless  
be....

O Lord, 'twas Thou, who molded common  
dust;  
Breathed forth Thy life into this house of clay.  
Yet did'st Thou know mankind, corrupted,  
must  
Thine own pure vessel mar and cast away.

O Lord, my parts were written with Thy pen,  
Ere I was formed within my mother's womb.  
Lord of my life, 'twas I who slew Thee then,  
My sin and curse inscribed, which sealed Thy  
tomb....

Enough O Lord! Thy conquest is complete.  
Thy love foreknew yet bore the shame for me.  
Mine outpoured soul shall lave [wash] Thy  
pierced feet;  
Thy great forgiveness bind my soul to Thee.

*Geoffrey Bull, From the days of solitude in  
Chungking, while confined there by the  
Chinese Communist Army in spring 1951*

## Q&A

**Question:** I recently read the March 2005 *Ladies' Home Journal* (LHJ) column by Rick Warren and was greatly disturbed. Although he mentioned God (which "God"?), the entire article was devoted to teaching us how we can better love ourselves. What possible use could this be to the multitudes of unsaved readers of this magazine? There is also a link that takes readers to the Ladies Home Journal "Spirituality" website that seems to embrace every new age idea possible. Comments, please.

**Answer:** This "Learn To Love Yourself" column was Rick's third in LHJ. The first was December's "The Purpose-Driven Christmas." The second was February's "The 'I'm So Busy' Epidemic." The fourth is coming up in April: "Live a Passion-Driven Life."

Rick has been handed a great opportunity to share the gospel with the unsaved—but so far he hasn't. The closest

was in December: "...thank God for His Christmas gift to you: He sent a Savior." Rick doesn't define either God or Savior, so the meaning is up to the reader's personal taste. And the perversion of those tastes is evident from the fact that *LHJ* offers every conceivable New Age, occult, and mystical "spirituality" program. Listings include Eastern meditation, dream interpretation, rediscovering one's "spiritual self," the "New Spirituality," Yoga, being "spiritually tuned in," and hypnosis.

Every column has some reference to God's love, comforting everyone no matter what their beliefs. But the essential truth is missing: that the proof of God's love is the sacrifice of His Son for our sins (Jn 3:16; Rom 5:8; 1 Jn 4:10; etc.). The Cross is left out entirely.

Each column has some commonsense advice about setting goals and priorities, and vague references to "spirituality"—the sort of thing one might get from a horoscope in an astrology column, or from a Chinese fortune cookie: "Go on that school field trip with your child"; "Put your relationships high up on your 'to do' list"; "Go for your dreams. Transform your passion into a PAYCHECK"; "Learn to let go of...resentment, jealousy and prolonged anger"; etc., etc.

The March column about which you inquired sounds like an echo out of one of Robert Schuller's books from 20 years ago. We've been criticized for saying that Rick is teaching pop psychology, but there it is for anyone to see. That's not biblical! Rick is riding the crest of great popularity at the moment and, like Schuller, is careful not to present any biblical truth, no matter how essential, that might offend the secular world. Instead, he tells his readers what he knows they want to hear, not the truth they need. Yes, he mentions "God," but a humanistic "God" who is very "positive" about everyone.

The March title, "Learn to Love Yourself!" is the opposite of what the Bible teaches and is a far cry from "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart," which Christ said is the first and great commandment (Mt 22:37-38).

Rick advises his readers, "To truly love yourself, you need to know the five truths that form the basis of a healthy self-image." That's humanistic language, not biblical, and hardly fits with what men of God have said about themselves: "Now mine eye seeth thee. Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes" (Job 42:5, 6); "Woe is me! for I am undone!" (Is 6:5); "Of whom [sinners] I am chief...less than the least of all saints" (1 Tm 1:15; Eph 3:8), etc.

Rick lists "five truths," none of which

is either a "truth" or biblical: 1) Accept yourself; 2) Love yourself; 3) Be true to yourself; 4) Forgive yourself; and 5) Believe in yourself. He begins *The Purpose-Driven Life* by saying, "It's not about you." In fact, that book turns out to be all about you—and we see the same in his columns in *LHJ*.

He says, "God accepts us unconditionally...." This is the humanistic plea of a homosexual, lesbian, fornicator, or one living in sin unmarried with a "partner," who says to parents and concerned friends, "Just accept me as I am, love me unconditionally." In fact, God wants to save us from sin and self and make us new creatures in Christ—but one would never get that idea from Rick's *LHJ* columns.

Rick says we should love ourselves—just the opposite of the Bible's command to love God and neighbor. *Never* does Scripture exhort us to love ourselves! "Be true to yourself," is more humanistic doubletalk. He advises, "Get to know yourself." The Bible says I need to turn from myself to God. My passion should be to know Him. These columns are shallow, false, unbiblical, and lead readers astray.

"Forgive yourself" is again totally humanistic. He talks about God forgiving us, but doesn't explain that He can only do so because Christ paid the penalty for our sins. Rick makes it sound as though God is so magnanimous that He will forgive anything we think, say, or do—no big deal, nothing to be concerned about. Yet Scripture says, "Fear God, and keep his commandments...for God will bring every work into judgment..." (Ecc 12:13, 14).

There is no reason to fear the "God" Rick talks about—He simply accepts us no matter what we do. Rick gives the impression that everyone has a "good buddy" relationship with God, there is no separation from Him by sin, and certainly no need for Christ as mediator with God, dying for our sins. Rick hides the truth behind sweet words from those who need it most. We need to pray for Rick that he will rise to the opportunities God has given him, and present the truth instead of warmed-over pop psychology, of which the world already has too much—they certainly don't need more from those who are supposed to preach the Word!

**Question:** Last night on *Larry King Live*, Billy Graham spoke about the pope.... Here is some of the transcript. Please let your readers know what BG said and what you think of it:

**GRAHAM:** I appreciate the opportunity of saying a word about the Pope... he has been the greatest moral and spiritual leader of the last 100 years.



**KING:** Really? Why do you put him that high?

**GRAHAM:** I've been to see him several times. I was preaching in Krakow in [his] cathedral...as his guest...at the time he was [in Rome] being made Pope....I don't know anybody else that I could put as high as he is. He's traveled the whole world, giving his version of the Gospel and spreading the Catholic faith....I was with him...three times at the Vatican.... And on one occasion I asked him to pray for me, which he did....He is the leader, spiritual and moral, of our generation.

**Answer:** This is nothing new. In *Occult Invasion* [see resource pages], I give the transcripts of even more shocking statements by Billy Graham on *Larry King Live* and on Schuller's *Hour of Power* many years ago. I've never heard him refer, however, to the Pope's "version of the gospel and spreading the Catholic faith." Is Graham finally admitting that there is a difference between Catholicism and the true gospel? If so, he still praises the Pope for his "version of the gospel" and calls him the "greatest spiritual leader." Billy has led many people to Christ, but he has also led multitudes astray with his praise of the Pope and Roman Catholicism.

People think that Billy Graham has changed, and excuse him because he is elderly. But he has been making similar statements for more than 50 years. He has said that he [Billy] preaches the same gospel as the Roman Catholic Church, that he and the Pope agree on almost everything and that any differences are not material as far as the gospel is concerned—that his beliefs are basically the same as those of orthodox Roman Catholics. Catholics who go forward at a Billy Graham Crusade are "counseled" by priests and nuns. All of the names of Catholics who go forward are sent to their parish. I have files from bishops and cardinals in various cities saying that having a Billy Graham Crusade in town is the way they get "the lapsed Catholics back into the Church."

Billy had been invited to Cardinal Wojtyla's cathedral in 1979 to preach. He gave several sermons there while the Cardinal was in Rome being made Pope. Obviously, Graham didn't say anything that Polish prelates didn't endorse. *Decision* magazine showed a picture of Billy on that same trip welcoming pilgrims to the shrine of the black virgin (the Pope's favorite "Mary") at Jasna Gora. It seems that Billy doesn't want to offend anyone, doesn't want to say that anything is wrong—not even Sir John Marks Templeton's one-world Antichrist religion, which Billy has also praised (as have Chuck Colson and Bill Bright).

The Roman Catholic gospel denies that Christ's sacrifice was sufficient. Its priesthood "immolates" Him on Catholic altars over and over in the "sacrifice of the Mass." A Catholic is anathematized if he dares to say that he knows he is saved. He is anathematized if he says that the sacrifice of Christ on the cross was sufficient to procure forgiveness of sins and a home in heaven. He is anathematized if he denies that the Mass is an ongoing propitiatory sacrifice to be offered for the sins of the living and the dead, etc. We have dealt with this so often in books, tapes, debates and in the newsletter that I won't go into it again.

We have reported the ecumenism of the Pope, his gathering of Hindu, Buddhist, Muslim, animist, Shintoist, etc. leaders for "prayer" and declaring that they are all praying to the same God, his statements to Hindus in India that the world needs to give heed to their great spiritual traditions, his statements to voodoo priests in Africa that just as they worship ancestors so the Catholics pray to ancestors also and that voodoo practitioners could easily embrace Catholicism, etc. Our readers know the facts. How can Billy Graham, who also knows the facts, call the Pope the greatest moral and spiritual leader of the century? In fact, he *is* the greatest leader the world has yet seen, but of the ecumenical move toward the one world religion of the Antichrist!

**Question:** Aren't you making the gospel too complicated by saying that Catholics are not saved even though they believe in the crucified and risen Christ?

**Answer:** It is the Roman Catholic Church that has complicated the gospel. Anyone who truly believes the simple gospel that Paul declared ("that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; and that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures..." — 1 Cor 15:1-4) is saved.

But to the simple gospel Rome has added baptism, good works, penance, the sacrifice of the Mass, prayers to Mary and the saints, suffering in purgatory, Mass for the dead to get them out of purgatory, extreme unction (last rites), holy water, candles, rituals, etc. These are all means to salvation according to Rome. It would be very unlikely that a Roman Catholic would not believe in at least some of these heresies. Anyone who believes to any extent in anyone or anything whatsoever for salvation in addition to Christ's finished work on the cross has rejected the gospel, which "is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth" (Rom 1:16) and is not saved.

## News Alert

*Psychology Today*, Jan/Feb 2005

**(Excerpts): THE IDEA THAT LAUNCHED A THOUSAND SUITS**—While under treatment for depression in the mid-1980s, Patricia Burgus made a horrible discovery. Her psychiatrist, employing both hypnosis and medication, helped Burgus remember that she had been a victim of horrendous abuse as a child—torture, cannibalism, even participation in ritual murders. She also learned that she had more than 300 alternate personalities. Burgus was hospitalized for more than two years, often in leather restraints....Burgus was one of many swept up in the "recovered memory" craze of the 1980s. Zealous therapists encouraged clients to recall repressed memories of childhood abuse, leading to more than 800 lawsuits against alleged abusers between 1985 and 2000. Many of these resulted in incarcerations. A few led to suicides....

The source of many of the recovered memories was the therapist. Leading questions, especially when combined with drugs, hypnosis and suggestive dream interpretation, can easily produce false memories that seem quite real to patients.

### THE CULT OF SELF-ESTEEM

Humorist Garrison Keillor is famous for his stories about the fictitious Lake Wobegon, "where all the women are strong, all the men are good looking and all the children are above average." Statistically speaking, however, all children can't be above average—unless, that is, they're raised in self-esteem-obsessed America.

Feeling good—as opposed to behaving well—came into vogue in the 1960s, driven in part by books like Nathaniel Brandon's *Psychology of Self-Esteem*. By the 1980s, many schools were spending upwards of three hours a week on counseling and self-esteem classes, and at some schools all students were made "Student of the Month." Curriculum programs such as educational psychologist Michele Borba's Esteem Builders stimulated the development of more than a thousand off-the-shelf exercises like "I Love Me," in which students complete sentences like "I am" with words such as "gifted" or "beautiful" and then memorize the sentences.

But hundreds of studies have failed to show that self-esteem training produces lasting positive results. To put this another way, merely feeling good about yourself doesn't necessarily make you more effective. What's more, recent studies suggest that self-esteem training may be harmful—that it leads many students to overestimate their abilities, for example. One study even shows that people with high self-esteem are more likely to be violent or racist.

## Dave & T.A.'s Itinerary

April 9-10 Dave	Meadow Grove Baptist Church Brandon, MS (601) 825-5704
April 29-30 T.A.	Last Days Bible Conference Calgary, Alberta, Canada (403) 948-5401
June 9-11 Dave	Berean Calvary Chapel Kirkville NY Conference with Jacob Prasch Of Moriel Ministries
June 12 Dave	Berean Calvary Chapel Kirkville NY (315) 656-7107
Aug 1-5 Dave	Word of Life Schroon Lake NY (518) 494-6000

## Letters

Dear TBC,

God bless you, and thank you for your ministry. This is more of a personal lament than anything. Truth is all but dead in this country, and I'm beginning to think it's going that way in the Body. It's so disheartening when you try to talk about truth and all you get is accused of judging....I really try to be prayerful, caring, accurate, and without hypocrisy. But people don't want to hear it. All that matters anymore is people's intentions. As long as they are "loving," it doesn't matter what they teach or do. They should just hand us baskets full of flowers as we enter the church so we can toss the petals in the air and chant nonsense. After all, it's how we feel that [supposedly] defines truth. Is this really what Jesus died for? PE (email)

Dear Dave,

I have read your book, *What Love Is This?* I was raised in Reformed Theology.... I put my wife through this teaching for over 50 years of marriage. She never was, nor was I, taught the gospel as you have presented in your book....Through the teaching of [a non-denominational church] we went through the Bible verse by verse. This is how I came to know all about *Jesus* and to be born again....We are both in our late 70s. We praise God for over 59 years of marriage. If it weren't for Jesus and being obedient unto His word we would have never made it. When we both die, we know where we are going—to heaven, without a doubt. JT (CO)

Dear Brother Tom,

Your [news]letters on "Consumer Christianity" have really hit home. I thought it was just me. Maybe I was becoming too critical or nit-picky, but my heart was grieving, I was starving....I

needed encouragement to press on.... Being in the music end of things, I found that worship has become almost "ugly" to me. A lot of times suffering through the whole "production" onstage, fighting every moment to worship my Lord and King....I looked at the congregation...not many singing...I looked at the band...I couldn't sing. I prayed, "Lord, all I want to do is praise you...you are the reason that I sing, have joy....Lead us, Holy Spirit." [Our pastor had] brought in his own band...fired the worship leader.... The songs were great, and all have a lot of talent, but much was sacrificed to have perfect entertainment. They wanted "seeker-friendly-looking" people onstage, too....I was guilty by association. Worship is more than music. It's a way of life, a way of being. Thank you for confirming some things for me. LT (WA)

Dear Dave,

I've started reading *What Love Is This?*...If the Lord tarries, this book will definitely become a classic. [You] certainly did a tremendous job of research, as is evident at the end of every chapter, and brought out arguments that any honest person would have to accept if he is looking for the truth. Having worked in the land of Calvin for the past 57 years, just a short distance from where he was born, we have witnessed firsthand what his doctrine did to the Reformation. France is filled with dead Reformed churches, many of which are now closed. Calvin had very little to do with the Reformation. It was going full blast before he ever came on the scene. Farrel was the great French reformer who led thousands to Christ and evangelized the city of Geneva to the extent that he turned the Catholic cathedral in that city into a protestant church—which it still is today. Though Calvin eventually became the pastor of that church, his "main contribution" to the Reformation was his theological writings, which finally killed off the great movement of the Spirit. AS (SC)

Dear Tom,

Okay, so "consumer Christianity" is bad, and we need to return to that "old-time religion" with long church sanctuaries, nailed down pews facing forward, stained glass, an elevated pulpit, and a divided chancellery with piano on one side and organ on the other. Oh, and no modern technology in video projection; only hymnals. And 30-minute sermons just choked-full [*sic*] of sound biblical teaching. Congratulations, you've alienated most of the very people we're trying to reach....Shame on you guys for hitting the Calvinists, saying that they've missed God's love, and that He cares for all men,

when you turn around and hammer the contemporary church for being relevant to the masses. Purpose Driven ministries are fulfilling Jesus' mandate in Matthew 28: 19, 20. I know, I've been to Saddleback Church. I've listened carefully to the teaching; I've observed the ministry, and none of this is a ploy to pagan human values. I know because I've served five biblical churches. Remember: "They don't care what you say, or teach, until they know you care." You should know this by now. TB (AZ)

Dear Berean Call,

I was very blessed by your March newsletter. It was truly an eye-opener. I believe that Christians who see the deception/delusion that is currently taking place must be fully awake and alert, for there has never been a time such as this. The Lord's return must be *very* near. The thing that alarms me is that so many believers are still sitting in churches that are apostate. Will the Lord call them out? Will they listen to His call? I don't think I ever read one of your newsletters yet that gripped me like this one did. If this is going to be a worse thing than what Hitler did, is the church (the true believers) in North America prepared for what is coming?? HL (email)

## TBC Notes

### Spring Cleaning

Spring has sprung and we are in the process of cleaning out our mailing list. Our procedure is to contact those who have never contacted us to see if they want to continue to receive our free newsletter. Some have been put on our mailing list by well-meaning (albeit anonymous) friends or relatives. A few such recipients have acknowledged their appreciation; however, we've had others who wanted us to know that they used the newsletter to line their birdcages and other even less practical dispositions.

If you receive such a note from us, please do not think any more of it than good stewardship on our part. We are very thankful for financial support, although we don't make fund appeals for our ministry. Neither has contributing to TBC ever been a criterion for receiving the newsletter.

T.A. McMahon  
Executive Director

The Berean Call is a nonprofit 501 [c] [3], tax-exempt corporation registered in the State of Oregon. It is overseen by an independent board which has full and final authority over all corporate assets, personnel, and affairs. (04/05)

As Dave writes in this month's Q&A, we've been criticized for saying that Rick is teaching pop psychology, but here it is for anyone to see. Warren begins *The Purpose-Driven Life* by saying, "It's not about you." In fact, that book turns out to be all about you—and we see the same in his columns in *Ladies' Home Journal*. We thought our readers might want to see what Rick is doing with his opportunity to spread the gospel and where millions of "seekers" are being led through his features in *LHJ*.



"Ladies' Home Journal has a circulation of 4.1 million and a readership of 14.5 million." (2003 Meredith Corporation news release)



The prominent web link under Rick's name (see article at right) takes online readers to the page above. A key link encourages seekers to take the quiz "Are you spiritually tuned in?" (note photo of women meditating in Yoga posture below, under quiz question #2).



Seekers that score high enough on the Ladies' Home Journal online spirituality quiz receive this "encouragement":

"Now that you've learned that freedom's found in forgiveness, love, and taking care of yourself and others, can you spread it around and teach others? Just keep being you and remaining in the moment. And of course you can't forget your deep breathing and making time for nature, stillness, and the seeking of even more life truths. Not everyone travels the path of inner peace and finds it. Now that you have, pass it on."

PLEASE NOTE: TBC realizes that Warren is not responsible for the content of LHJ's "spirituality" website. Nevertheless, he is accountable as an evangelical pastor to protect his readers from the counterfeit New Age and Eastern mystical spirituality to which the link at the end of his article points them. LHJ's "spirituality guide"—along with Warren's self-improvement counsel and humanistic gospel of self—is a deadly combination offering temporal pleasure, pride, and "purpose" at the expense of eternal life with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.



## NEW ARRIVALS—FROM OUR BOOKSHELF TO YOURS



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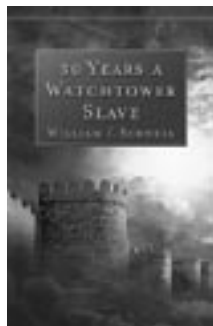
Bringing Biblical Distinctions into Focus

**MacDonald**—Failing to rightly divide the Scriptures (2 Tim. 2:15) brings confusion. To “rightly divide” the

word of God means to place each verse in its proper context and to understand the distinctions and meaning. This basic biblical reference will help believers to understand such things as “positional truth” and “practice.” Learn to recognize the distinctions between Israel and the church and many other subjects. The author provides 96 biblical distinctions—useful keys for unlocking the treasures of Scripture—including: the three tenses of salvation; position and practice; indwelling, baptism, and filling of the Spirit; Israel, the Kingdom, and the church. Gospel Folio Press, paperback, 196 pp.

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### THIRTY YEARS A WATCHTOWER SLAVE

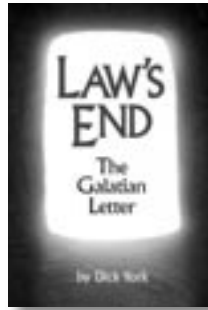
The Confessions of a Converted Jehovah's Witness

**Schnell**—More than an account of how a cult enslaved a man, Schnell's story

illustrates how false teachers “crept in unawares” (Jude 4). The decade following World War I was a time of upheaval, destruction of institutions, and unbridled license. The Watchtower Society masterfully promoted a message that seemed to promise hope in the midst of chaos. Many invested their lives in the Brooklyn-based society, accepting and promoting a message that most would never see heaven. Schnell joined the Watchtower Society in the 1920s, but the societal issues of that time grimly parallel those of today. It would be wise to heed the warning of the author: “Let my life of slavery be your warning! It took me thirty years to get free!” Baker Books, 214 pp.

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### LAW'S END

The Galatians Letter

**York**—Are Christians required to keep the law as a condition of salvation? This helpful overview of the Epistle to the Galatians answers that

question and helps to clear the confusion many have concerning the roles of law and grace. Very early in the history of the church, Jewish converts sought to impose the keeping of the law upon Gentile believers. We know what the Apostle Paul said about this controversy, because he said it in his letter to the Galatians. 104 pp.

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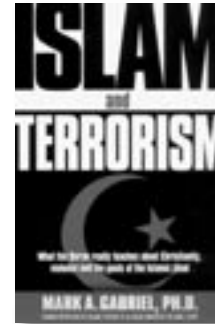
### MIKE GENDRON DOUBLE-FEATURE

- 1) Israel, Islam and the Vatican
- 2) Contending for the Faith

**Gendron**—Two new video presentations by Mike Gendron, with PowerPoint slide presentation for convenient study. *Contending for the Faith* is especially good for this “purpose-driven” age.

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### ISLAM AND TERRORISM

What the Quran really teaches about Christianity, violence, and the goals of the Islamic jihad

**Gabriel**—The Western media declares that “at its core, Islam is moderate

and tolerant of others” (*New York Times Magazine*). Author Mark A. Gabriel, former professor of Islamic history at Al-Azhar University, disagrees. As a child, Gabriel grew up in a Muslim family in Egypt and was heavily indoctrinated. By the age of twelve he had memorized the entire Qur'an. He went on to become a top student at the most prestigious Islamic university in the world, Al-Azhar in Cairo, Egypt. As a student and professor of Islamic history, he rubbed shoulders with those who are at the forefront of propagating the tenets of Islamic terrorism. He actually took classes with Sheik Umar Abd al-Rahman, who was convicted of masterminding the 1993 World Trade Center bomb attack. This ground-breaking true account is nothing less than an explosive ex-insider's exposé of the origin of Islamic terrorism, rooted in the bloody soil of Muhammad's own atrocities. 240 pages, retail \$13.99.

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“alien” contacts and paranormal experiences; how pagan religions are being promoted through ecology and “we are one” philosophies; how evil is being reinvented as good by psychology and the legal system, and much more. OCCULT INVASION gives you the skills you need to recognize the subtle incursions of the occult and provides tools you can use to halt its destructive advance. Harvest House, 647 pp.

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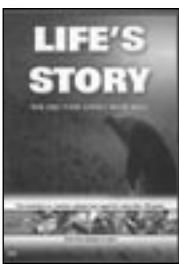
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APRIL 2005