

“[The Bereans] . . . searched the scriptures daily,

[to see] whether those things were so.”
—Acts 17:11

Flocking to Fables—Part One

T. A. McMahon

“FLOCKING TO FABLES” has to do with great numbers of people being overwhelmingly drawn to things that have no basis in reality. They have been bewitched by myths... or what the Bible calls “fables.” Hopefully, that will be made clear as we proceed.

As we wonder what we may be facing in the year 2023, there are indications from Scripture that give us some good ideas. Actually, one is really good, and the others are not so good. The really good one is that our Lord and Savior may return to this earth to catch up His bride, His church, taking believers with Him to Heaven in the Rapture (1 Corinthians 1:5-7; 15:51-54)! That might happen soon, and nothing could be better.

There are also a number of not-so-good things that will take place should the Rapture not happen as soon as we’d like. Knowing them is not a matter of special prophetic insight, but simply reading what the Bible declares lies ahead and checking to see if any of it has, or is, taking place. The primary prophecy for our consideration is 2 Timothy 4:3-4:

“For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.”

What does it mean to “not endure sound doctrine”? Sound doctrine is simply the teachings of Scripture, the written Word of God. It is “sound” because it’s given to us by God Himself. Other than God having men write down

what God the Holy Spirit communicated to them, they had no input regarding its content. None. Every jot and tittle, meaning the smallest details of the Scriptures, are directly from God. That being the case, why would those who call themselves Christians “not endure” God’s Word?

There are a host of reasons, but before we get into that, let’s consider what is not being *endured*. It’s what God himself has revealed. The only way anyone can know God is if He tells us about Himself. No one can figure God out without His supplying information about Himself. The closest we ourselves can get to knowing some things about Him are revealed in creation. For example, we can all recognize that the universe didn’t come about by chance. The mind-boggling expanse of creation and the incredible complexity within the nucleus of a human cell tell us a few things about the Creator/Designer of everything. What are they?

Well, He is omnipotent...all powerful. The vastness of the created universe itself speaks of God’s power! He is omniscient—all knowing. The complexities of His design speak to his incomparable intelligence. And He is Omnipresent...there is no part of His creation that is beyond His knowledge and power. Because those attributes are recognizable, everyone is held accountable to Him as Creator (Romans 1:19-22). Nevertheless, it leaves a great many things about Him unanswered—very critical things. “Such as?” you may ask.

There are many! Who He is, for one. What of His eternal nature, His love for humanity, His holiness, His mercy, His sending His Son to pay the penalty for the sins of mankind, and so on? None of those things could be known unless God himself informs us. Has He done that?

Absolutely! It's called the B-I-B-L-E. The Scriptures. Holy Writ. The Word of God. The Sword of the Spirit. And a number of other titles we could name. Yet, no matter what title we use, the important point is that it's His Word, not man's. It's His truth...His revelation of Himself. They are things that man—finite men, fallen men—can only guess at, or suppose, or speculate.

God's doctrine is sound, meaning that it is thorough, complete, and perfect in all that it reveals. So, why would sound doctrine not appeal to humanity? Why would we "not endure sound doctrine"? Doesn't everyone want the truth? No, not always—even rarely in most cases. That's why people, having "itching ears, heap to themselves teachers" who tell them what they want to hear. Sound doctrine contains instructions that are at odds with some beliefs and practices that many don't want to let go of, preferring to turn from God's ways to their own.

The "teachers" offer them reasons to continue in their sin—some even seeming to be biblical in the sense of Proverbs 14:12 and 16:25: "*There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.*" "Death," in those two verses, doesn't necessarily mean physical death, but it always involves separation. So, as used here, it may have to do with separating ourselves from the truth of God's Word to that which seems right to us—that which we desire. Examples abound. Living together prior to marriage is a big one today. The rationalizations seem endless. Christian couples are told by the ear ticklers, "If you love each other, in the eyes of the Lord you're already married." Or they say, "We're getting to know the person we want to marry better before we make that major commitment." Then there's, "We just got a good deal on a house before our marriage date, which then had to be delayed. So, living together enables us to save money for our honeymoon." There is seemingly no end to the absurd rationalizations. Some are even promoted as being scriptural!

During the 1970s, those who were very influential in the evangelical church—meaning those who claimed to believe sound doctrine—introduced the "self" teachings: self-love, self-esteem, self-worth, self-image, and on and on. Those teachings are not to be found in the Bible. They came into the church through the influence of Christian psychologists, who got the concept from secular psychologists such as Carl Rogers, Abraham Maslow, Eric Fromm and others.

Yet the Christian psychologists (being "Christians," of course) felt compelled to find scriptures in order to support what their godless, antichrist mentors taught them and what they were promoting. They declared that the Bible teaches three commandments: We need to love God, love our neighbor, and love ourselves—and, obviously, we can't love others until we first love ourselves. Well, they either had a reading problem, or a math problem.

Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets (Matthew 22:37-40).

The Scripture here is very simple. It's telling us that we need to love others as we do ourselves. First Corinthians chapter 13, which is sometimes referred to as "the love chapter," tells us that love is not to be self-seeking. It is to be other-directed. Although the "self" teachings were popularized in the 1970s and '80s in the church, they have taken root and are still promoted widely throughout Christendom. Why do you think that is?

It all has to do with Self. The older I get, and the more I read the Word, the more uncomplicated it becomes. People have two options for their lives. They can live for God, or they can live for self. It all comes down to submitting to God or living for Self. Most Christians actually try to do both, but that doesn't work. Well, it works...sorta. And then it doesn't work, and then it works and it doesn't work, and then

it doesn't work, and it doesn't work. That's because Self has a way of taking over one's life and gradually doing away with the submitting to God part.

Do you know what the first sin was, and where it took place? It had to do with self, and it took place in Heaven. Isaiah 14:14: *I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.* Those were the words of Lucifer, whose name means light-bearer. However, the light went out after his self-promotion. His name then became Satan, which means Adversary, or one who opposes God. He is called the father of lies (John 8:44), no doubt because he brought his lie of exalting himself to earth and sold it to Eve. He began by contradicting God regarding the consequence of sin, "And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die." Then he added, "For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil" (Genesis 3:4-5).

The father of lies is the initiator of The Lie that tells us that created beings can become as gods. The Lie has worked its way throughout human history and will ultimately culminate in the person and religion of the Antichrist. He's also called the "man of sin, the son of perdition: *Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God*" (2 Thessalonians 2:4). There's an interesting phrase in that verse, "shewing himself that he is God." Satan, who possesses and empowers the Antichrist, is a liar and a deceiver as we noted, but he is also a pathological liar. That's someone who absolutely believes some of his own lies! I think that's indicated in the phrase "shewing himself that he is God." Or we could understand that phrase as convincing himself that he is God. When you consider all the lying statements out of the mouth of God's adversary, you have to wonder how anyone could pursue—for thousands of years—a goal of replacing God if he didn't believe it could happen? Nevertheless, it ain't gonna happen!

And if that thought ever crossed Satan's debauched and self-deluded mind, his fall-back position is to take everyone down with him. He will try to destroy all that he can, especially the fruit of true Christians. He "does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy..." (John 10:10). Yet, he cannot steal a believer's salvation, because that's secure in Christ for all born-again Christians. But he can destroy the fruitfulness of one's life in Christ through his many devices. Nevertheless, we are told to be aware of Satan's wiles, meaning his strategies, his schemes, and his deceptions (Ephesians 6:11). Scripture warns us that his schemes can and do ensnare true believers. Second Timothy 2:25-26 declares, regarding those who have been deceived, that God can grant them repentance so that they may be restored to the truth, "and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will." They have been seduced.

An objective in these two articles is to point out one of the Adversary's major schemes, perhaps his chief scheme that has been in process and has been expanding over the years. It has now reached a level of effectiveness that to me is mind numbing. Not unexpected, but nevertheless, mind numbing. Why shouldn't we be surprised at what's taking place in the world and the church? Scripture makes it very clear. "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine....And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables."

See how the verses start? It's a prophecy. "The time will come...." About one-third of the Bible is predictive prophecy, and most of these verses are given to alert God's people as to what's ahead. This particular warning has to do with turning from God's Word. I believe that time is here—big time. It's an extraordinary period involving different degrees of the abandonment of the Word of God. In some cases, it's an outright rejection of God's Word. In others it involves one's slipping away from God's instructions. Hebrews 2:1 makes that clear: "Therefore we ought to give the more

earnest heed to the things which we have heard [referring to the teachings of Scripture], lest at any time we should let them slip.” Slippage has a way of turning into an avalanche, like a snowball starting down a mountainside.

I’m sure most of us had a zeal for the things of the Lord during the years right after we committed our lives to Jesus. But too often zeal loses its zeal over time. That often starts us down the path of “not endur[ing] sound doctrine.”

To help us recognize whether or not we’re on that path, here are a few things we should all consider. How often am I reading the Bible? I can’t “endure sound doctrine” (the Word of God) if I don’t read the Word of God. If that’s the case, I’m pretty much clueless about what the Bible says.

For all the good that comes from hearing Sunday sermons, if I’m not also reading the Bible myself, I have no way of knowing whether or not the preacher is preaching “sound doctrine.” If my only source of spiritual food is being spoon-fed once a week at church, at best I’m being malnourished regarding my spiritual growth.

Am I involved in a Bible study? Sometimes when folks tell me they are attending a Bible study, I get excited for them. And I immediately ask what book they are studying. Many times the response is “Oh, it’s the latest book by such and such” (let’s say John Piper, as only one example). My response is: “Seriously? John Piper? What book of the Bible did he write?” I’m not trying to be funny here. This is

serious stuff, as you will see.

The questions I’m asking all have to do with strengthening a believer in Jesus Christ. He is the Word. And therefore, He is the author of “sound doctrine.” He is “the Way, the Truth, and the Life” (John 14:6). If we are not being strengthened in the Lord, we are not “enduring sound doctrine.”

Continuing with 2 Timothy 4:4. “And they shall turn away their ears from the truth....” The obvious thing here is that the Adversary is turning people away from the truth. All his schemes and devices have that as their ultimate goal. The numbers of those he has deceived are overwhelming, not only in the world but in Christendom, in the professing church, and as well among many true believers.

That may not be news to many Christians, so why is it more effective today than it has been in previous times?

I believe it has to do with the addition of mysticism to Satan’s baggage of deceptions, which I’ll explain. Noah Webster defined “mysticism” in his 1828 Dictionary as the obscurity of doctrine. He adds that it is “an immediate spiritual intuition of truths believed to transcend ordinary understanding.” In other words, it involves taking the truth and distorting it so badly that it becomes devoid of reason, logic, and common sense. It transcends ordinary understanding.

Truth is the antithesis of mysticism—and *that’s* the battleground.

[TO BE CONTINUED]

TBC

QUOTABLE

What we really need is to turn from any pre-occupation with self to Christ. God redeemed us because of who He is, not because of who we are or even what He could make us become. God loves us because He is love, not because we are lovable or lovely. Here is a solid basis for deep confidence. The teaching that God valued me so highly that Christ died for me may make me initially feel more secure, but that feeling will only last so long as I can continue to have this sense of self-worth. In turning away from the *One* who loves and moving toward myself as the *object* of His love, I am being robbed of the true joy and freedom that is found in Him alone! To know that God loves me not because of who I am but because of who He is really sets me free and gives me a security that the gospel of self-esteem can never produce.

—DAVE HUNT AND T. A. MCMAHON

Q&A

QUESTION: What will be the church’s role in restoring Israel during the End Times?

RESPONSE: I don’t believe that the church is going to somehow play an active role in the restoration of Israel. The disciples’ very question—“Lord wilt thou at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?”—suggests that He, rather than we, will do the job. This is the message also of Peter’s second sermon in Acts 3:19-26—“Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution....”

If He remains in heaven until it is time for the restoration, then it is clear that there will be no restoration of Israel’s place in this world until Christ comes back to do the job that only He can do. Such is the picture we have in Zechariah 12, when Christ returns to intervene at Armageddon, rescue Israel, and destroy those who were in the process of destroying her. Clearly that is when the restoration takes place, not before, and not by any effort of, or revival in, the

church—but by Christ’s personal intervention of heaven, with us being alongside the armies of heaven (He comes with all His saints to take vengeance) in glorified bodies, to reign with Him under His direction and empowerment.

As for the restoration of the church to “first-century purity and power,” the Bible doesn’t hold out any hope for that but instead warns of worsening apostasy. Moreover, even if the church of today would be thus transformed, that would not suffice. We who are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord, compared with the vast numbers who have died in Christ and are now in His presence, will constitute but a small fraction of the complete church.

QUESTION: I recently attended a service in which the speaker taught about “healing family trees” by renouncing generational curses that are supposedly maintained by demons who are assigned to individual families generation after generation down through the years. Afterwards, I watched as several people were “healed” amid great expenditures of noise and emotion, complete with conversations that supposedly took place between them and the spirits of their dead ancestors.

But I have been taught that *any* such interaction with evil spirits is forbidden. In addition, the whole thing occurred after a communion service, which seemed like a strange juxtaposition, yet I am told that more and more of this kind of thing is going on in churches nowadays. What is your opinion?

RESPONSE: You are correct that communicating with the spirits of the dead is actually with demons impersonating the spirits of dead relatives and is forbidden in God’s Word. You also asked about apparent “healings” and “spiritual” experiences, which you characterized as excessive and even frightening.

In my opinion, at least some of the people involved, both in the leadership and in the pews, have come under heavy demonic

influence. My reasons are fairly simple. First of all, of course, God does not terrify us or bring confusion. Second, there is no biblical basis for the “healing of the family tree” concept. Jesus never did it; the apostles never did it; and there is no record that *anyone else* ever did it! There is no biblical basis for the idea that we are bound by either the sins themselves or the demonic involvement of our ancestors.

Moreover, such a belief lays the foundation for *new* confusion and *new* bondage. If one has subsequent problems after such a healing, then one immediately imagines that everything in the family tree hasn’t been uncovered and dealt with, so the same ritual must be repeated endlessly.

Finally, the Lord’s Supper, or communion, is for the express purpose of remembering Christ’s death for our sins upon the cross, and of worshiping and praising and thanking Him for what He endured and accomplished. To use it as an occasion for being healed is to pervert it from its intended biblical use and to turn it into a magical ritual. This is as bad as the sacramentalism of Roman Catholicism, wherein the physical act of partaking of the Mass is alleged to have redemptive value.

QUESTION: My pastor claims that baptism can only involve water, but isn’t the same word used for other kinds of baptism in the Scriptures?

RESPONSE: Never does the Bible say that the Holy Spirit baptizes us only in water. The word in Greek (*baptizo*) simply means that we have been “immersed” or “placed into the Body of Christ by the Holy Spirit,” not that we have been baptized in *water* by the Holy Spirit. In many scriptures, baptism doesn’t mean “in *water*,” such as the baptism in the Holy Ghost and in fire (Matthew 3:11, Mark 10:38-39, Luke 12:50, Acts 1:5, 1 Corinthians 12 and 13, and Galatians 3:27).

As for baptismal regeneration, Nicodemus

knew that water in the Old Testament was used for cleansing both physically and as a symbol of the spiritual cleansing that would come through the Messiah, and through heeding God’s Word. Thus Paul wrote of the “washing of water by the word” [of God] (Ephesians 5:26) and the “washing of regeneration” (Titus 3:5). Peter stated that we are born again “by the word of God”

(1 Peter 1:23). Paul baptized very few of the Corinthian believers, yet he calls himself their father and explains, “I have begotten you through the gospel” (1 Corinthians 4:15). Paul had been the means of their salvation without baptizing them, which would have been impossible if baptism

were *essential* to salvation. On the contrary, we are saved by *believing* the gospel, and nowhere does it say that baptism is *part* of the gospel.

QUESTION: What might be included in the “strong delusion” in 2 Thessalonians 2:11? And is it already here, or does it only take effect after the Rapture?

RESPONSE: Paul says that the “delusion” specifically causes those who “received not the love of the truth” to be deceived by the “lying wonders” performed by Antichrist (“that Wicked...whose coming is after the working of Satan”) and by his “deceivableness of unrighteousness...” (2 Thessalonians 2:8-10). Clearly this applies to those left behind at the Rapture in a world ruled by Antichrist; but it would seem that their rejection of the truth preceded and prepared them for “that man of sin” (v. 3,4) and thus could occur at least to a lesser degree before the Rapture.

The delusion causes “that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned...” (v 11,12). Revelation 13:2,4,8 says that the world will *worship* both “the beast” (Antichrist) and “the dragon [Satan who] gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority.” Thus we could conclude that the lie is Antichrist’s claim that he is God: “He as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God” (2 Thessalonians 2:4). The lie would seem to be

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the total delusion under Antichrist and the false prophet which would include taking his mark and bowing down to his image. All who do so are damned (Revelation 14:9-11).

LETTERS

Dear TBC,

Thanks for this truth, Tom, and TBC. Before psychotherapy, and with some currently, people had good, honest, trustworthy Christian friends that they could tell their problems, insecurities, shortcomings, and errors of life to in private. Talking it out with one of these friends was just as, or more effective than psychotherapists and psychologists and is FAR LESS expensive, both financially and spiritually. All psychiatrists and psychologists do is attempt to eliminate the righteous shame people's consciences cause them to feel, as a result of their sin, if their hearts haven't become too hardened to sense it. CH (email)

Hello,

I am sorry but my Bible doesn't say that the Holy Spirit is the one restraining the coming of the man of lawlessness at all. The Holy Spirit has been in this world from the very beginning of time and will be here until the world is destroyed. You cannot possibly take the Spirit of the Living God out of the equation. The Scriptures also teach that we will go through the tribulation until the lawless one sits on the mercy seat in the temple, then Christ will come on the clouds to take the believers, followed by the day of the Lord starting.

This is as plain as the nose on your face in Revelation. Revelation 13:7 tells us that God himself allows the saints to be killed. He is allowing us to go through tribulation to refine us. You Americans seem to have a really strange belief when it comes to the last days. In the rest of the world many are being killed for their faith

in Jesus, so what makes you think that you will not also be called to stand and be murdered for your faith in Jesus. I fear for many of you in America that when the time comes that you will not be ready for the trials and tribulations that we are called to bear. LB (email)

Dear TBC,

[Regarding the article "What is 'This Generation'?", see—<http://bit.ly/3UTnQnt>] I think we're seeing this now of course. Israel is one of the most secular nations in the world and I believe the problems they're having with Covid link directly to this. They continue to disbelieve and live like carnal people so God will give them over to their lustful desires. By lustful I mean it's all about me, me, and me and living in the world.

While they have had many, many successes since becoming a nation again in 1948, they've continued to stick their finger in [God's] eye. Small wonder why the people of Israel in the OT continued to fall away and come under judgment. They fulfill Jeremiah's statement, continually, "The heart is desperately wicked and deceitful above all things, who can know it?"

Just my 2-cents worth anyway. RG (WA)

Dear TBC,

[Concerning the article "Counseling in the Church: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly—Part 2", see—<http://bit.ly/3FOzEMJ>] I would not argue with any of this. I would however offer a reason as to why. We really don't talk much to each other in the church. We'll sit around and analyze other people from hundreds of years ago but we dare not even comment on the modern political scene of our day. I am shocked at how little people will offer in honest dialogue these days. I would almost say you can get more out of people who are not a part of the church. So many people are in cruise control

NOTE:
Our purpose in this section is to simply show what kind of feedback we receive.
We may respond to some of them in private whether or not we agree with their views.

even though the days are evil. Oh no, you dare not speak of these things. Do we really think people will trust each other with deep personal loss or suffering? No. You are lucky if you can get the men past sports and the women past their latest kitchen remodel. JK (email)

NEWSWATCH

'WHAT IS A WOMAN?' CAMPUS STOP

THECOLLEGEFIX.COM, 10/7/22, "WHAT IS A WOMAN' CAMPUS STOP PROMPTS DRAMA" [EXCERPTS]: Conservative firebrand Matt Walsh took the stage at the University of Illinois on Thursday night, challenging transgender ideology and declaring it's the hill he is "willing to die on" as protesters chanted "trans women are women" outside the venue.

Walsh's campus tour is based on his Daily Wire documentary "What Is a Woman?" It was the second stop in a six-stop campus tour this month hosted by conservative campus chapters of Young America's Foundation.

Walsh told his standing-room-only audience that gender transitioning is "castrating" children. To his challengers, Walsh said if they want him to be silent, "you are going to have to throw me in a jail cell."

"If there is any hill worth dying on," he said, "it's the hill of objective truth."

"We are living through a period of mass psychosis that is very truly unprecedented," Walsh said. "...It seems as though, all at once, millions of our countrymen woke up one day having forgotten the basics of reality.... At the heart is the apparent confusion over human biology."

One of the students who took part in the Q&A Thursday evening described herself as a former transitioner who felt "very blessed" to have "made it out of that situation."

(<http://bit.ly/3VKkPjN>)

UN: ISRAEL'S ESTABLISHMENT AS CATASTROPHE

JPOST.COM, 12/1/22, "UN TO MARK 'NAKBA DAY'—ISRAEL'S ESTABLISHMENT—AS CATASTROPHE" [EXCERPTS]: The UN General Assembly voted Wednesday afternoon in favor of holding a commemorative event in honor of the 75th "Nakba Day," the Palestinian name for Israel's establishment, which translates to "catastrophe."

The vote was 90-30, with 47 abstentions. The United States, Canada, Australia and the United Kingdom were among those who opposed the move. Most of the European Union also rejected the motion, save for Cyprus, which supported the measure.

Ambassador to the UN Gilad Erdan tweeted that...in "passing such an extreme and baseless resolution, the UN is only helping to perpetuate the conflict."

The ambassador described the history of that period, in which the UN voted on November 29, 1947 in favor of partition of the British Mandate into Jewish and Arab states, which the Jews accepted and the Arabs did not, opting instead to

declare war on the fledgling State of Israel the following year.

Erdan called for the UN to "stop ignoring the Jewish Nakba," referring to the 750,000 Jews expelled from Arab and Muslim countries in the aftermath of Israel's establishment.

"Why are you afraid to say it publicly? Why does this house have to be a house of lies?" he asked. The Israeli Embassy launched the first-ever exhibit on the Jews' expulsion from Arab states and Iran at the UN on Tuesday.

(<https://bit.ly/3HILTBi>)

HUMANS PROCREATED WITH HUMANS

ICR.ORG, 10/20/22, "BREAKING NEWS: HUMANS PROCREATED WITH...HUMANS" [EXCERPTS]: Over a century ago, evolutionists taught that Neanderthals were subhuman brutes.

A recent news article stated, “A Swedish scientist [Svante Paabo] has been awarded the Nobel Prize in medicine for his groundbreaking research that proved modern humans once procreated with ancient Neanderthals...”

We could say humans once procreated with humans, since the scientific evidence has shown repeatedly that Neanderthals (and a human group called the Denisovans discovered from bones and a tooth found in Altai Mountains, Siberia) were 100 percent human.

In fact, an evolutionary paleoanthropologist stated, “The irony is that the scientific community is going to have to come round to the

acceptance that the Denisovans and the Neanderthals also belonged to the species which we all call *Homo sapiens*.” Finlayson was correct.

If one wants to see what “Homo-neanderthalensis” looks like, he simply looks at Nikolai Valuev, a member of the Russian parliament, who has enlarged brow ridges and a sloping forehead. Indeed, *Homo sapiens* skulls come in all shapes and sizes, but they are all people.

Ancient DNA shows that Neanderthals and Denisovans have always been people.

(<http://bit.ly/3W0t5M1>)

TBC NOTES

Tempus Fugit

Tempus Fugit is Latin, and its meaning is “time flies.” Sometimes that’s a good thing and sometimes it’s not so good. When things are not going so well, I would like time to move along at a faster pace. When I’m in that situation, it brings to mind a passage of Scripture that my friend Dave Hunt loved to quote. He did it in such a unique way that it was easy to recall. He read it backwards!

Well, not exactly, but close. The verses are 2 Corinthians 4:16-18: “For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; While we

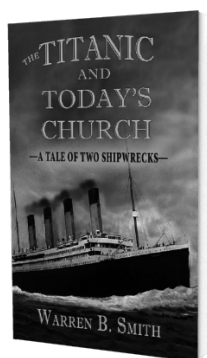
look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.” Dave would rework verse 17 as follows:

What God has prepared for us is not just a “weight of glory,” but an “eternal weight of glory.” It’s not just an “eternal weight of glory,” but an “exceeding and eternal weight of glory.” It’s not just an “exceeding and eternal weight of glory,” but a “more exceeding and eternal weight of glory.” It’s not just a “more exceeding and eternal weight of glory,” but a “far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory.”

And we can have all that as we turn to Him during our “light affliction, which is but for a moment (*Tempus fugit*)” compared to eternity!

T. A. McMAHON
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

RESOURCES ON TODAY'S CHURCH FROM LIGHTHOUSE TRAILS



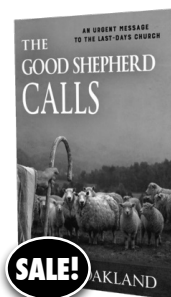
The Titanic and Today's Church

Smith—At 11:40 p.m. on April 14, 1912, the *RMS Titanic*—the biggest, grandest ship of its time—collided with an iceberg on its maiden voyage from Southampton, England, to New York City. Less than three hours later the seemingly unsinkable ship did the unthinkable—it sank to the bottom of the North Atlantic Ocean. It has been well-documented how pride, false confidence, complacency, disregarded warnings, and general unpreparedness all played a part in the Titanic shipwreck. Those in charge had underestimated the physical danger in their midst. Sadly, today's

professing church shares many of these same characteristics as it similarly underestimates the spiritual danger in its midst. *The Titanic and Today's Church* is the story of two shipwrecks. One took place over a century ago; the other is in progress and is happening today. The similarities are astounding as they compel us to become more aware of our Spiritual Adversary's schemes and devices (2 Corinthians 2:11), effectively "stand against" them (Ephesians 6:11), and "come out from among them" (2 Corinthians 6:17). —Mountain Stream Press, 262 pp.

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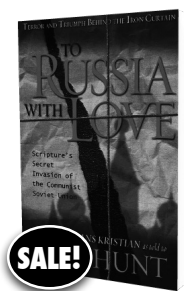
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