

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

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

The Wide Gate Is Booming – Part Three

T. A. McMahon

Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

—MATTHEW 7:13-14

EACH PART OF this three-part series began with the above scriptures because we believe they capture the options the church and the world face. What’s found through the “strait gate” are numerous instructions that make up the truth of God’s Word. Although that gate is open to all, only those who are born again of the Holy Spirit choose to enter therein. Yet still retaining their old nature, believers can be enticed by the sins of the world. Twice in Proverbs (14:12; 16:25) we find, “There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death,” indicating that believers can still slip into the errors of the wide gate/broad way. William MacDonald in his *Believer’s Bible Commentary* calls the wide gate the way of a “life of self-indulgence and pleasure.” Simple observation reveals that such an attraction would be the case for a majority of Christians whether they are professing or true believers. Obviously, that’s more attractive than the

difficulties that accompany the exhortation of “denying self” found in Matthew 16:24. What is overwhelmingly clear and increasing exponentially is that the instructions of the “strait gate” are being abandoned by the church in wholesale fashion.

In Part Two we noted prophetic verses from Scripture that alert us to such a fulfillment. Take 2 Timothy 4:3-4 as just one example among dozens that could be given: “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*.” In fact, I don’t think that there are two more fitting verses to describe the state of the church throughout the last two and a half centuries. The 1800s gave rise to the cults and spiritism. The 1900s saw the technology of radio and motion pictures become a highly favored instrument for Christian communication. In spreading the gospel, those devices seemingly held the potential for good. However, the reality is that they have spread a leaven that continues to corrupt the body of Christ by undermining *sound doctrine* and leading Christians astray *unto fables*. It’s called the leaven of *entertainment*.

Anyone who isn’t aware of the overpowering influence of entertainment in the church, especially related to youth ministry, has been spiritually comatose for decades. Moreover, what captivated them as children has continued to blind and deafen them as adults and

BELOVED, BELIEVE NOT EVERY SPIRIT, BUT TRY THE SPIRITS WHETHER THEY ARE OF GOD: BECAUSE MANY FALSE PROPHETS ARE GONE OUT INTO THE WORLD.

—1 JOHN 4:1

grandparents. Examples abound among the glowing reviews and heavy support by popular evangelical pastors such as Greg Laurie (see—<https://bit.ly/3TodPup>) regarding *The Chosen* film series produced by Mormons. The overwhelmingly successful series is without a doubt the *fables* of 2 Timothy 4:4 (“And they shall turn away their ears [and eyes] from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables”). Biblical definitions given for the word *fables* include myths, inventions, falsehoods, tales, and fictions. *The Chosen* is hardly the first celluloid myth to present false Christs, nor will it be the last. Many Calvary Chapel fellowships continue to show Mel Gibson’s Catholic gospel presented visually in *The Passion of the Christ* during Easter Week (see *Showtime for the Sheep*, page 10).

Volumes could be written documenting the fulfillment of what the Word of God plainly states regarding 2 Timothy 4:3-4. “Sound doctrine” is used here to indicate that what is written in the Scriptures and is no longer endured is *God’s truth*. Other than for a diminishing remnant, truth is not endured today. Why? Truth brings about conviction of sin. On the other hand, Bibles devoid of truth sell by the millions. Currently, the head of the bible-marketing pack (but not for long if the *Pirate Bible* and the *GenZ Bible* are any indication) is *The Message* (20 million copies sold to date). Eugene Petersen’s work of blasphemy is best defined (and I mean most accurately defined) by the term *sophomoric*, which means “conceited and overconfident of knowledge but poorly informed and immature; lacking in maturity, taste, or judgment.”

This is how Psalm 1:1 reads in the latest, “revised” edition (2018) of *The Message*:

How well God must like you—you don’t walk in the ruts of those blind-as-bats, you don’t stand with good-for-nothings, you don’t take your seat among the know it alls.

This is the same verse, Psalm 1:1, in previous editions (1993, 2003) of *The Message*:

How well God must like you, you don’t hang out at Sin Saloon, you don’t slink along Dead End Road, you don’t go to Smart Mouth College.

HEREBY KNOW YE THE SPIRIT OF GOD: EVERY SPIRIT THAT CONFESSETH THAT JESUS CHRIST IS COME IN THE FLESH IS OF GOD:

AND EVERY SPIRIT THAT CONFESSETH NOT THAT JESUS CHRIST IS COME IN THE FLESH IS NOT OF GOD: AND THIS IS THAT SPIRIT OF ANTICHRIST, WHEREOF YE HAVE HEARD THAT IT SHOULD COME; AND EVEN NOW ALREADY IS IT IN THE WORLD.

—1 JOHN 4:2-3

Blasphemy according to Noah Webster’s dictionary of 1828 (which looked to the King James Bible for most of its definitions) was defined as “an injury [meaning insult] offered to God, by denying that which is due and belonging to him, or attributing to him that which is not agreeable to his nature [meaning contrary to His perfectly holy character].”

There are thousands of different bibles that have been produced to support the doctrines/agendas created by such groups that have teachings that are specific to their false beliefs. Most of the cults, in addition to the obvious Jehovah’s Witnesses’ *New World Translation*, have their own bibles, as do the Roman Catholic versions guided by their unbiblical Catholic dogmas. The Mormons have the *Joseph Smith Translation of the Bible* in which he deemed it necessary to write himself into the “scriptures.” The Green Movement bibles are promoted to supposedly help us save our planet environmentally and prevent a global warming cataclysm. The Christian Counseling Movement

has its Christian psychology and mental health bibles as well as its self-esteem building programs. The LGBTQ Movement has bibles and books written by those who claim to be Bible-believing evangelicals, yet they endorse the sin of homosexuality for which God literally destroyed those who practiced it in Sodom and Gomorrah and its surrounding cities. We shouldn't miss the point of the seriousness of the sins of homosexuality and lesbianism. Why? Its punishment is extreme because it perverts God's design for humanity, and as a promoted lifestyle it would effectively be the end of the human race. Gays do not reproduce. That's the ultimate victory for Satan. But he has a host of others.

Snaring our children has been a major objective of the Adversary, and there seems to be no age that's too young, nor is there anything that is too wicked or vile no matter the age. Our public school-systems allow everything but the truth. Those promoting the lifestyle of transgenderism and drag queen activities have free access.

In a talk I gave not too long ago, I challenged those in the audience who had trouble believing what I was telling them about the current moral assault on our children to simply walk through a bookstore such as Barnes and Noble and peruse the materials in the "YOUNG ADULTS" section all the way down to the "BABIES & TODDLERS" section. They are literally a shop of horrors that include every form of demonic wickedness (magic, witchcraft, sorcery, homosexuality, graphic sex illustrations, etc.). They include not only story-telling books in the "YOUNG READERS" section, but many are "how to" manuals.

As many of you who follow The Berean Call are aware, the Lord has moved on our hearts a great concern for our children. To that

end, we have produced a booklet titled *How to Strengthen the Faith of Our Children and Grandchildren with 5-Minute Conversations*. To date, we have distributed hundreds of copies and plan to continue as the Lord leads. Satan's strategy is to overwhelm young people with a flood of lies. Our response is to counter his flood with an ongoing flood of the TRUTH! Our counter-flood booklet is available for free on our website (see—<https://bit.ly/48rkA3z>).

We are in a fierce spiritual battle until the Lord returns for His believers. It began with the Adversary's first words given in Scripture to a human: "And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said...?" (Genesis 3:1). Her response to Satan

is a good lesson in why we are not to "dialogue" with the chief of deceivers, the father of lies. Not only are doubts raised, but humans tend to add their own contributions. Eve certainly did regarding the death penalty for disobedience: "Neither shall ye touch it," referring to the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, are not God's words, they are hers. Although it may not seem like a critical

YE ARE OF GOD, LITTLE CHILDREN, AND HAVE OVERCOME THEM: BECAUSE GREATER IS HE THAT IS IN YOU, THAN HE THAT IS IN THE WORLD.

—1 JOHN 4:4

addition, it's nevertheless man's addition and therefore a lie. "Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar" (Proverbs 30:6). As was also underscored in Part Two, the apostasy is booming well beyond the effective correction of normal apologetics.

We have, without a doubt, reached the time in which Scripture has prophesied that fewer and fewer Christians will "endure sound doctrine." Except for a remnant that has a love for the truth, Christians in general neither have the understanding nor an interest in being like the Bereans of Acts 17:11. They were those who were commended because "they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, [as to] whether those things [that were taught to them by the Apostle Paul] were so."

What are some ways that we could go about fixing this problem? Obviously, it has to be a work of the Holy Spirit. We suggested in Part Two that two aspects could be helpful for a correction to take place, at least in terms of turning the church back to the truth of God's Word.

They are *simplicity* and *conviction*. Discernment requires simplicity because Satan not only wreaks havoc in the world with his lies but has mixed them with half-truths, creating an environment of ultimate complexity and widespread biblical confusion. That can be corrected by making sure we are teaching the Word of God as it's presented: simply and in truth. One cannot be convicted by the Scriptures if he or she does not understand them. Yet we are assured of that understanding: "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).

Although the Bible makes it clear in 2 Timothy 4:3-4 what problems believers are facing and will be facing prior to the Rapture (*sound doctrine* will not be endured, *Christians will follow after their own lusts, following after false teachers, turning their ears from the truth, and be turned unto fables*), nevertheless, God's Word does not leave believers without exhortations and instructions in how to address what's ahead. "Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove,

rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine." "But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry" (2 Timothy 4:2,5). That can only be accomplished "not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, saith the LORD of hosts" (Zechariah 4:6).

The overall objective in this series is to encourage a believer to depend completely upon the Scriptures as his authority. Without that he becomes his own authority, and being a Berean becomes impossible. The process involves challenges to many things he assumes, to beliefs he failed to question. They include his presuppositions that have no basis in biblical truth. The hope is that an exercise such as this will urge believers to think and get back on track with God's Word. In our day of strong delusion just motivating them to *think biblically* may move them in the direction that they will receive a love of the truth (2 Thessalonians 2:10).

As we noted throughout this series, all signs seem to indicate that the return of the Lord is close at hand. Scripture tells us that Satan is fully aware of that fact and is pouring out his wrath upon the earth "because he knoweth that he hath but a short time" (Revelation 12:12). Nevertheless, our prayer and heart's cry is for the Lord to help us to continue in His Word.

Even so, come Lord, come quickly!

TBC

PREACH THE WORD; BE INSTANT IN SEASON, OUT OF SEASON; REPROVE, REBUKE, EXHORT WITH ALL LONGSUFFERING AND DOCTRINE.

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.

—2 TIMOTHY 4:2-4

QUOTABLE

“It is hard enough to fight the devil, the world and the flesh, without private differences in our own camp. But there is one thing that is even worse than controversy, and that is false doctrine tolerated...and permitted.... There are times when controversy is not only a duty but also a benefit, and it is a plain scriptural duty to ‘*contend earnestly for the faith once delivered to the saints.*’

“The apostle Paul...was beaten with rods, stoned and left for dead, chained and left in a dungeon, dragged before magistrates, barely escaped assassination, and so pronounced in him were [his convictions] that it came to a point when the unbelieving Jews of Thessalonica declared: ‘*These that have turned the world upside down are come hither also.*’

“God pity those pastors and Christian leaders whose main objective is the growth of their organizations and whose main concern is lest their ‘boats be rocked.’ **THEY MAY ESCAPE CONTROVERSY, BUT THEY WILL NOT ESCAPE THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST** [emphasis his].”

—J. C. RYLE, 1817-1900
(ANGLICAN BISHOP WHO WITHSTOOD ROME)

Q&A

QUESTION: You justify God for sending people to hell because He has provided salvation for them in Christ [but they won’t receive Him]. That won’t do. Millions and probably billions will still spend eternity in hell.... God knew that. How could a good God create anyone who He knew would suffer eternally?

RESPONSE: God wants no one to go to hell. He has provided salvation for all in Christ, whom He sent into the world “that the world through him might be saved...” (Jn 3:17). He is not “willing that any should perish” (2 Pt 3:9), but desires “all men to be saved” (1 Tm 2:4). Those in hell have only themselves to blame

for rejecting the full forgiveness of sins and eternal life offered to all as a free gift of God’s grace through Christ’s payment of the penalty for their sins.

Why would God create those He knew would reject the gospel? Why didn’t God, who knows all in advance, create only those who would believe the gospel and leave uncreated those who would reject Christ?

The human race can’t be so divided. Those who reject Christ are the parents or children, cousins, aunts and uncles of those who believe. Not to create unbelievers would also eliminate believers.

God will be glorified by those in hell [see *TBC*, April 2001—<https://bit.ly/41s5isx>] because He did not back down from His desire to bless billions in His presence for eternity; nor did He go back on His Word and compromise His justice by unjustly forgiving those who rejected the salvation He freely provided. There is no way to fault God for creating mankind. He loves all and wants to bless all eternally.

QUESTION: I have long wondered what Paul meant when he said that he and the other apostles were “the last appointed unto death.” Did that mean that no one else after them would ever be martyred for their faith? If so, he was wrong.

RESPONSE: Paul was not wrong when he wrote these words: “For I think that God hath set forth us the apostles last, as it were appointed to death: for we are made a spectacle unto the world, and to angels, and to men” (1 Cor 4:9).

Some argue that Paul and the other apostles thought that the Rapture would occur in their day. Not so. Although he taught believers to expect the Rapture at any moment (Phil 3:20-21; 1 Thes 1:9-10; Titus 2:13, etc.), Paul knew that he would be martyred before it occurred: “For I know...that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in...” (Acts 20:29); “For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand” (2 Tim 4:6).

Likewise Peter wrote, “Knowing that shortly

I must put off this my tabernacle...I will endeavour that ye may be able after my decease to have these things always in remembrance [i.e., he was putting in writing what he had taught them orally]" (2 Pt 1:14-15). Thus we see that the Apostles did *not* expect to be raptured but knew they must each die for their Lord.

Christ declared that His disciples in all ages would be hated by the world and suffer the same as He had at its hands (Jn 15:18-21); Paul implied that Christians would continue to suffer martyrdom (Rom 8:35-37), and warned that "all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution" (2 Tim 3:12). We know that has been the case throughout history and even greater numbers of believers will be killed by Antichrist (Rv 6:9-11; 13:7,15; 20:4). Obviously, then, Paul did not mean that the Apostles were the last who would be martyred for Christ. They were the last who were "appointed unto death;" i.e., who *must* die for Christ.

The Apostles *had to be martyred* to provide one of the great proofs of Christ's ministry, teaching, and resurrection. Followers of various religions have been martyred out of fanaticism or loyalty to their leaders and beliefs. The Apostles, however, died not only out of love for Christ but in testimony of vital facts: Christ *did* heal the sick, He *did* raise the dead, walk on water, feed thousands with a few loaves and fishes, rise from the dead, etc. The fact that not one of them in facing death retracted anything to save his life is powerful evidence for the validity of the four Gospels and Book of Acts. It was thus essential that they die as martyrs, and they were the last for whom this was the case.

QUESTION: I know that false faiths abound, but I don't find edification in focusing on error. Show me in the Word where false doctrine is explained. It seems to me that the Bible addresses Satan's lies without going into detail of the actual practices.

RESPONSE: We at TBC take no pleasure in exposing and documenting false dogmas and practices. We do so only to expose error out of deep concern for souls. Yes, there are many kind, compassionate, and self-sacrificing Muslims who oppose terrorism. Yes, the Roman Catholic Church was the major charitable institution during the Middle Ages, often promoting morality and education. Most Catholics today do not know most of Rome's official dogmas, but they still rely upon that Church and its clergy to get them out of "purgatory" and into heaven. Yes, many Mormons and Moonies espouse "traditional morals." We do not oppose individuals but the largely false gospels they preach.

You ask for biblical support concerning the exposure of evil and false doctrines. The Bible gives much insight concerning Satan's fall (Isa 14:12-15; Ezk 28:12-18), the details of his temptation of Eve (Gen 3:1-7), and of his attempt to destroy Job's

trust in and relationship with God (Job 1:1-2:7). There are too many accounts of idolatry and pagan practices and warnings against them to list all the verses (Lev 19:31; 20:1-6; Deut 18:9-14; Isa 47:8-13, etc.). The Bible goes into great detail concerning the apostasy of Israel, telling the sins of its kings and people, from the golden calf (Ex 32:1-28) to the Queen of Heaven (Jer 44:15-23); and again, there are too many references to list.

Most of the epistles were written to combat heretical teachings that crept into the early church. False doctrine is explained thoroughly and repeatedly. Almost the entire book of Galatians is devoted to describing and combating a false gospel. To "earnestly contend for the faith" (Jude 3) must include pointing out what is wrong with the counterfeit. Christ himself did so, explaining in detail the evil practices and false teachings of the rabbis (Matt 15:1-20; 23:2-33, etc.). Our exposure of error is moderate in comparison to Stephen's indictment of the Jews (Acts 7:39-43, 51-53). And considering

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the fact that Paul, out of concern for the coming apostasy, for “three years...ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears” (Acts 20:31), we could hardly be accused of extremism in our earnest attempts to point out what is wrong in order for the truth to be understood more clearly by comparison. Our motive is to rescue souls from eternal doom.

LETTERS

Dear TBC,

The church and the world have intermingled. What happened was God got outed and a bunch of human philosophers started to rise up. Now, instead of the Holy Spirit’s guidance, we have star power and money power inside the church. They dictate what a pastor preaches on that pulpit. We need to return to the Scriptures. We need to turn back to God. We need to receive the Holy Spirit’s baptism. We need to receive the gifts of the Spirit so that we can [bear] fruits of the Spirit. JC (email)

Dear Tom,

Thank you so very much for today’s newsletter, which I have read and I am so pleased that you have stated the truth of the situation as found in many churches. I find myself at a loss, in general those in the church I attend do not see the problem of mysticism, more precisely contemplative prayer. I have prayed a great deal for the Lord to open the eyes of those involved but to no avail at the moment. I am so very thankful for your ministry and to know that there are people like you who still adhere to the truth as found in the Bible. May the Lord bless you and may you keep up the good work. IW (email)

Dear TBC,

I’m [74]-years-old black South African born at Orlando East Soweto RSA. I 100% agree with Bro Dave Hunt of the thousands of “born again” Christians (blacks) all around me, beginning with my own family, Lesotho, Botswana, Zambia, Swaziland, Zimbabwe,

Mozambique, et al. An average person I ever meet—they believing in Lord Jesus Christ plus one’s ancestors and family tradition culture, i.e. my own personal experience of 10 years in the charismatics’ lie and 22 years-plus in TBC. Glory and thanks to God our Father, Son and Holy Spirit for Dave & Tom’s work that have changed our walk forever. Maranatha. S (email)

Dear TBC,

Praise the Lord, when I was young in faith and fallen in prosperity teaching, I found Dave Hunt’s book *Occult Invasion* and my eyes opened to the truth. I have also got...Hunt’s book *Beyond Seduction* and T. A. McMahon’s and Hunt’s *The Seduction of Christianity*. I love Berean Call teachings and thanks, brother, [for] this message. AZ (email)

Dear TBC,

On essentials we must have unity, on non-essentials liberty, and in all things love. One big problem I have with the reformed Baptist church which I used to attend was how they spiritualize the Jews return to their homeland. We are supposed to test all things in light of scripture. I disagree with Dave on predestination, because the dead man isn’t drowning, reaching for the life preserver, but is at the bottom of the ocean stone cold dead, and it takes God the Holy Spirit to dive to the bottom of the ocean and breathe new life, spiritually speaking, into that dead corpse! Most of the great preachers would admit that no man had everything exactly right, but when it comes to essentials we better! MC (email)

NEWSWATCH

PENN STATE PROFESSOR OF CLIMATE JUSTICE

THECOLLEGEFIX.COM, 10/27/23, “PENN STATE HIRING ‘PROFESSOR IN CLIMATE JUSTICE AND YOUTH MOVEMENTS’” [EXCERPTS]: Pennsylvania State University’s Department of Geography announced an open tenure-track faculty job

in “Climate Justice and Youth Movements.”

The successful candidate will have “expertise in qualitative research with a focus on transnational youth movements, the intergenerational dimensions of climate change [and] decolonial relationships,” according to an ad posted to *The Chronicle of Higher Education* jobs board.

The professor will also be “expected...to advance diversity, equity and inclusion in Geography and EMS [Earth and Mineral Sciences],” the college which houses the geography department.

Geography Professor Jacob Shell of Temple University posted the ad to X Wednesday, noting that “the academic job postings are getting awfully...prescriptive.”

“Activist scholarship is inherently antiscientific,” he wrote. “There isn’t really a way around that.”

(<https://bit.ly/4a9NUg6>)

CREATED LANGUAGES

CREATION.COM, 10/24/23, “LANGUAGES” [EXCERPTS]: Language diversity presents a major challenge for evolutionists. A popular view is that all languages evolved from guttural noises uttered by our ancestors, into one or more prototypical languages. From a prototypical language many languages supposedly developed as mankind spread across the earth. This view is hard to sustain when the facts are considered. All languages have vocabularies of [thousands] of words and complex grammars. These complex systems of communication did not develop from grunts....

Language has every attribute of a system designed by an intelligent agent. There are at least 50 distinct language families. Each seems to have appeared with a fully developed syntactic and grammatical structure and cannot be traced to a common ancestral language. Many linguists have given up the search for

News stories are selected for reader awareness and as an exercise in discerning the times from a biblical perspective.

an original mother tongue on the ‘tree’ of languages and instead speak of language ‘bushes’.

Older languages are more complex than newer languages, not less. Latin (with cases, genders, and declinations) is more complex than English, Greek (about 600 years older) is more complex than Latin, and Vedic Sanskrit is even more complex. These are all languages within the Indo-European family group. Languages lose information through time; there is decay and reduced complexity. For example, they lose pronouns (e.g., ‘thee’, ‘thou’, and ‘ye’) and verb forms. Also, they experience a decline in vocabulary, even though new words are coined regularly, and new ones are introduced in specialized intellectual domains. It is estimated that Shakespeare used about 35,000 words. The average English speaker today has an active vocabulary (vs. recognized words) of less than 20,000 words.

Although there are claims that the origin of language occurred about 60,000 years ago, there is no empirical evidence to support this claim. Many languages appeared suddenly around 2200 BC.... The Bible explains that God introduced languages in response to man’s rebellion of building the Tower of Babel (Genesis 11:7). Since then, some new languages have emerged within their respective families, but many more languages have gone extinct. This is another sign that everything is decaying.

(<https://bit.ly/3TeV908>)

WOMAN ARRESTED FOR PRAYING SILENTLY OUTSIDE ABORTION CLINIC

WNG.ORG, 11/4/23, “GLOBAL BRIEFS: UNITED KINGDOM” [EXCERPTS]: West Midlands Police issued an apology to Isabel Vaughan-Spruce after arresting her for silently praying outside an abortion center. In September police announced they had dropped the charges and would take no further action against her. Police

originally arrested Vaughan-Spruce in December 2022. A judge dismissed those charges, but police arrested her again in March.

The case gained worldwide attention as an attack on freedom of thought in the U.K. While she welcomed the apology, Vaughan-Spruce said, “I should never have been arrested or

investigated simply for the thoughts I held in my own mind. Silent prayer is never criminal.”

[TBC: She has been released with no charges.]

(<https://bit.ly/3tbrH0u>)

TBC NOTES

The Gift of Lies for Christmas: The Spurious *Journey to Bethlehem*

Journey to Bethlehem is a feature film released in November of 2023 about the lives of Joseph and Mary and the birth of Jesus. There’s little doubt that it will be a box-office success this Christmas season and well beyond. It has all one could ask for in the realm of entertainment: music, compelling lyrics, choreography, humor, drama, good guys and bad guys, beautiful actors and actresses, Holy Land production scenery, and mostly Bible characters and content. It has impressive support from the Christian Contemporary Music community, especially those popular among young adults. Positive reviews from secular websites and testimonies among those involved in the production assure viewers during their interviews that this only came about through God’s involvement and His answers to their

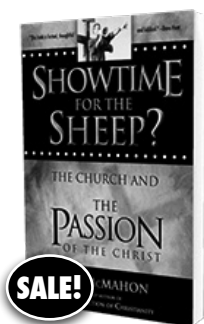
prayers. Interviews with children are compelling in their enthusiasm for the movie. It is definitely a first-class production and there’s nothing to dislike about *Journey to Bethlehem*—unless of course you have a love for God’s truth and recognize the problems with altering God’s Word with contributions from humanity (Proverbs 30:6; Revelation 22:18-19).

Simply put, if what’s presented is not of the Holy Spirit and true to the Scriptures, then it’s not of God. Therefore, it’s not true. If it’s not true, then it is a lie. Everything presented in *Journey to Bethlehem* is a lie. None of the characters or their stories are true to Scripture. Again, is it entertaining? *Yes!* Is it a lie? *Absolutely!*

Lord, our hearts’ cry is that You will open the hearts and minds of those who are seduced by the power of the film medium and draw them back to Your truth. “Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth” (John 17:17).

T. A. McMAHON
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Beloved, **BELIEVE NOT EVERY SPIRIT...** —1 JOHN 4:1



Showtime for the Sheep?

McMahon—Mel Gibson’s movie *The Passion of the Christ* was touted as the greatest opportunity for witnessing since the death of Christ. Could that be true? Or could the church be enthralled with something that might have a host of problems beyond just a popular motion picture about Jesus Christ? Tom observes a connection

between *The Passion of the Christ* and trends taking place among professing Bible believers such as the increasing use of entertainment in presenting the gospel, the ecumenical relationship between Catholics and evangelicals, the use of imagery verging on idolatry, and the major drift away from the objective Word of God. *The Berean Call*, 159 pp.

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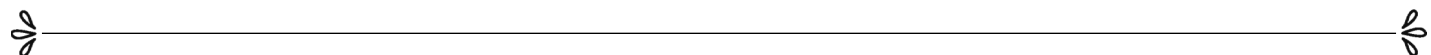


The Chosen Series—10 Critical Concerns

LHT Editors—The incredibly popular series *The Chosen* is being described as a “global phenomenon” and growing “movement” that is creating the groundwork for world “revival.” However, there are some critical concerns about this series and where it is heading. As T. A. McMahon wrote in the December 2021 TBC newsletter: “Those

who are drawn to the Jesus of *The Chosen* have been seduced into believing in a character who is not the perfect God/Man presented in God’s Word, but rather a man-made counterfeit Christ whose ministry had to be enabled through the input of his disciples. That’s not the Jesus Christ of God’s inerrant, infallible, and all-sufficient God-breathed Word. Those who claim to believe the Scriptures but are drawn to *The Chosen* need to heed the Bible’s far-reaching warning in Matthew 24:24-25.” *Lighthouse Trails*, 19 pp.

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President & Executive Director: T. A. McMahon

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To receive *The Berean Call* by email or to access our online archives, please go to www.thebereancall.org

To order items from this newsletter or to see additional resources, visit store.thebereancall.org

DONATIONS

The Berean Call (TBC) has always operated on the belief that God will provide as we seek His face, so we do not make appeals for financial help. Although the ministry operates primarily on donations, these are freewill and not solicited. Through the years, TBC has seen God “do exceeding abundantly above” all that was asked or thought.

CONTACTING US

tel: (541) 382-6210 • fax: (541) 385-6025
orders and donations: (800) 937-6638 or (541) 382-6210
e-mail: tbcoffice@thebereancall.org
website: www.thebereancall.org
online store: store.thebereancall.org

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. (01/24)

SHIPPING RATES & OPTIONS

\$3 - DISCOUNT SHIPPING (US)

Your items will be shipped by the cheapest method, delivers in 7 - 21 days.

\$7 - FASTER SHIPPING (US)

Your items will be shipped by USPS First Class Mail or faster, delivers in 3 - 7 days. (Street address required.)

If you require a specific shipping method, or want FedEx expedited shipping, we will charge you the actual shipping cost. Customers who buy at wholesale or ministry discounted pricing also pay actual shipping cost. Please provide a street address to get the lowest shipping cost.

FOR INTERNATIONAL ORDERS ONLY:

Please use the calculation below to estimate your shipping costs. If actual shipping costs are less, we will adjust what we charge you. If shipping charges are more, we will contact you.

FIRST POUND IS \$20, EACH ADDITIONAL POUND IS \$10

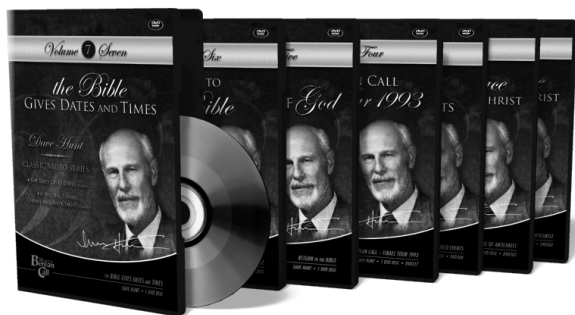
Example: a 5-pound package is \$20 (first pound) + \$40 (4 additional pounds) = \$60

We will use International Priority Flat Rate Boxes whenever possible to reduce postage costs.

If you pay with a credit card, we will charge the actual amount of shipping. If you pay by check or cash, we prefer to refund you with store credit. You may also choose to receive a refund by check or specify that the difference be used as a donation.

On Sale! DAVE HUNT CLASSIC DVDS SAVE OVER \$18 OFF RETAIL

The Berean Call—The *Dave Hunt Classic Video Series* is rare archival video footage from the TBC “vault,” filmed at various meetings in the US and abroad over the course of Dave’s 30-plus year speaking ministry. Available separately, or purchase the set and save!

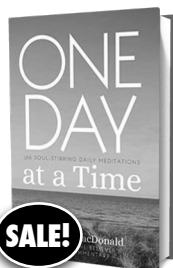


- | | | | |
|---------------|---|-------|---------------|
| DVD301 | <i>Seducing Spirits & Doctrines of Devils</i> | wt .2 | \$9.75 |
| DVD302 | <i>Global Peace & the Rise of Antichrist</i> | wt .2 | \$9.75 |
| DVD308 | <i>Prophecy and World Events</i> | wt .2 | \$9.75 |
| DVD317 | <i>The Berean Call Israel Tour</i> | wt .2 | \$9.75 |
| DVD325 | <i>The Gospel of God</i> | wt .2 | \$9.75 |
| DVD326 | <i>The Bible Gives Dates and Times</i> | wt .2 | \$9.75 |
| DVD327 | <i>Return to the Bible</i> | wt .2 | \$9.75 |

SET84

Retail \$68.25, SAVE \$18.25 — All seven Dave Hunt Classic DVDs

wt 1.3 **SALE \$50.00**



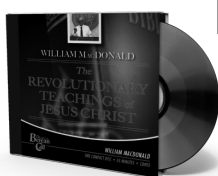
One Day at a Time

MacDonald—There’s no better way to start the day than with an encouraging portion from God’s Word. One way to ensure that our days on earth count for God is to fill our minds and hearts with the “engrafted Word” that we might grow by it. These invigorating meditations on the Scriptures from the crisp, Christ-exalting writings of William MacDonald are not intended to replace the daily reading of the Word, but to stimulate your thinking in Scripture, and, by God’s grace, to help you apply the truth to your daily walk. Gospel Folio Press, 384 pp.

B08007 hardcover wt 2.2 **SALE \$20.00**

True Discipleship

B96508 softcover, 180 pp. wt .6 **SALE \$10.00**



Revolutionary Teachings of Jesus Christ

MacDonald—“Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth...but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven.” Join us for an encouraging and convicting exhortation from the Book of Matthew on how to live according to the revolutionary teachings of our Lord Jesus Christ. Presented by William MacDonald, this message was recorded in July 18, 2002. The Berean Call, 1 CD, 55 min.

CD093 wt .1 **\$5.00**

SET217 Includes 3 items above wt 2.8 **SALE \$25.00**

Scan this QR code with your smart phone’s camera to view these products on our website!



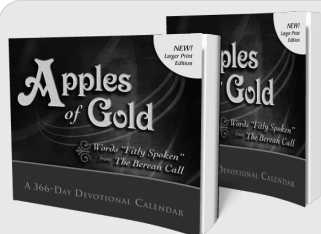
TIMELESS DEVOTIONALS & HYMNS

Amazing Grace—366 Inspiring Hymn Stories

B87998 softcover, 247 pp. wt 1.2 **\$19.00**

100 Instrumental Hymns

CD133 3 CDs wt .3 **SALE \$10.00**

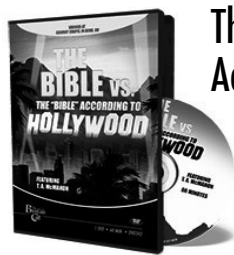


Apples of Gold

A perpetual daily devotional by TBC

B60736 6 x 6” (large print) wt 1.0 **\$10.00**

B60729 6 x 7.5” (X-large print) wt 1.2 **\$15.00**



The Bible vs. The “Bible” According to Hollywood

McMahon—Recently we’ve seen the release of an onslaught of “biblical” movies and TV-show productions. Many believers and pastors have said that Hollywood is finally doing Christianity a “favor” by creating quality Christian entertainment. But are these productions truly biblical and God honoring? What’s wrong with “Bible” movies? T. A. McMahon, with his unique background as a former screenwriter for 20th Century Fox, carefully answers these questions and examines many of these popular productions as a Berean—in the light of God’s Word. This message challenges believers young and old to think carefully about biblical entertainment and exhorts viewers to return to the Bible. 1 DVD, 60 min.

DVD342 wt .2 **\$5.00**

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⑤ ORDER RESOURCES: Please print all information clearly and use catalog item codes

Item Code	Title/Product Description	Price	Weight (Int'l Only)	Quantity Ordered	Total Weight (Int'l Only)	Total Price

★ SHIPPING NOTE: U.S. CUSTOMERS MUST CHOOSE \$3 SLOWER SHIPPING OR \$7 FASTER SHIPPING.
INTERNATIONAL CUSTOMERS SEE PAGE 10 FOR SHIPPING RATES.

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⑦ TOTAL ORDER:

Product Total _____ Shipping Fees _____ Donation _____ Total Enclosed _____

IF MY FUNDS EXCEED PRODUCT AND SHIPPING COSTS, PLEASE KEEP BALANCE AS A GIFT *Thank You!*