

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

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

Vanishing Lovingkindnesses and Tender Mercies

T. A. McMahon

THE IDEA THAT kindness seems to be vanishing in our day and in our country is not a matter of a pessimistic outlook but one of everyday observation. Political differences, as an all-too-obvious example, appear to have reached a new level of ugliness. Kindness hasn't disappeared altogether, yet neither has it taken society by storm. For many people, an act of kindness is little more than a “nice” occurrence, even though some are aggressively promoting the action. Hence the bumper sticker: “Practice Random Acts of Kindness!” Things like holding the door open for a person or letting an individual with very few items go ahead of us in a checkout line are just a few of the countless number of acts that we can all appreciate.

On the other hand, it's grievous that many even consider their acts of kindness to be a contributing factor toward getting their “ticket” to heaven. They erroneously believe that their works add up to making them a “mostly good person”—certainly not one deserving of hell!

None of these views relate to what the Bible has in mind regarding kindness—not even one's accumulated “nice” acts. When I want to get a better idea about the definition of English terms used in Scripture, I've found Noah Webster's 1828 Dictionary to be very helpful. His love of God's Word is evident, as he often supplied the KJV scripture verses in which the words are used. In addition, his 1828 Dictionary is easily accessible and can be searched online. He defines “kindness” as an “Act of goodwill; beneficence; any act of benevolence which promotes the happiness or welfare of others. Charity [love], hospitality, attention to the wants of others, etc., are deemed acts of kindness or kindnesses. Acts 28:2.”

The primary focus of the biblical Christian is understanding what God is communicating to His creatures through His Word. His major objective is to go beyond what the world thinks, and the Scriptures indeed go far beyond the mindset, practices, and capabilities of the world. How far? God's kindness itself is a significant action on His part that is involved in the salvation of humanity. “But after that *the kindness and love of God our Saviour* toward man appeared, not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour” (Titus 3:4-6; emphasis added). That's “opening a door for us.” That's providing a “kindness” that no one but Jesus could—and did—provide. He has “set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it” (Revelation 3:8). Notice that the verse in Titus 3:4 connects kindness and the love of God.

Twenty-three times in the psalms we read of “kindness” and “love” as one word. That's rarely, if ever, found in the world's “random acts”—and certainly not God's lovingkindnesses. Here

is what's involved in His lovingkindnesses, as given throughout the psalms: physical salvation for those who put their trust in Him (17:7); tender mercies (25:6); truth (26:3); trust, protection (36:7); continuation, righteousness (36:10); proclamation (40:10); preservation (40:11); night and day (42:8; 92:2); worship (48:9); mercy and forgiveness (51:1); better than life (63:3); goodness (69:16); faithfulness (88:11; 89:33); His promises (89:49); redemption (103:4); understanding (107:43); reviving and refreshing (119:88, 149, 159); praise (138:2); guidance (143:8). These are just some of the attributes found within the character of our loving God, whom we are to know and love with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength (Mark 12:30).

Isaiah declares, “I will mention the lovingkindnesses of the LORD, and the praises of the LORD, according to all that the LORD hath bestowed on us, and the great goodness toward the house of Israel, which he hath bestowed on them according to his mercies, and according to the multitude of his lovingkindnesses” (Isaiah 63:7). Yes, that was for Israel, but better yet, it's made available for all mankind! Yet humanity has a penchant for taking what God has “bestowed” and turning it to self-glorification. The word received by the prophet Jeremiah corrects that self-serving orientation, which completely misses what God's lovingkindness is all about: “Thus saith the LORD, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches: But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the LORD which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the LORD” (Jeremiah 9:23-24).

God wants us to understand Him and know Him. It's not about us; it's about Him. He wants us to delight in what He delights in, and He delights in our extending lovingkindness to others. To that end, He has enabled us by His grace to reflect His attributes. We are to “be the children of the Highest: for He is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil [person]” (Luke 6:35). We are to “Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering” (Colossians 3:12). For all of us who claim to follow Jesus Christ, those are not just things we *do*, but they are who we *are to be* as Christians. True Christianity is wholly others-directed. Selfless. Is that the way the world sees us?

I received an article recently that startled me. It was an interview with Richard Dawkins. What surprised me was his observation that Christianity is losing its influence for good in the world, and, as a consequence, creating a vacuum that is giving rise to increasing wickedness. That is a stunning reflection by a man who is arguably the chief of the atheists. He still doesn't believe in God, but he sees a literal fear of God by those who do believe in Him as a welcome deterrent against evil. He's concerned that losing that fear will give “people a license to do really bad things,” and what he sees happening throughout society is shaking his confidence in his own belief in humanity's inherent goodness. He realizes that people need help to do good (<http://bit.ly/2R9eiPs>).

But that's not the main shocker. When a committed atheist can see Christianity failing in its influence while, at the same time,

Christendom's own leaders are mostly heedless of that fact, the church is in serious trouble.

What's the problem? *Much of the church is in the world, and much of the world is in the church.* How can the church influence the world for good when it's emulating it? When they both look and act alike, their differences fade away. Consequently, those things that delight God—particularly our emulation of His lovingkindnesses and our “others” directedness—are slowly but surely vanishing.

Perhaps the clearest example of this is what Martin and Deidre Bobgan refer to as “hidden in plain sight” (See <http://bit.ly/30g2UFC>). That has to do with counseling and its errors. The Bobgans have written volumes to enlighten the church as to the true biblical way that believers in Jesus are to minister to one another. This case in point displays a classic irony. Biblical counseling should be an altruistic activity in which people help one another by first and foremost restoring their relationship with the Lord, and out of that will follow a reconciliation with one another. In other words, growing in our love for Jesus and being obedient to His instructions is the only true solution to a believer's problems, whatever they may be. The irony is that the opposite, through counseling (with few exceptions), is taking place throughout Christendom.

Counseling in the church emulates psychological counseling, which is all about self and is therefore antithetical to the Word of God. “Hold on a minute!” protest those who function in a church as so-called biblical counselors. “We *are* doing it God's way!” The Bobgans have read volumes of biblical counseling instructions and watched hours of such videos and have yet to find counselors doing it “God's way.” Here are only two examples that demonstrate just how destructive such “therapy” is for the body of Christ.

Everyone who goes to counseling wants to have his or her problems solved, no matter what those problems may be. When that becomes the focus, however, it departs from the biblical solution, which is only found in one's personal relationship with Jesus. Problems (which never end this side of heaven) for the believer in our Lord must be worked out according to Galatians 2:20: “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.” To think that a significant problem of living, especially involving our relationships with others, can be solved by any other means is to invite the disaster 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 here means separation from the truth of God's Word.

The second very critical error found in church counseling is the “hidden in plain sight” state of affairs. Counselors and counselees are seemingly oblivious to their opposition to God's Word as they go about their counseling sessions. How opposed are they? Let's start with what is declared all through the Scriptures regarding how we, as believers, should treat others. The golden rule is basic and covers a great deal: “Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets” (Matthew 7:12). That's fundamental, yet Jesus sets the bar way beyond that. After declaring what was the first of all the commandments, He adds the second: “And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these” (Mark 12:31). When questioned by the lawyer as to who was his neighbor, Jesus gave the example of what the Samaritan did for the man attacked by robbers and left half-dead, ending with the admonition to “Go, and do likewise” (Luke 10:29-37). Luke also records, “But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for *he is kind* unto the unthankful and to the evil [person]” (Luke 6:35, emphasis added).

The word “kind” in this verse is translated “gentleness” in the passage that lists the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:21-22). It's the same

Greek term: *chrēstos*. Similar to fruit, kindness must be cultivated and grown in grace. As noted earlier, a believer's life in Christ must reflect His lovingkindnesses. “Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another” (Romans 12:10). A host of analogous verses are far too numerous to list here simply because this is what biblical Christianity is all about. Any belief or practice that deviates from those verses is a travesty, meaning a false and utterly destructive representation. Does present-day psychological counseling and psychologically influenced “biblical” counseling qualify as a travesty? Yes, even though its practice clearly perpetuates sin, that fact seems to be hidden in plain sight of the perpetrators.

Typically, as noted above, counselees come to counseling to have their problems solved by a counselor. The counselor believes that he or she must amass details related to the problem to discern what needs to be addressed and fixed. The counselee's primary focus is upon getting the problem solved. Two critical errors are exposed here. 1) The counselor is displacing the Holy Spirit, who alone knows the heart, mind, depth, and complexity of the sin involved, as well as the truthfulness of the counselee. 2) The process bypasses the counselee's current relationship (or lack thereof) with the Lord as the only truly effective way to resolve his or her sin issues.

As bad as that is, it leads to a far worse situation. Both counselors and counselees are clearly sinning against the Lord in their counseling process. That is particularly evident when relationships are involved. Take, for example, a married couple that is not getting along. In the counseling process, complaints are brought against one another. These complaints inevitably turn into bad-mouthing each other, which the Bible calls “evil speaking.” The counselor is guilty of prompting such a sinful activity through his problem-solving attempts. Furthermore, all of this is diametrically opposed to God's lovingkindnesses and tender mercies. “Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamor, and *evil speaking*, be put away from you, with all malice” (Ephesians 4:31, emphasis added). Tragically, the above describes most attempts at counseling failing marriages. This may also contribute in a major way to the fact that, statistically, the number of divorces among Christians is little different from non-Christians.

In summary, God's lovingkindnesses and tender mercies are vanishing—not from God but from His church. That's because His church is slipping away from Him (Hebrews 2:1) and leaving its first love, who is Christ himself (Revelation 2:40). His bride is turning to the world for ways to solve its problems—ways that will only make her conditions worse. Although Richard Dawkins does not know the reasons for Christianity's failing influence, he recognizes its current state. Counseling that is truly biblical should be what the world sees, and its successes should glorify our Lord and increase Christianity's influence for good.

When psychotherapeutic counseling entered the church in the 20th century, it began as a snowball rolling down a mountainside. It quickly reached avalanche proportions, burying the truth of the sufficiency of Scripture in its destructive path. The only change in this century is the incredibly massive remaining snow and debris that seems to be frozen solid. Turning Christianity back to counseling God's way may not happen, given the increasing apostasy that is and will continue to take place prior to the Lord's return. Nevertheless, as watchmen of God's Word, we must heed the words of Isaiah: “I have set watchmen upon thy walls, O Jerusalem, which shall never hold their peace day nor night: ye that make mention of the LORD, keep not silence” (62:6). Our function as watchmen is to warn those individuals who are entrapped by the Christianized psychological delusion. We are to be in a grace-enabled rescue operation, praying that the Lord will help us to reach those who have “ears to hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches” (Revelation 2:7,11,17,29;3:6,13,22).

TBC

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Submit your own questions to: PO Box 7019 • Bend, OR 97708
or e-mail: editorial@thebereanall.org

QUESTION: The Bible says, “For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure” (Philippians 2:13). Then why do I so often fail to do His will and to please Him? I more often please myself by doing my own will. Why?

RESPONSE: The previous verse says, “Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.” We don’t “work *for* salvation,” but we must work *out* the salvation God has given us. Paul declares that “we are his [God’s] workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them” (Ephesians 2:9-10). It is God’s will that we should do good works—but it is our responsibility to do them.

Created in a beautiful garden, Adam was “to dress it and keep it [and] freely eat” its fruit (Genesis 2:15-16). God gave Adam the ability, but he had to harvest and eat the fruit. God didn’t do it for him. So it is with the life we are to live by faith in God and in obedience to His will. God’s work in us neither overrides our will nor our efforts but guides and empowers us as we obey Him.

Just as Adam failed to do God’s will, we too fail at times. God had a provision for Adam’s sin, and He has one for ours as well: “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9). Why do we so often seek our own will? Whether we live for Christ or for self depends upon our understanding and faith. Christ loves us so much that He paid the full penalty for our sins, a penalty that His justice demanded. When this fact becomes more real to us than this passing world, we become overwhelmed with love for Him and the desire to do His will. When we really believe that this life is brief and eternity is unending, the shortness of time in relation to eternity compels us by logic and even self-interest to live for eternity. The life we live day by day depends upon what we really believe. Paul’s passion was to “present every man perfect in Christ Jesus.” To that end he said, “Whereunto I labour, striving according to his working, which worketh in me mightily” (Colossians 1:28,29). Understanding, faith, and love provide the foundation for a partnership in which God is able to work mightily in us as we work diligently and trust Him.

QUESTION: In one of your talks you quoted, “The soul that sinneth, it shall die” (Ezekiel 18:4) and, “The wages of sin is death.” You then said that this means “separation from God forever.” On what grounds do you define “death” as an immortal existence? Re total annihilation vs. ever-burning hell, we do not believe that “the natural man” has innate immortality because of scriptures like the first one above and “rather fear him which is able to destroy both body and soul in hell” (Matthew 10:28); and “He that converteth the sinner from error shall save his soul from death” (James 5:20). Please give scriptures proving that “mortal man” is really of and by himself *immortal*!

RESPONSE: Unfortunately, your definition of death and immortality does not agree with the Bible. In the very day that Adam and Eve ate of the forbidden fruit they died—but they were not annihilated, as you define death in your attempt to escape the biblical statements about eternity in the “lake of fire.”

What did it mean that Adam and Eve were dead, yet still living? Spiritual death brought instant separation from God the moment Adam and Eve rebelled against Him by eating of the forbidden fruit. In this earthly life, however, there is hope of that spiritual separation being ended by reconciliation with God through faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, who paid the penalty for sin and “tast[ed] death

for every man” (Hebrews 2:9). Those who reject Christ will experience “the second death” (Revelation 2:11; 20:6,14; 21:8), which is eternal separation from God in the lake of fire (Revelation 19:20; 20:10,14,15).

Your idea of “immortality” assumes that the lost must be immortal in order to exist eternally in hell. Not so. The word “immortal” occurs only once in the entire Bible (1 Timothy 1:17) and is a description of God, who alone is eternal, having neither beginning nor end:

“Who alone hath immortality...” (1 Timothy 6:16). The immortality that God gives to man refers to the new body that can never die (1 Corinthians 15:53,54), received by the redeemed. Angels, demons, Satan, and mankind were created and therefore have a beginning. There is not one verse in the Bible, however, to indicate that their existence ever ends—but endless existence is never referred to as “immortality.”

Jesus said, “The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of God: and they that hear shall live” (John 5:25). He was, of course, referring to the spiritually dead hearing the gospel and receiving eternal life. Those who reject the gospel remain in spiritual death. Of them, Jesus said, “The hour is coming [clearly a future “hour,” because He leaves out the phrase “and now is”], in which all that are in the graves...shall come forth” (John 5:28,29). This is the yet future resurrection of the saved at the Rapture to eternal life in heaven; and later (after the last rebellion at the end of the millennial reign of Christ) of the damned to eternal death in the lake of fire.

John clearly states, “I saw *the dead* [i.e., those who remained in spiritual death by rejecting the gospel], small and great, stand before God...” (Revelation 20:12). This is at the end of the world, the final judgment. These people are both spiritually and physically dead, but they are not annihilated. Instead, they are standing before God and being judged according to their works to determine the level of punishment each will eternally endure. Those standing in that judgment have been taken from hell itself (“and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them”—Revelation 20:13). The lost are “dead” and in hell, but they are still conscious. At the final judgment they are brought forth to stand before God, then cast into the lake of fire—and there is never a hint that their consciousness will ever end.

Christ tells us of these poor souls through the story of the rich man and Lazarus. This is not a parable, because He never used names in a parable, but is about real people who have lived on this earth and died. Even if you were to turn it into a parable, what would it illustrate? The very thing you don’t want to believe, i.e., that the punishment of the lost is eternal: “And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death” (Revelation 20:14).

When “death and hell” are cast into the lake of fire,” the “rich man” to whom Christ referred will be among these doomed because he went to hell when he died: “...the rich man also died, and was buried; and in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments...” (Luke 16:22,23).

In warning about hell, Christ referred to the “fire that never shall be quenched” (Matthew 18:8,9; Mark 9:43-48). We are told that in the lake of fire, “the beast and the false prophet...shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever” (Revelation 20:10). We have every reason to believe that the lost who are taken from “death and hell” to the final judgment and then cast into the lake of fire will also be tormented in that flame forever. This can only be the “everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels” (Matthew 25:41), which Christ warns man to avoid at all cost.

LETTERS

To connect with TBC, write: PO Box 7019 • Bend, OR 97708
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Dear TBC,

I read with interest what you bring about Israel, and I always say, “God said they will get all the land. Nobody can fight with God and win. The enemy can do what they want. They are the losers!” I’ve been listening (to your program) for many years (I am 93 now), but I can’t help with money anymore, for health reasons... but I can and do pray for the Lord’s work, yours included. You are doing a good work spreading His Word. May the Lord bless and provide. IC (OR)

Hello again, dear brother,

Just a brief line of encouragement: in our little fellowship, we so appreciate your support of God’s people the Jews. Your clarion voice is raised again and again on their behalf. It’s a shame that so few believers share your burden. In the recent past, I was exercising by swimming and was next to a lady who had the reputation of being a devout believer. As our conversation developed, it became apparent that she was devoted to the Palestinian cause, and...felt that Israel had no right to her God-given land. But, glory to God, in the kingdom, when Israel is first in the world, and our Lord Jesus is King of Kings and reigning from Mount Zion, Israel’s land will stretch from the Nile to the Euphrates! (By the by, I did my best to put her right! Sadly, ever after, she swims on the other side of the pool.)

PS: Just after my conversion 64 years ago, I discovered John Bunyan’s *Pilgrim’s Progress* and have read it through again and again and have loved him ever since.... At his larger-than-life

“bronze” [statue] in Bedford’s Main Square, both Lin and I rededicated ours lives to the Lord and His service. DC (email)

Dear TBC,

[Regarding] your video on YouTube concerning “Is Psychotherapy Anti-Christian?” I believe that psychology is definitely an attack on Christianity; however, much more is involved here.... [Psychology] is designed to undermine the Word of God, but also the chemicals now being promoted have become a multimillion-dollar business while destroying the brains of Christians so they are no longer able to line their behavior up with the Word of God. They are becoming slaves to voices in their heads and compulsive sin that they are now powerless to control. I came across a doctor on the Internet who was warning of the very serious health dangers of his business, which has very little accountability because they are experimenting in an area that is impossible to diagnose or safely treat.... I have also come across several documentaries on the topic, as well as firsthand knowledge of individuals who have been severely damaged. This all led me to Rev. 18:23 [regarding] “pharmakeia” and all of its definitions...proving that we are much closer to the end than we think.... KG (email)

Dear Brother McMahon,

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. All praises and honor and glory belong to Him. Thank you for the monthly newsletters. They are always a spiritual blessing to read. Keeping up with Bible prophecy is my passion in what the Lord has declared in His Word, watching it being fulfilled before our eyes. It is a glory to me, as well as studying the past fulfillments particular to the Nation of Israel. I cannot help but believe we are on the eve of Jesus Christ returning for His saints in the Rapture. GV (prisoner, FL)

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

You have been so faithful in sending us your monthly publication. I can’t remember exactly when it was that Dave came and visited our church. That’s when we signed up for *The Berean Call* and have been receiving it ever since. We have tried to send some “help” every year considering printing and mailing costs. We look forward to its arrival every month.

You have been faithful in revealing the wily ways of Satan—so important, since he is working overtime because he is running out of time. We live about a mile from Bethel Church in Redding and know many people who have been lured away from Bible-centered churches to attend Bethel because of the many “signs and wonders” that are performed there. Very sad! RB (CA)

QUOTABLE

What should we do in the moment of fierce temptation when we are about to be overwhelmed and we feel helpless? The answer is “Call on the Name of the Lord.” “The name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous run to it and are safe” (Proverbs 18:10). When Peter felt himself sinking beneath the waves, he cried, “Lord, save me” (Matthew 14:30). The Lord rescued him immediately. He always does.

—William MacDonald

TBC NOTES

Restoring Lovingkindness and Tender Mercies

As pointed out in this month’s article, the replication among Christians of God’s lovingkindnesses and tender mercies is on the wane. The non-Christian world recognizes among its own a diminishing of kindness as well. Nevertheless, some are attempting to turn that condition around by publicizing the activity of “practicing random acts of kindness.”

The situation for Christians is much different. Randomness doesn’t cut it. Purposeful and continual obedience to what God’s Word commands does. Manifesting lovingkindness and tender mercies by believers is not a concealed affair. We’re either doing it or we’re not. One obvious test is how we speak to each other: spouse to spouse; parents to children; children to parents; sibling to sibling. “Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings...” (1 Peter 2:1). It shouldn’t surprise us as to how beneficial this simple obedience will prove to be when it comes to troubled relationships.

T. A. McMAHON

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

NEWSWATCH

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

WAKING OLIVE AT BETHEL CHURCH

CHRISTIANHEADLINES.COM, 12/10/19, "WHAT'S BEING MISSED WITH THE 'WAKING' OF OLIVE AT BETHEL CHURCH, REDDING" [EXCERPTS]: The story out of Bethel Church in Redding, California, following the sudden death of two-year-old Olive Heilighenthal [in December] is tragic. The hearts of people across the nation have gone out to her parents in compassion—not just because they lost a child but also because of the false hope they've clung to that their little girl would come back to life.

Many news sources have already reported on this story, but I want to point out what has been missed. Reporters have noted that the parents' church, Bethel Church, has rallied around the parents' prayers for a resurrection—calling for people across the globe to join them in those prayers. But what Bethel Church has been engaged in, since Olive Heilighenthal died on Saturday, is not prayer. They've actually been making "declarations." Declarations are seen to be more effective than traditional prayer because they don't ask God to do something He has already authorized believers to do themselves. Yet they're not supported by Scripture.

The failure of the church's declarations suggests something bigger than failure to raise one little girl. It suggests that Bethel Church's entire paradigm—of bringing heaven (or God's physical Kingdom) to earth through spoken declarations—is also based on false hope.

(<http://bit.ly/2EcZrh2>)

IRAN - NOW WHAT?

FRONTPAGEMAG.COM, 1/7/20, "IRAN - NOW WHAT?" [EXCERPTS]: What will the Iranians do now? There are cries for revenge following the killing of General Qasem Soleimani, accompanied by red lights around the holy city of Qom. We are taking the threats seriously, as is proper, and we are pressing ahead with arrests of Iranian agents in Iraq, and air strikes against still other agents on the ground in Iraq.

One of the keenest observers of the situation, [Singapore Entrepreneur] Omar Taheri, recently tweeted that all the Iranian bluster about the Soleimani killing should not distract us from reality: "Soleimani was a cog, OK a big cog, in an infernal machine that remains operational & must be broken.

We must remain focused on our real goal: the dissolution of the Islamic Republic."

[Ayatollah] Ali Khamenei knows these things, and the mass repression of recent times shows he fears his own people more than any other thing. He has long feared that the United States would galvanize a monster uprising against him and his failed state, and the killing of Soleimani must have been a real shock. He was counting on time, and a defeat of Trump in November, to change his destiny.

(<http://bit.ly/2N4CbGR>)

WEAPONIZING CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES

INTELLECTUALTAKEOUT.ORG, 1/14/20 (ORIG. PUBLISHED 12/13/2018), "HOW SCHOOL DISTRICTS WEAPONIZE CHILD PROTECTION SERVICES AGAINST UNCOOPERATIVE PARENTS" [EXCERPTS]: An investigative report by *The Hechinger Report* and *HuffPost* released last month revealed that schools are increasingly using child protective services as a "weapon" against parents. It said:

"Fed up with what they see as obstinate parents who don't agree to special education services for their child, or disruptive kids who make learning difficult, schools sometimes use the threat of a child-protection investigation to strong-arm parents into complying with the school's wishes or transferring their children to a new school. That approach is not only improper, but it can be devastating for families, even if the allegations are ultimately determined to be unfounded."

More troubling, these threats disproportionately target low-income and minority parents. According to the report: "Such families also have fewer resources to fight back. Parents from lower-income, majority-black and Latino neighborhoods, few of whom can afford that option...."

Parents who push back against a district's recommendations or withdraw their child from school for homeschooling are often trying to ensure their child's well-being. Questioning various educational interventions and examining alternatives is part of a parent's job. They should be praised for looking out for their child's best interest, while schools should be sure that they use social services agencies to investigate serious claims of abuse and neglect—not just district snubs or paperwork quarrels.

(<http://bit.ly/36yaGNI>)

THE BEREAN CALL

Founder: Dave Hunt
Executive Director: T. A. McMahon

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Hunt/McMahon—Join Dave Hunt and T. A. McMahon, as they engage in discussions that biblically evaluate popular trends and teachings that are influencing millions of Christians today. We are pleased to offer all of the radio episodes on CD—so if you haven't kept up with the radio programs this year or maybe just want a "hard copy" of your favorite program, see below for a listing of every episode we've aired last year! Each CD runs about 50 min.

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RESOURCES ON PSYCHOLOGY FROM THE BOBGANS AND T. A. McMAHON



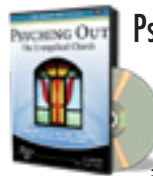
Biblical Counseling Reviews

Martin & Deidre Bobgan—This book reviews the biblical counseling of Dr. Jay Adams, Dr. David Powlison, Dr. Heath Lambert, Dr. John Street, Dr. Jim Newheiser, Dr. Paul Tripp, and Pastor Randy Patten and reveals that the best examples of biblical counseling done by some of the foremost leaders of the biblical counseling movement have grave biblical errors. The undoing of the biblical counseling movement does not primarily come from their teachings but from their practices and presentations of actual

counseling when examined with the Bible. This book is an exposé of what seven of the recognized leaders and teachers of biblical counseling actually do in counseling and why believers should shun their counseling conversations. EastGate Publishers, 268 pp.

B00111

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Psyching Out the Evangelical Church

TBC—Psychological theories have been preached so often and from so many pulpits that they are accepted without question by increasing numbers of Christians as biblical doctrines. T. A. McMahon takes these issues head-on, and you will be shocked, informed, and edified by what he has to say. 1 DVD, 51 min.

DVD166

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Psychological Seduction

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CARL KERBY CONFERENCE DVDs AND CDs



Carl Kerby - 2010 Conference DVD

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DVD215

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Carl Kerby - 2013 Conference DVD

TBC—Carl's talks include *Jurassic Park or Jesus: Who Knows More?* and *Answering Skeptics*. Each session concludes with a Q&A session. 135 min.

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Human Evolution: From Ida to Us, What Are the Facts?

TBC—Fun-loving but formidable apologist Carl Kerby investigates Ida, the supposed missing link to human evolution. Is Ida link or lemur? Kerby challenges his audience with this assignment: "We're going to set aside our preconceived ideas and follow the observable evidence to its logical, testable, conclusion." Just like Bereans testing everything from the truth of Scripture, viewers are encouraged to critically observe and consider all the facts in this exciting talk. 1 DVD, 53 min.

DVD223

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Fossils: Friend or Foe?

TBC—Featured at TBC's 2011 Summer Bible Conference, this entertaining talk from Carl Kerby will challenge the belief that the fossil record supports the teaching of millions of years of evolution. A proper understanding of what the "evidence" shows in the fossil record is vital to having biblical answers in today's world. In his fast-paced and quick-witted style, Carl explains how bias and worldviews affect the way that we see the world around us. 1 DVD, 58 min.

DVD222

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Carl Kerby - 2016 Conference DVD

TBC—Carl Kerby's sessions from the TBC 2016 conference include: *Becoming Bold!*, *10 Things a Christian Can Learn about Evangelism...From an Atheist!* (with Q and A). 121 min.

DVD272

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CD193

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Carl Kerby - 2018 Conference DVD

TBC—Carl Kerby's sessions from the TBC 2018 conference include: *Whose 'Voice' Are We Listening To?*; *Something from Nothing! And You Think We Have a Problem?*; and *What Is the Best Evidence God Created?* 3 DVDs, 184 min.

DVD288

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NEWSLETTER ARTICLES ON CD



Writing on the Only True God

Hunt—A collection of feature articles, written by Dave Hunt, for *The Berean Call* newsletter. Read by Dave Hunt and TBC staff members. All of the articles featured on this audio set take a closer look at the attributes of God the Father and the fundamentals of our faith. The titles are as follow: *What a Sovereign God Cannot Do*, *Refashioning God*, *The God of Prophecy*, and *The Only True God*. 2 CDs, 80 min.

CD1830

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Writing on God's Love

Hunt—A treasure trove of feature articles written by Dave Hunt for *The Berean Call* newsletter. All of the articles featured on this audio set are on the subject of God's love. Listeners will delight in the gospel-centric nature of these writings that are read by Dave Hunt and TBC staff members. The articles are titled: *Christ Died for Our Sins*, *Knowing and Loving God*, *God Is Love*, and *God so Loved!* 2 CDs, 80 min.

CD1844

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McMahon—A collection of feature articles written by T. A. McMahon on the subject of Hollywood and "biblical" movies—read by T. A. and TBC staff members. 2 CDs, 80 min.

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Biblically Thinking about—Evangelism

TBC—Oswald Chambers warned lest, in our zeal to get people to accept the gospel, we manufacture a gospel acceptable to people and produce “converts” who are not saved.

Today’s most popular perversion is the “positive” gospel, which is designed to offend no one with truth. Some of today’s most popular televangelists are so intent upon “slaying in the Spirit” and physical healing that they fail to deliver from sin. Discover how to discern truth from error, and defend the true gospel from popular substitutes, “Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.” —Matthew 7:14. Includes study guide and audio CD. Booklet 37 pp., Study Guide 19 pp., and CD 40 min. **Price includes shipping in the USA!**

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