

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

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

Flocking to Fables—Part Two

T. A. McMahon

THE BIBLICAL BASIS for this two-part article 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.”

In this part, the focus will be on a significant cause that is turning Christendom away from “sound doctrine,” away “from the truth,” and “turned unto fables.” It’s called mysticism.

As we noted, mysticism is the obscurity of biblical doctrine. It is a process of taking the truth of God’s Word and distorting it so badly that it becomes devoid of reason, logic, and common sense. It is a completely subjective process that rejects the objective truth presented in the Scriptures.

Noah Webster, in his 1828 dictionary, defines the doctrine of the mystics as “a religious sect who profess to have a direct intercourse with the Spirit of God.” The communication, however, is with *demons*, all of whom reject God’s truth. Yet it’s good for us as believers to be continually reminded of what God’s truth entails. Hebrews 2:1 warns us: “Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard [i.e., sound doctrine], lest at any time we should let them slip.”

Psalms 119:160 tells us, “Thy word is true from the beginning: and every one of thy righteous judgments endureth for ever.”

“Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, 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). Jesus prayed to the Father for believers, “Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth” (John 17:17). He is asking that believers in Him be set apart by truth, which is His Word.

What’s being established by these verses and many, many more that could be given is this: The Word of God is truth. It is *absolute* truth. All things that are consistent with the Word of God are true. Anything that is contradictory to the Word of God is false. It’s a lie. God’s Word is unequivocally—God’s Word. It is His revelation to mankind. Mankind had no part in that revelation other than what God’s prophets received from Him and subsequently wrote down. That’s it. They simply transcribed what the Holy Spirit gave them.

It is all of God. It is all objective truth given throughout the Scriptures. Why is that critical for believers to understand? It’s the basis for discerning truth from error. A believer needs only to search the Scriptures to know whether or not a teaching is true. We’re told to look to the Word of God (Acts 17:11), and if what’s being put forth by teachers regarding a doctrine or practice is not according to Scripture, “...it is because there is no light in them” (Isaiah 8:20). They are false teachers and their words are not true.

So how does Satan, the father of lies, make his lies acceptable? That’s where mysticism comes in. Remember, mysticism is the process of creating doctrinal confusion by putting forth teachings that have no reasonable, rational, logical, or common-sense basis. That would seem to be the end of the Adversary’s scheme to deceive humanity. But it’s not. It’s simply a shift in the strategy

that he used in seducing Eve. It began with Satan questioning God’s Word before her: “Hath God said?” Satan followed that up by declaring that she would “not surely die.” Well, she ate of the fruit, and she immediately died spiritually! Satan’s positive mental attitude for Eve, as with all of his lies, has no possibility of coming true. That’s where mysticism comes into play.

Mysticism creates an environment that is purely mental. It’s the stuff of the imagination that has no basis in reality. Yet it’s sold on the idea that it can and will become a reality. His lies never have and never will come to pass. That being the case, he has to draw people into the world of the imagination, a world of make-believe, a world that can’t be challenged on the basis of reason or objective truth. It’s a world that is completely subjective. It’s driven by emotions, the state of one’s mind, attitudes, moods, feelings, and so forth.

That’s the world—but we also find it making inroads in the church. Questions asked in many Sunday school classes too often are along the line of “How do you ‘feel’ about this verse or that verse?” Obviously, feelings cannot decide what’s true or false. They are just the way a person feels, irrespective of evidence to the contrary. That’s the perfect scenario for what the Bible calls “strong delusion,” which God will send upon those “who believed not the truth” (2 Thessalonians 2:11-12).

Let me give you what I believe are examples of strong delusion. All sin is delusory to some degree, yet some things are over the top. The lie of Godhood for created beings qualifies. As noted in Part 1, Lucifer took that leap of faith in Heaven (Isaiah 14:14). Eve was deluded into thinking that she too could “become as God.” Yet, without even a clue of that being able to take place, they were seduced by strong delusion. How strong?

That’s the lie that’s being sold throughout the world, and that will be at the heart of the religion and kingdom of the Antichrist (2 Thessalonians 2:4). Evolution certainly qualifies. There is nothing about evolution that is true. *Nothing*. Yet it has convinced the world and many throughout Christianity of its so-called reality.

Psychology qualifies, specifically psychotherapy. It also has convinced the world and much of the church of its alleged scientifically based beneficial claims, all of which are false. Those turning to so-called Christian psychology, with its spiritual implications, only compounds the delusion.

Running rampant in Christendom are related delusional programs that have no basis in Scripture (or reality, for that matter) such as the Contemplative Spirituality Movement, the myths surrounding the Catholic Desert Fathers, the promotion of the Enneagram, Gnosticism in the early church, and the later Word/Faith heresies of today.

Contemplative spirituality has seduced many of the highly influential evangelical leaders of our day such as Richard Foster, Rick Warren, Chuck Swindoll, and Beth Moore, to name but a few (see *A Time of Departing*, page 7), by turning them to Eastern meditation. That enticing lie claims that stilling the mind will enable them to hear directly from God, thereby opening one up to achieving an intimate relationship with Jesus. Many are claiming that focusing on “sound doctrine” has dried up their personal relationship with the Lord, which is nothing less than a

fulfillment of the prophecy of 2 Timothy 4:3: “*For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine.*”

There are a host of others that make up Satan’s devices in our time of strong delusion and increasing apostasy, but I want to zero in on what is the most popular strong delusion impacting Christendom in our day, and explain what makes it so. Second Timothy 4:4 declares: “*And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.*” Some Bible translations use the word *myths* rather than *fables*. Both words are defined as made-up stories, fiction, fabrications, stories not based upon truth.

Before I became a born-again, biblical Christian, I was a myth-and-fable maker. I applied that craft as a screenwriter in Hollywood. The job entailed making up original stories, or stories based upon books or peoples’ lives, or historic events. All theatrical movies are *made up*, even though some are promoted as being based upon actual events. “Based upon” is a phrase meaning that it’s Hollywood’s interpretation of history.

My primary function as a screenwriter was manipulating the emotions of movie-going audiences: make them laugh, make them cry, frighten them, stimulate their desires, make them cry out for vengeance, or put them in a euphoric state. If some of that wasn’t actually taking place or being entertaining and effective in the movies I wrote, it would have meant a disastrous consequence for the box-office returns. It also would make getting my next writing assignment more difficult.

So, we’ve seen that controlling the emotions of an audience is the chief function of movies. That’s what makes them the most seductive and influential medium in the world today. And the leader in that realm of religious influence is the film series *The Chosen*. It completely qualifies in every aspect as an example of strong delusion. Furthermore, it has turned *millions*—non-Christians, professing Christians, and many true Christians—to “fables.” All of its episodes are made up by its Mormon production company as well as its hired screenwriters, directors, and actors who contribute to the stories.

As a movie, it is a medium that is driven by controlling emotions and has no basis in biblical truth. Most of the interviews of those who previewed *The Chosen*’s successful debut in theaters spoke glowingly of how emotionally affected, even overwhelmed, they were at the screening. Why would that be when all the characters that appear on screen are false representations of those found in the Bible, and most importantly—a false Jesus Christ? Obviously, they were blinded to that fact by their emotions, their feelings.

Any attempts to portray Jesus by an actor are acts of blasphemy. Although blasphemy is considered by most people as contemptuous or irreverent words against God, the primary meaning of blasphemy is characterizing Him in ways that are not true to who He truly is. That takes place whenever an actor tries to represent Jesus.

For those who don’t see the problem of someone portraying the Lord, I would ask them to please re-evaluate their view of the biblical Jesus. Is He the one that Scripture tells us is God manifest in the flesh? Isn’t He the image of the invisible God? Are you aware that “in Him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily” (1 Timothy 3:16; Colossians 1:15; Colossians 2:9)? Are those attributes of Deity attainable for sinful man? Can they possibly be reproduced in a movie? What’s your response? That’s critical because it influences your relationship with Jesus just as someone portraying or pretending to be your spouse would adversely affect that personal relationship.

As I’ve had numerous opportunities to share my perspective on *The Chosen* in articles, at conferences, in private talks, the most common response I’ve received goes like this: “Well...I hear what you’re saying, but I’m sorry, I just don’t feel that way.” On the one hand, I’m continually grieved by that response. On the other hand, it confirms the abandonment of sound doctrine and turning instead to fables—fables as prophesied in 2 Timothy 4:3-4. Remember, mysticism is a lie that has no basis in reality. It is a construct of the imagination that is furthered by demons. That’s why *The Chosen* is the ultimate example. (See this month’s Q&A on page 3 for an expanded definition of mysticism.)

Yet the problem goes deeper into *The Chosen*’s pit of delusion. The series is produced by a cult: the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. There is nothing about the Mormon religion that is true. Nothing. When the Scriptures declare men will turn to myths or fables, Mormonism epitomizes that. Although the Book

of Mormon claims to be the “most correct book of any book on earth and the keystone” of the LDS religion, it is total fiction. It is contradictory to the truth in all of its declarations. It has been completely disproved by archaeology, by linguistics, by geography, and its claim that North and Central American Indians are all descendants of the Jews has been completely discredited by DNA science.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is the first contemporary religion to clearly teach the lie that the Serpent offered to Eve—that humans could become Gods. Their prophet and fifth Mormon president, Lorenzo Snow, claimed that he was given a revelation by the Holy Spirit that “As man now is, God once was. As God now is, man may be.” The Book of Mormon—their “most correct book”—is a complete fraud conjured up by Joseph Smith in the 1830s. Nevertheless, it has seduced millions of Latter-day Saints even though what they believe in never took place. And the deception is not just duping Mormons.

It’s ensnaring many of those whom you would think would have biblical discernment and especially those who have the responsibility as shepherds of protecting their sheep. Tragically, many of them are Calvary Chapel pastors. Although Greg Laurie now has his own ministry called Harvest, he started out in ministry with Chuck Smith. This is from an interview that Laurie did recently with Jonathan Roumie, the actor who played “Jesus Christ” in *The Chosen*. Roumie, by the way, is also an evangelist for the Roman Catholic Church. He took *The Chosen*’s writer/director Dallas Jenkins, a professing evangelical, to Rome to meet with the pope, who applauded the movie series.

Laurie stated in the interview (available on Harvest’s own YouTube channel) that “God had put [Roumie] in a very strategic place” in playing the character of “Jesus.” He then declared, “I think this series is fantastic.” Again, I’m just quoting what he said, so don’t think I’m “attacking” him. In his own words he is stating what he clearly believes. Laurie continued, “The actors are doing an amazing job in bringing Bible stories to life for a whole new generation.” No, they are *not* Bible stories according to screenwriter Jenkins, but rather what he calls “backstories.” They all stem from the minds and imaginations of the screenwriters of the various episodes, as well as input from the Mormon producers.

Second Thessalonians chapter two, verses 10-11 tell us: “*And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be*

LET NO MAN DECEIVE YOU BY ANY MEANS: FOR THAT DAY SHALL NOT COME, EXCEPT THERE COME A FALLING AWAY FIRST, AND THAT MAN OF SIN BE REVEALED, 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 2:3-4

saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie."

I'm sure most of us have a sense that the world is in a state of delusion...strong delusion. It's a day of complete irrationality. We're having to explain to our kindergarten children why some of the boys in their class are being given girls' names. In another sense, one must also explain why it's not those who adhere to biblical Christianity that are to blame for destroying "Mother Earth." Neither is the killing of babies through abortion the solution to a world they're being told is overpopulated. Yet the children of the world are being force-fed that continually. The world is a mess and it has no solution—no solution, that is, that fits with reality. Therefore, Satan must put forward a solution that *bypasses* reality. And he has.

Mysticism to the rescue?!

At its most popular level, mysticism is being sold through the movies. That's the ideal vehicle. Remember, movies are all about the manipulation of emotions. Not only that, but to borrow a verse from Scripture, "and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have *imagined* to do" (Genesis 11:6), and I would add, "especially on the big screen." It's a canvas that seems to have no limitations, although what is created and presented is not real. And yet it's generated a host of beliefs that are overwhelmingly seductive. We're told that our minds can create environments or universes beyond the physical universe in which we live. It's a place where we have complete control, where we can have whatever we imagine, and where the problems we face in the real world do not exist. The appeal to young people (which should come as no surprise) is off the charts. It's like a drug trip—which, by the way, is a path to and a facilitator of this mind-altering delusion. Scripture refers to the use of drugs as sorcery (*pharmakeia* in the Greek, which is where we get our term "pharmacy") and indicates that drug use will be prevalent in the last days. It's clearly evident that we're already there! All of this is what we will be facing in

the year ahead unless our blessed hope, "the glorious appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ," intervenes and takes us home collectively.

So, how do we deal with it until then? How do we remain steadfast? How can we be fruitful in a time of such unprecedented deception and wickedness? Ephesians chapter 6, starting with verse 10 through 18 spells it out for us.

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints.

I'm sure most of us have read those verses many times. But I wonder how seriously we took them? They set forth everything we need to do in order to "withstand the evil of the day," in order to "quench the fiery darts of the wicked," in order to effectively use the "sword of the Spirit," which is the Word of God. And of course, it all needs to be sustained by "Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints." That's the only hope for those who know the Lord, and for those who will seek Jesus and come to know Him.

Even so, come, Lord Jesus!

TBC

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

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

QUESTION: What is mysticism?

RESPONSE: Mysticism is the process of turning from the objective truth of God's Word to the subjective realm of the imagination, feelings, and emotions. Noah Webster defines the doctrine of the Mystics as manifesting immediate communication with the spirit realm. That realm is reinforced by the lies of seducing spirits and doctrines of demons: *Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils...* (1 Timothy 4:1). The initial attraction of mysticism is the lie that it will help a person draw closer to God. That concept is promoted today primarily through the contemplative spiritual movement in Christendom. The seduction centers around emotions and feelings. Doctrine is disdained and is believed to generate an unloving and uncaring mentality. The chief technique of contemplative spirituality is meditation that involves emptying the mind of all thoughts and then filling it through personally experiencing and hearing from God. It claims to transition one from a normal self to a higher self (a person's "God Self"). The ultimate goal is to "merge into God," also known as self-realization. The theological concept for mysticism is called pantheism and panentheism (God is everything, and God is in everything). It is highly ecumenical, and is at the heart of most of the world's religions. It is also promoted as the basis for everyone coming together to form a one-world religion.

Mysticism includes physical and non-physical experiences, the practical and the spiritual. Practical mysticism involves methods

that address the condition of physical illnesses or afflictions such as stretching exercises through yoga, stress reduction, guidance, reiki, and therapeutic touch. Spiritual mysticism involves energies such as chi (ki, qi, prana) which is said to be the universal power source of the cosmos. It impacts the individual through bodily sensations such as chi power, kundalini chakras, "a burning in the bosom," manifestations of light, and hearing voices.

Mysticism in its broad sense involves the abandonment of reality. Satan, the source behind mysticism, has no creative power. He can only work within what God has created and all his efforts are ultimately destructive. Satan and his minions can do nothing to alter, fix, adjust, or remedy the reality that they have turned from and corrupted. They are ultimately destructive in all their manifestations and their ultimate objective is leading people away from God and His Word.

Closely related to mysticism is sorcery which in the Old Testament involves input from demons manifesting occult powers. Old Testament terms used to describe sorcery are witchcraft, mediums, idols, wizards, soothsayers, spiritists, magicians, enchanters, Chaldeans, astrologers, and one who interprets dreams or omens. Sorcery in the New Testament, in addition to Simon the Sorcerer (Acts 8:9-24), who bewitched people with his magic/sorcery as did Elymas and Bar-Jesus (Acts 13:6,8), involves the use of drugs (sorcery in the Greek is *pharmakeus* related to our word pharmacy). There's little doubt that this use of sorcery in the Last Days indicates the utilization of mind-altering hallucinogenic drugs.

LETTERS

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

Anti-Christ Spirit is Alive and well right now. Praise God... only for a short time. Christ will call the Body of Christ home soon at the Rapture...then the Kingdom of Anti-Christ will take its full short reign as the Wrath of God is poured out on the Unbelieving World. Praise God! Israel will Repent and Christ will Return and set up His Kingdom. A kingdom we are unable to build. Only Precious stones of the Living temple of those that believe by hearing the Gospel of Grace. Thank you, Carl Teichrib for your discernment. I read your book and have read all your publications. Excellent Material. ML (email)

Dear TBC,

I love Dave's messages! Thanks for posting! Oh, YIKES!!!! Guys like Benny Hinn giving prophecies that are proven FALSE, Oral Roberts called the most SUCCESSFUL BUSINESS MAN IN TULSA, OKLAHOMA, with a hospital that went bankrupt. I repeat; OY! Granted, those beds might have come in handy in 2020, but few other times. HOW do they get away with such obvious LIES!?!?! The mind boggles!

I LOVE *What Love Is This?* That book brought me back from the brink of atheism, when I thought God had no problem sending my friends and family to hell. My copy is practically a coloring book, with all the highlighting I've done. Without a doubt, the Lord put it on Dave's heart to write that book! J (email)

Dear TBC,

[Concerning your answer to "Did Solomon Have the Wisdom of God?", see—<https://bit.ly/3D1HrJ>]

Solomon wasn't really an enigma in hindsight, just a fallen man like the rest whom God used and blessed to write scripture. Yes he was wise, until he wasn't—this is not that hard to

understand. God even used King Nebuchadnezzar to write the fourth chapter of Daniel, scripture, so why people stumble at these seemingly inconsistencies shouldn't be blamed on God or His Word, but our lack of understanding and that of the big picture and the whole counsel of God's Word. I'm grateful for God using ministries like this one here to help us see that though we have learned much, we still have much to learn. I like to think of it as an eternal adventure. Many blessings from God to you. N (email)

Dear TBC,

First of all, THANK YOU for posting these audio chapters of Dave's most important work! Question: IF Calvinism were true (it's NOT!!!), but if it was, and one of the doctrines of Calvinism says that God in His SOVEREIGNTY wills ALL THINGS, even SIN, HOW would GOD be JUST? How does such a hideous doctrine even make sense to anyone?!?! In human, legal terms, if a judge committed a murder, and framed an innocent party for the crime he (the judge) committed, there would be RIOTING as soon as the injustice was uncovered. Especially AFTER the innocent party was executed for a crime he or she didn't commit. J (email)

Dear TBC,

Thank you for this much-needed wake-up call concerning apostasy in the Church. However, I do not think you treat those who believe in the doctrine of election fairly. Charles Spurgeon believed in such and his teaching brought me into a greater understanding of the believer's responsibility to passionately evangelize wherever they can, and that it is the Holy Spirit's responsibility to bring the knowledge of salvation to life in the soul that is dead. Here there is election, and I fail to understand how this can be linked to apostasy. DM (email)

Dear TBC,

All my Christian life I've had a resistance towards Calvinism, and I couldn't defend my beliefs as well as I thought I should be able to, scripturally. Thank you, TBC, for publishing these radio segments from Dave and Tom that give a scriptural defense to the distaste that I felt towards Calvinism. I'm saved out of the cult of Catholicism which possibly makes me more sensitive towards Calvinism and the monster it makes God out to be. CH (email)

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.

QUOTABLE.....

"The undeniable fact is that the Bible does warn about Anti-christ, and it does give specific prophecies for the last days, some of which have been fulfilled without a doubt while others have yet to be fulfilled. Israel's prophets accurately foretold her history and her return to her land in the last days. They warned that Armageddon's destruction is coming. But all of Israel that is alive when Christ returns will see Him for themselves and will believe in this pierced and resurrected One and they 'will be saved.'"

—DAVE HUNT

TBC NOTES

Cast Down the Imagination of *The Chosen*

GENESIS 6:5 And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that **every imagination** of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

ROMANS 1:21 Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but **became vain in their imaginations**, and their foolish heart was darkened.

2 CORINTHIANS 10:3-5 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds [arguments].) **Casting down imaginations**, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ....

T. A. McMAHON
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

A NATION OF NEVADAS?

WNG.ORG, 12/22/22, "A NATION OF NEVADAS?"

[EXCERPTS]: "What are the odds of our existence?" asks a gambling commercial for FanDuel Sportsbook. "The odds of a cosmic explosion, into life forming, into evolution?" The commercial then speculates about the odds of the viewer's parents meeting, of the viewer being born....

"So what is life but chance, and every moment in it a bet?" the announcer asks before promising that betting on NFL games through FanDuel will "make every moment more."

Thirty-two states and the District of Columbia have now approved sports betting, and the gambling industry has responded with an explosion of growth in advertising to new populations of potential gamblers. But legislators in some states are starting to express concern about gambling ads.

"You can't turn on the radio or can't turn on any sporting event without being inundated with offers of free bets," New York state Sen. Pete Harkham told The New York Times. A 2019 study reported in ScienceDirect even found gambling commercials during children's programming.

(<http://bit.ly/3W6wzwi>)

MARINE INVERTEBRATE ANTIBIOTIC

ICR.ORG, 12/19/22, "MARINE INVERTEBRATE ANTIBIOTIC"

[EXCERPTS]: Erythromycin is an antibiotic that has been prescribed to many of us that may have experienced skin or upper respiratory tract infections. It was discovered in 1949 in a soil sample from the Philippines. The drug is even used in fishcare as a broad-spectrum treatment of bacterial outbreaks in fish populations.

Recently, researchers from the Institute of Oceanology of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (IOCAS), have been working with the Asiatic hard clam, *Meretrix petechialis*, which lives in a mud flat environment. These intertidal environments are rich with a wide variety of bacteria, some of which are disease-causing. Even without an adaptive, lymphocyte-based immune system clams (and other invertebrates) proliferate.

Although lacking an adaptive immune system and often living in habitats with dense and diverse bacterial populations, marine invertebrates thrive in the presence of potentially challenging microbial

pathogens. However, the mechanisms underlying this resistance remain largely unexplored and promise to reveal novel strategies of microbial resistance.

Progress in answering this question is seen in the fact that the Asiatic hard clam "can synthesize, store, and secrete the antibiotic erythromycin." The prestigious Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences stated, "This potent macrolide antimicrobial [erythromycin], thought to be synthesized only by microorganisms, is produced by specific mucus-rich cells beneath the clam's mantle epithelium, which interfaces directly with the bacteria-rich environment. The antibacterial activity was confirmed by bacteriostatic assay."

Creationists are not surprised at this discovery. In order to survive, there must be a way marine invertebrates have been designed by the Creator to avoid bacterial infections.

But evolutionists must posit a naturalistic explanation regarding the origin of this antibiotic... "However, our results suggested that the erythromycin-producing genes in *M. petechialis* have an origin in animal lineages and represent convergent evolution with bacteria," said Prof. Liu Baozhong from the IOCAS.

(<http://bit.ly/3CIVe3h>)

STRIKING DOWN RACIAL PREFERENCES

INTELLECTUALTAKEOUT.ORG, 11/3/22, "SUPREME COURT POISED TO STRIKE DOWN RACIAL PREFERENCES"

[EXCERPTS]: Lawsuits against Harvard University and the University of North Carolina are exposing the crude and dehumanizing racial sorting that goes on in the admissions offices at elite universities.

The application form asks young people to check a box identifying themselves as either "(1) Asian, (2) Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, (3) Hispanic, (4) White, (5) African American or (6) Native American."

Applicants who mark Hispanic or African American win acceptance with test scores and grades far below what whites or Asians, on average, need to get in, according to data presented to the court.

Broad categories are appropriate for sorting zoo animals—reptiles over here, mammals over there—but it's no way to recognize the humanity and individual merit of college applicants.

(<http://bit.ly/3k0UrnB>)

THE BEREAN CALL

Founder: Dave Hunt

President & Executive Director: T. A. McMahon

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RESOURCES TO ENCOURAGE DISCERNMENT IN THESE TIMES



Biblically Thinking about Mysticism

TBC—The antithesis of the objective Word of God, mysticism is defined as “the belief that direct knowledge of God, spiritual truth, or ultimate reality can be attained through subjective experience such as intuition or insight, and is vague speculation, a belief without sound basis.” Google gives this definition:

“Belief characterized by self-delusion or dreamy confusion of thought, especially when based on the assumption of occult qualities or mysterious agencies.” But in spite of the clear and present danger to all mankind, mysticism is overtaking both cultural, political, educational, and religious institutions at breakneck speed. Learn what you can do to protect yourself and those you love from the one “whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders” (2 Thessalonians 2:9). Includes study guide and audio CD. Booklet 34 pp., Study Guide 12 pp., and CD 78 min.

BBSET01 wt .2 **\$7.00**



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: “For there shall arise *false Christs*, and *false prophets*, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect. Behold, I have told you before” (Matthew:24:24-25).” Lighthouse Trails, 19 pp.

LTP76 1 booklet wt .1 **\$1.95**
SET209 10 booklet set! wt .9 **\$10.00**



Wide Is the Gate, Volume 1

Caryl Productions—Today’s new brand of Christianity has a different gospel and is targeting the younger generation with experiential spirituality, much of which is embracing the mysticism of Catholicism with its ecumenical philosophy of uniting people from all faiths to work together to bring about a new world of peace and harmony. The dangerous result of this new spirituality is the rise of today’s “Christianized” occultism. Learn what Scripture teaches about the times we live in and the methods used by the New Spirituality to usher in the counterfeit kingdom of God on earth 1 DVD, 240 min.

DVD309 wt .2 **\$25.00 SALE \$20.00**



Wide Is the Gate, Volume 2

Caryl Productions—Picking up where Volume 1 left off, this powerful series uses exclusive interviews with well-known authors and experts to examine the intrusion of the ‘60s and ‘70s New Age Movement into the professing church. Viewers will see how pagan eastern mysticism has morphed over the last four decades—from its repackaging as the “self help” psychology and holistic health movements of the ‘80s, to its seeker-friendly, megachurch appearance in the ‘90s, to its coming out in the 21st century as “the new spirituality.” 1 DVD, 216 min.

DVD316 wt .2 **\$30.00 SALE \$20.00**



Wide Is the Gate, Volume 3

Caryl Productions—The final installment in the Caryl Productions series features the hyper-Charismatic and Pentecostal movements represented by a variety of names and leaders. This supposed “new move of the Holy Spirit” coined as the New Apostolic Reformation (NAR) is also known as Third Wave, Latter Rain, Kingdom Now, Word Faith, Fresh Fire, and has many other names. Through careful biblical analysis, well-known experts help unravel the tragedy of growing deception in the church masquerading as revival, renewal, and vibrant new Christianity. 2 DVDs, 335 min.

DVD339 wt .3 **\$30.00 SALE \$20.00**

SET97

All three volumes of *Wide is the Gate* — SAVE \$11.00!

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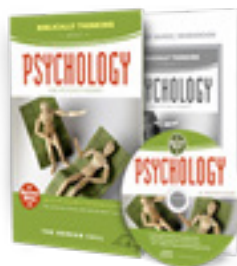
RELATED TO THIS MONTH'S ARTICLE WARNING OF DECEPTION

**A Time of Departing**

Yungen—A revealing account of a universal spirituality that has infiltrated much of the church today. This book exposes subtle strategies to compromise the gospel message with Eastern mystical concepts cloaked under the wrappings of contemplative prayer and “the silence.” Some questions this book answers: What exactly is contemplative spirituality and how is it New Age? What is wrong with Christian yoga? What is the emerging church really all about and why is it spiritually dangerous? Lighthouse Trails Publishing, 246 pp.

B01206wt .8 **\$12.00****For Many Shall Come in My Name**

Yungen—Most people believe the New Age has been long gone from our society, and, if practiced at all now, it is only by unconventional “fringe” types. The New Age movement (a term not normally used by its proponents) has permeated virtually all aspects of our society. This “Ancient Wisdom” spirituality can be quite readily encountered in the following fields: Business, Education, Health, Self-Help, Religion, and Arts & Entertainment. This book examines them all. Lighthouse Trails Publishing, 215 pp.

B01290wt .7 **\$12.00****Biblically Thinking about—Psychology**

TBC—Has evangelical religion sold its birthright for a mess of psychological pottage? Psychology has usurped the place of the spiritual, and even Christians look to psychotherapy rather than to sanctification as a means of dealing with soul problems. The Bible provides both a spiritual basis for mental-emotional health and a spiritual solution for non-organically caused mental-emotional disorders. Includes study guide and audio CD. Booklet 38 pp., Study Guide 17 pp., and CD 78 min.

BBSET08wt .3 **\$7.00****Psychology and the Church**

Hunt/McMahon—So prevalent is the use of psychotherapy among Christians today that many pastors themselves are either licensed therapists or are the greatest source of referrals to professional counselors. In addition, the study of psychology has become the number two career choice for all college students. In fact, the popularity of this “science of the soul” is even greater among those enrolled in Christian colleges, universities, and seminaries from coast to coast. The purpose of this book is not to attack or condemn evangelicals who are practicing psychotherapists or those who have been helped by what is commonly called “Christian Psychology.” Rather, this volume acknowledges the value of believers bearing one another’s burdens through prayer, fellowship, and the Word of God. The Berean Call, 415 pp.

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B60613 Paperback wt 1.3 **\$20.75****Christ-Centered Ministry vs Problem-Centered Counseling—A Radical Proposal**

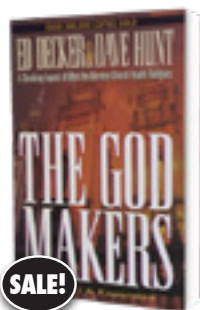
M&D Bobgan—The purpose of this book is to reveal the origins and faults of problem-centered counseling, to describe Christ-centered ministry and how it differs from problem-centered counseling, and to encourage local congregations to minister as God has called them to do without the influence of the psychological or biblical counseling movements. The radical proposal is to discourage problem-centered counseling and to encourage Christ-centered ministry, and to overthrow intimidation from the psychological and biblical counseling movements. EastGate Publishers, 134 pp.

B80500wt .5 **\$11.00 SALE \$8.00****Biblically Thinking about—Mormonism**

TBC—Joseph Smith declared: “I told the brethren that the Book of Mormon was the most correct of any book on earth, and the keystone of our religion....” But is the Book of Mormon “the most correct” book on earth? The veracity of that statement is critical to the faith of millions of people. Includes study guide and audio CD. Booklet 34 pp., Study Guide 17 pp., and CD 64 min.

BBSET09wt .2 **\$7.00****The Truth about Mormonism—
Illumination or Deception?**

Higley—TBC is privileged to offer this revised and expanded edition of Dennis and Rauni Higley’s concise but revealing investigation of their former faith, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. Dennis was a sixth-generation Mormon who became an Elder’s Quorum president while still in his early twenties. About a decade later, he was ordained a High Priest and called to serve on the Stake High Council. Rauni worked as a translator and language coordinator for the LDS Church for over 14 years. Together they launched an intensive private study on the “facts” of Mormonism, with guidance from God and His Word. This ultimately led Dennis and Rauni out of the darkness and into the light. The Berean Call, 78 pp.

B65654wt .2 **SALE \$2.00****The God Makers—A Shocking Exposé of What the Mormon Church Really Believes**

Decker/Hunt—Mormons claim to follow the same God and the same Jesus as Christians. They also state that their gospel comes from the Bible. But are they telling the truth? *The God Makers*, one of the most powerful books to penetrate the veil of secrecy surrounding the rituals and doctrines of the Mormon Church, reveals the inner workings and beliefs of Mormonism. Through personal interviews and well-documented evidence, you’ll discover the true nature of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and its hidden worldwide agenda. Harvest House Publishers, 292 pp.

B04870wt .9 **\$16.50 SALE \$10.00**



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