

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

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

TBC's Mission: Damage Control

T. A. McMahon —Originally published June 1, 2016

WITHIN THE LAST six months, I have visited a number of countries and had the privilege of working with missionaries and ministering among their fellowships. I am continually in awe of what Bible-believing missionaries do, as well as what they have accomplished by God's grace. The difficulties, in many cases, might seem overwhelming because...well, they are! Even a very short list would intimidate most Christians: getting into certain countries, obtaining visas to stay and work, learning the language, understanding and adjusting to the culture, social adjustments for their children, and facing sometimes-fierce opposition from those opposed to biblical Christianity. No doubt they need “professional psychological scrutiny” before entering the mission field—or so we're being told.

My friends Martin and Deidre Bobgan, who have written extensively about the adverse influence of psychology in the church, have surveyed the major mission agencies along with many of those church entities that send out missionaries. The disheartening result was that too often the candidates for the mission field were required to undergo psychological testing in order to be accepted and supported by the sending agency. That may sound reasonable to most Christians today, but it is in fact contrary to the results of research in that area as well as completely unbiblical. First, and foremost—and true of any work of ministry—the individual must be certain that this endeavor is the calling of the Lord. Without that, it would be at best an exercise of the flesh devoid of God's grace. What psychological test can reveal a person's *calling*?

Furthermore, the most-used tests, such as the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI), the Taylor-Johnson Temperament Analysis, and the Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory, have no *scientific validity*. They simply reflect what the world presumes. That's hardly the criteria for fruitfulness in the mission field. Someone has noted that you really have to be a bit crazy to be a missionary. True, but the same could be said for every biblical Christian. Why? Because a true believer is to have the mind of Christ, being consistent with His teachings—and that would, more often than not, be at odds with what the world thinks and does.

Too often, we, as believers, let worldly thoughts influence what we think and do. I have friends who are missionaries in what many might consider to be the most anti-Christian nation in the world. When incredulous fellow Christians ask why they would go to such a place, I love their simple yet compelling and convicting response: “We believe the people of North Korea need Jesus as well.”

The opportunity to be used of the Lord to encourage someone to turn to Jesus and receive, by faith alone, the gift of eternal life is the greatest endeavor in which a Christian can participate. No other temporal activity can compare. There are a host of good things a person might do that could help and bless people, but

these are short-lived in their value compared to something that has eternal significance.

While in Cape Town, South Africa, one of my hosts pointed out the hospital where the first human-to-human heart transplant was performed. That was an incredibly significant feat by the physicians, yet its value is confined to the physical side of life on earth. *Eternity* has two options: a person is either with the Lord, or he is separated from Him—*forever* (2 Thessalonians 1:9, 2 Peter 2:17).

Our finite minds cannot truly grasp how horrifying such a condition would be. Yet to personally know that God has privileged me (or you, or any other believer) to be involved in ministering to a person in a way that helped to turn him to the only One who could, and did, pay the full penalty for his and for all the sins of mankind—reconciling him to the Lord forever—is *unrivaled*. Nothing comes even close. As the Scriptures ring out: “O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?” (1 Corinthians 15:55). Christ our Savior took that “sting” from all those who repent of their sins and receive His free gift of salvation.

We rejoice in the truth that “by the righteousness of one [Jesus Christ] the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life” (Romans 5:18). Jesus did it all! However, the Apostle Paul gives us insights into his and also our own privileged part: “I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase. So then neither is he that planteth anything, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase. Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one: and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour” (1 Corinthians 3:6-8). God's reward notwithstanding, what could bring more joy to a believer's heart here on earth than to know that he is being used of the Lord to help to turn a person from the consequence of his sin (eternal punishment and everlasting darkness) to the total and complete forgiveness made possible only by Jesus our Savior (Matthew 25:46)? There is nothing—*nothing*—that can compare!

Therefore, we, as believers, are *all* missionaries. Our mission is to spread the gospel: to preach it, teach it, reflect it through our lives, witness of it, explain it, etc., to whomever the Lord brings into our lives. And He exhorts us, as His disciples, to pray to that end: “Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that He will send forth labourers into His harvest” (Matthew 9:38).

Although we at The Berean Call understand that each of us is to be a personal witness of the gospel, as a ministry we have a calling that is supplementary to encouraging the lost to receive salvation through the Lord our Savior. It's actually a necessary follow-up for many of those who have recently come to faith in Jesus. I refer to it as a mission of “damage control.” It involves primarily those who are new to “the faith which was once delivered unto the saints” (Jude 1:3). What we're seeing more and more is that the Adversary and his minions are sowing false teachings among those who are immature in the Scriptures. His strategy is to shipwreck the faith and therefore the fruitfulness of those young believers. His game plan is certainly not for new Christians alone, although they are the most vulnerable.

Much of the New Testament addresses false teachings and practices that have infected the body of Christ, but the Epistle to the Galatians seems to be the strongest example regarding sowing a false gospel among believers. The Galatians were Paul's spiritual children, yet they were deceived into adding works to their faith in Christ for salvation. It's my belief that they received the true gospel from Paul and were therefore truly saved. However, the false gospel that they later accepted from the Judaizers added the requirement of the works of the law for salvation, a belief that can save no one. Paul refers to it as "another gospel" and a perversion "of the gospel of Christ" (Galatians 1:6-7). William MacDonald commented, "What sorrow and disappointment must have filled Paul's heart when such news from Galatia reached him! Had his labors among these people been in vain?... He took up his pen and wrote this indignant letter to his beloved children in the faith. In it, he sets forth the true character of salvation as being given by grace from beginning to end, not earned by law-keeping either in whole or in part" (*Believer's Bible Commentary*, p. 1874; see Resource Pages).

Paul must have been greatly grieved over what was taking place among "his beloved children in the faith." Another gospel had put a halt to their receiving the grace necessary for fruitfulness in Christ. Although Satan could do nothing regarding their personal salvation if they were truly saved, his (and now, their) false gospel rendered them spiritually unproductive. Could Paul get them back on track regarding the biblical gospel? As noted, the Epistle to the Galatians stands out in its forthrightness, which appears to have been his objective. This seems to me to represent serious damage control.

In two of the countries where I was recently asked to speak, the invitation came for me to address teachings that were undermining the biblical faith of brothers and sisters in Christ in Mongolia and in Albania. The church where I spoke in Mongolia was vibrant and demonstrated an encouraging enthusiasm for the Word of God. That's the good news. So what was the problem? The country itself had experienced a boom in prosperity as the outside world looked to "Minegolia" for its untapped natural resources of coal, gold, and copper. That taste for riches turned sour, however, as the country's economy hit bottom and foreign investors bailed out. Yet the appetite for wealth continues to grow, and, as one financial analyst noted, "With trillions of dollars in mineral resources underground, I just can't think of a way for us to stay poor" (<https://goo.gl/JkshN8>).

That mentality has attracted the prosperity preachers, who have had their books translated into Mongolian. Their distortion of Scripture has whetted greedy mindsets not only under the guise of Christianity, but it has also corrupted the biblical teaching of many Mongolian believers. My mission there was one of damage control, helping to turn them from the false teachings of man to what the Word of God says about prosperity. Although what brought me to Mongolia was specific to exposing the deceptive gospel of greed, the messages over the week I was there majored in exhorting my brothers and sisters in Christ to be like the Bereans of Acts 17:11 by holding up every spiritual teaching they received to the Scriptures for confirmation that they are biblically true.

Albania was similar in terms of damage control, except that the issue was more theologically sophisticated, and it focused on more than only those believers who were young in their faith. I was invited to speak to a number of fellowships there that were dealing with the adverse effects of Calvinism. Churches were being disturbed by individuals who aggressively promoted the teachings of John Calvin and his later followers, and that zeal had led to members being drawn into Calvin's Reformation and the Augustinian theology. Much confusion has resulted, and in a

number of cases it has caused church splits. That condition has become so troubling that a few leaders of the relatively young Albanian churches have had Dave Hunt's book *What Love Is This?* (his excellent exposition on Calvin's teachings) translated into the Albanian language.

How young is the church there? It's just over 25 years old. From the mid-1960s until the early 1990s in particular, Albania had the worldwide reputation of being the strictest of all the Communist countries and the first and foremost atheistic nation in history. All religions were banned, and many of their places of worship (mosques, cathedrals, temples, churches, etc.) were turned into warehouses, sports arenas, and youth cultural centers, while others were simply demolished. Although the pagan religious superstitions have continued among the country and mountain folks, the generation born during those decades had no religious beliefs outside of individual musings. Then, in 1990, the official lifting of the ban on religious observance opened the door for all religious practices.

Most of the older folks would consider themselves Muslim, although it's more of a secular Islam that goes back to the historic influence of the Turks rather than the Sharia law-oriented Islam we know today from the Middle East. The same holds true for "Christianity," primarily consisting of the Orthodox and Roman Catholic religions, which the Albanians have adjusted to fit the Albanian culture. *Biblical* Christianity, introduced through missionaries, is relatively new. Thus, as noted above, the believers in the young Albanian fellowships are vulnerable to false teaching, so there's a necessity for spiritual damage control. It's understandable that those young in the faith would look to teachers to help them grow in the faith, and I was greatly encouraged by the leadership I found there. Yet, as the Scriptures warn continually, the need for checking out *all* teachings to see if they are true to the Word of God is critical for every fellowship, whether young or old.

Doctrinal damage control is a major part of the New Testament. Although the Word of God is sufficient regarding every instruction that a believer needs in order to be pleasing to our Lord, it nevertheless contains warning after warning regarding false teachers and teachings that pervert the Scriptures. Paul's counsel to the Ephesian elders underscores how serious the problem is: "Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them. Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears" (Acts 20:30-31). We can surmise that his warning is all the more crucial today as the church fails to "endure sound doctrine" and is being further seduced by the increasing apostasy prophesied by the Word of the Lord as Christ's return draws near.

Even so, as necessary as damage control is, in order to correct false teachings and practices, in certain cases the prevention program to minimize the effect of false teachers on young believers (and even the more mature) *must be* Bible study and discipleship. No matter where the Lord sends me, and no matter what particular false doctrine He would have me address, the heart of the message is the *habitual* study of—and living out of—what the Scriptures teach, remembering the exhortation to be like the Bereans of Acts 17:11: "These [Jews] were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether these things [that the Apostle Paul taught them] were so."

Pray for the fruitfulness of our missionary brothers and sisters in foreign countries, and pray for those whom they reach with the gospel, that these new believers will grow strong "in the faith which was once delivered unto the saints" (Jude 1:3).

TBC

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

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

QUESTION: I've read your Q&A on eternal security, but I'm still left with this nagging question: can an individual who made a confession of faith in Christ come to a place where he ceases to believe? Don't we have examples of this in the parable of the sower and the seed in Matthew 13?

RESPONSE: In the parable of the sower (Matthew 13:18-23), we're given examples of those who have opportunity for salvation. We believe the first example represents almost everyone in the world because no one leaves this world without being presented, in some compelling way, the hope of salvation. As Romans 1:20 states, "They are without excuse." The analogy indicates that many are hardened against believing the gospel. The second example tells us that some will show a superficial interest in the gospel, but it won't last long. The third example relates to those who try to make the gospel fit their hope of salvation, which is manmade and worldly. In examples one through three, the people did not believe the gospel. Only example four presents an individual who truly believes the gospel and receives eternal life. Such a person then demonstrates (not gains) the reality of full salvation by showing some degree of growth and fruitfulness in Christ.

Your question, "Can an individual who made a confession of faith in Christ come to a place where he ceases to believe?" is answered by the above. If the "confession" fits one, two, or three, the person never truly believed (1 John 2:19). It can't fit in example four because, in express contrast to the others, there is no allowance made for ceasing to believe.

If maintaining our faith for salvation were dependent on us alone, none could be saved. But in fact it is dependent upon the only One who could *save* us and the only One who can *keep* us. For various reasons, we may waver in our faith and have times of little fruitfulness, but sustaining our eternal security is something only God in Christ can do.

QUESTION: My church seems to believe that one must be a "scholar" or a "theologian" to be a pastor or a credible Christian author or Bible teacher. It even seems to be implied that those without such degrees are not competent to question what those holding theological and even psychological degrees teach from the Bible. That sounds like elitism to me. What is your opinion?

RESPONSE: I must agree with you. No degree, in and of itself, spiritually qualifies the one to whose name it is attached. Yet that is the mentality today, to such an extent that some pastors, authors, and conference speakers are going to diploma mills to purchase (with little study) a "Dr." to put in front of their names. Just those two letters (almost no one ever asks how or where acquired) seem to elevate the individual to a newly perceived level of biblical understanding and spiritual authority.

The Bereans certainly had no theological degrees. Yet they checked out the great Apostle Paul's preaching against the scriptures and were commended for doing so (Acts 17:11). Every Christian is both qualified and obligated to do the same with every Bible teacher and preacher, no matter how highly regarded or academically certified. No one is immune from error or correction, and that includes this writer.

Nor were the disciples "theologians" or "scholars." Among them were fishermen, a tax gatherer, etc. The idea that those who have academic degrees from theological seminaries have thereby a monopoly on interpreting the Bible is both illogical

and unscriptural. Such elitism is simply the protestant version of Roman Catholicism's claim that its hierarchy of bishops, cardinals, and popes alone can interpret scripture. Christian leaders should be respected and honored. This regard, however should not be based on degrees they may have acquired but on the extent to which they demonstrate godly lives, biblically qualified and consistent leadership, and the teaching of sound doctrine based on their study of the Word of God.

QUESTION: J. C. Ryle once said that sound theological teaching includes "lifting up the Brazen Serpent." What does that mean? I have always wondered why God would have Moses put a serpent (surely the symbol of Satan) on a pole for the children of Israel to look upon in order to be healed. What is your understanding of this incident?

RESPONSE: God told Moses to make a brazen serpent, to put it on a pole, and to instruct the people who had been bitten with deadly serpents that whoever looked to that serpent on the pole would be healed.

Christ told Nicodemus, "And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life" (John 3:14-15). Nicodemus, like the Jews in John 12:31-34, knew that to be "lifted up" meant to be crucified. Christ was telling Nicodemus that, as it was in the case of the uplifted brazen serpent, all those who would look in faith to Him lifted up on the cross would be saved.

But why would Christ, the Lamb of God, the fulfillment of the Old Testament sacrifices for sin, liken His lifting up to that of the brazen serpent upon the pole? Although Satan is "that old serpent, called the Devil" (Revelation 12:9), the brazen serpent was not a symbol of Satan. The "fiery serpents" were sent among the people because they had sinned grievously (Numbers 21:5-7). The serpents were God's judgment upon it—but more than that, the fact that through judgment there would be salvation. Paul writes, "For he [God] hath made him [Christ] to be sin for us, [he] who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him" (2 Corinthians 5:21).

Isaiah prophesied concerning the coming Messiah, "Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise him; he [the Lord] hath put him to grief: when thou [the Lord] shalt make his soul an offering for sin..." (Isaiah 53:10). God punished His Son for the sins of the world, and Christ somehow paid the infinite penalty demanded by God's infinite justice. Christ was punished as though He were the very sin we have all committed. Sin had to be fully judged or we could not be saved. God can't merely make a bookkeeping entry in heaven and wipe the slate clean for all of us. The penalty prescribed by His own righteous and infinite justice had to be paid. But in Christ, God's judgment upon sin became our salvation. This is the message of the brazen serpent lifted up in the midst of Israel, which is fulfilled in Christ on the cross, not only for Israel but for the "sins of the whole world" (1 John 2:2).

None of the Old Testament types of Christ fits Calvinism, which is why Calvinists avoid them. Whether the Passover, the passage through the Red Sea, the manna, the water out of the rock, or the lifting up of the brazen serpent, each picture of Christ is for all Israel, for *whosoever* would believe. There is never any indication that God's salvation and provision is for an elect group within Israel but is always for all.

LETTERS

To connect with TBC, write: PO Box 7019 • Bend, OR 97708
or e-mail: editorial@thebereancall.org

Dear Berean Call Staff,

Once again, thank you for another inspiring newsletter. Praise God Almighty for your wonderful ministry—upholding the truth of His precious Word who, in fact, as the divine one-and-only Son of God, became flesh and dwelt among us. Please continue the standard you have been declaring! Every blessing! JM (Australia)

Dear Berean Call,

God's grace and peace continue to be with you all.... (Keep) doing the good job you've been doing in speaking the truth.... Fear God, not man.... Speak the truth in love, even if it hurts. Somebody has to tell people the truth. God's Word is the truth. SA (prisoner, TX)

Dear Friends,

When Dave was called home, many expected The Berean Call to fade away. I am so pleased that you have kept the light shining bright. I have been so encouraged by your standing firm in the faith and maintaining the standards of truth. ML (UK)

Dear TBC,

How excited I was to receive last Friday your notification about "Movie Night." It was a tremendous blessing and I shared

it with multiple family members. Thank you for your continuous ministry for Jesus. MF (RI)

Dear TBC,

Thank you for continuing in the Lord's work. I am utilizing your app. I also enjoy listening to the newsletter and "Get Biblical Understanding," etc. I, too, grew up in the Roman Catholic Church. I was convicted of my sin in 1980 and believed the good news of the Gospel. I spent time in different churches, leaving because of false doctrines. But because of the teachings, the Holy Spirit was training me to go to the Scriptures. We were at a Bible Church for five years and loved the smallness of it. We knew beforehand that the new pastor was coming from Master's Seminary. I thought we could handle it, but I have to say that Calvinism is so much more than teaching on who is the "elect." The final straw was that when we privately questioned the pastor about God's sovereignty, he said, "Absolutely, God ordained abortion, child abuse, and rape." Thanks for listening. BP (KS)

Hello,

I'm a Christian, and God has given me a task and at the same time has placed me in a mental health program in prison [TBC note: often required for release]. I enjoyed your article on psychology so much that I read part of it that was relevant to our group one day and the counselor was pretty offended—praise the Lord that the truth you wrote was able to get out. No matter how I refute these people's [false] teachings, they will not budge. I'm pretty much every day a solo Christian due to restrictions that have been in place for almost a year.... [Anonymous]

Dear folks at TBC

I have greatly been informed through the years from your ministry—much labor I'm sure. You are much needed for such a time as this. You speak what most do not want to hear—the truth is a two-edged sword indeed. I am praying as many are. JH (VT)

Dear Mr. McMahon

So many thanks for your article "Vanishing Loving Kindness and Tender Mercies." Amen and Amen. The so-called biblical counseling in the Church has simply reversed the Christian's [compassion] for others to a consuming interest in ourselves. No peace there. MC (NJ)

Dear TBC ministry,

Thank you for the recent newsletter. I appreciate the deep wisdom that comes from eight pages. Thank you. AT (prisoner, CA)

QUOTABLE.....

Second Corinthians 5:17 says, "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." You are not a new and improved version of the old you; you are a new creature in God! God is not an additive in your life; He is a transformer and a redeemer of sinners. Jesus is not some ticket that will save people from Hell; He is the Savior of the world and wants us to submit to Him. He wants to completely change every area of our lives. When we repent of sin, commit our lives to Jesus, and make Him Lord, our lives will be different!

—MARK CAHILL

TBC NOTES

Is Your Witness a Secret?

Many people are of the mindset that there are two things they avoid talking about: politics and religion. I'm personally in favor these days of not discussing politics. I vote and act responsibly regarding my dual citizenship: the US and Heaven. Regarding the former, talking about who, what, and why I voted for a certain person or issue makes like-minded folks happy and those who disagree with my choices upset—very upset, these days. Beyond "happy" and "upset," the consequences have slight temporal and no eternal value.

What then of discussing religion? That too can make people happy or upset. Yet it has value...temporal and, more importantly, eternal value. The result may determine where a person being witnessed to will spend eternity, and the conversation is one that every born-again believer is commissioned to take part in. Other than circumstances in which a believer is faced with imminent death or imprisonment for his faith, one's witness may be cautiously shared or kept secret.

All believers are to be ambassadors for Christ as the Apostle Paul's prayer indicates: "Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints; and for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak" (Ephesians 6:18-20).

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.

POPE FRANCIS REPLACES JESUS WITH MARY

REFORMATIONCHARLOTTE.ORG, 3/25/21, "POPE FRANCIS REPLACES JESUS WITH MARY, SAYS SHE IS THE 'BRIDGE TO GOD'" [EXCERPTS]: When the Reformers held that the pope of Rome was the anti-Christ, it is becoming increasingly evident that they were right. The office of the pope, according to Roman Catholic dogma, has always been regarded as the representative office of Christ on Earth—the "Vicar of Christ"—which is diametrically opposed to the teaching of Scripture.

Nothing could be more clear in Scripture than this: Christ sits at the right hand of God (Acts 7:55–56; Romans 8:34; Ephesians 1:20; Colossians 3:1; Hebrews 1:3; Hebrews 8:1; Hebrews 10:12; Hebrews 12:2; 1 Peter 3:22; Revelation 3:21; Matthew 22:44; Acts 2:33).

[On March 25, 2021] the pope declared Mary "the bridge joining us to God"—a title reserved for Christ alone. "For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus" (1 Timothy 2:5).

(<https://bit.ly/3fVA1IG>)

COW CUDDLING FOR LONLEY HEARTS

JEWISHREVIEW.COM, 3/11/21, "COW CUDDLING HAS BECOME A THING FOR LONELY HEARTS IN THE PANDEMIC." [EXCERPTS]: Renee Behinfar lives alone in Scottsdale, Ariz. The pandemic has been painfully isolating for her and has left her longing for warmth and touch. On a recent afternoon, she finally was smothered in long-awaited hugs—by a 2,000-pound cow. "It was really my first real hug of the year," said Behinfar, 43, a psychologist who sought out bovine comfort with a friend.

People are signing up to hug cows at sanctuaries across the country, many desperate for affection as the nation approaches a full year of social distancing.... The farm has about 100 rescued farm animals, many with disabilities. Cow-cuddling sessions, which cost \$75 an hour, are booked until July.

Owner Aimee Takaha says she gets around 20 calls a day about the service she has offered for five years. Business has picked up dramatically in the past year.

"They're just like happy pills, just to be around," she said of the cows.

In Hawaii, James Higgins runs the Krishna Cow Sanctuary on more than

40 acres of land on the Big Island with 67 cattle, including female cows, calves, bulls, and steers. He started offering \$75 cuddling sessions about three years ago, and guests can even book through Airbnb.

In India and within Hinduism, cows have been revered for thousands of years, Higgins said. He said his Hare Krishna faith, a branch of Hinduism, motivates him to care for and protect cows. He said he often bonds with his guests, who are also in awe of the cow.

(<https://bit.ly/3s3VTnD>)

BIG FISH FOSSIL RECALLS BIG FLOP

ICR.ORG, 3/11/21, "BIG FISH FOSSIL RECALLS BIG FLOP" [EXCERPTS]: One of the most famous living fossils is back in the news. The coelacanth is an endangered deep-sea fish. Its fins fit to unique wrist-like bones, and unique bony plates envelop what scientists call its lung, which is like the swim bladder that controls buoyancy in other fishes. A new coelacanth fossil find measures more than double the size of live specimens while calling attention to outdated ideas about fossils.

Nineteenth-century fossil experts only knew about coelacanths from their fossils. Evolution's supporters back then taught that its wrist-like bones were evolving into legs. It became famed as a transitional form—an example of evolution recorded in the fossils. Experts envisioned coelacanths clumsily creeping upon ancient beaches to gasp for air on their way to becoming land animals and eventually humans. However, its discovery in 1938 at a Madagascar fish market washed away the whole saga.

It turns out the coelacanth uses its unique limb bones to expertly swivel its fins in tight control of its body position. Since modern coelacanths use their fin-tied bones perfectly well at 500 feet below the sea's surface—nowhere near land—advocates could no longer use the creature to support evolution.

The university news wrote, "It was found next to a pterodactyl, which proves it lived in the Cretaceous era—66 million years ago." Prior to 1938, one could have asserted that coelacanth fossils prove pterodactyls lived only in a Cretaceous or earlier era. Instead, the then-unthinkable discovery of the fish still alive disproved that coelacanths belonged to any particular era.

(<https://bit.ly/2Q5HrGf>)

THE BEREAN CALL

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Kercher/Salas—"Over the past two-plus decades, the most common request that is received by the Berean Call staff is, 'Can you help us find a good, solid church in our area?' Over the years, Dave Hunt and T. A. McMahon have written material in an effort to help believers look for and find a church fellowship to which they can commit themselves and begin to use their gifts to minister to the saints. That, however, is getting increasingly difficult. More and more churches have become caught up in doctrinal error to the extent that the saints simply cannot commit themselves to such leadership and teachings (2 Timothy 4:3-4). That being said, this booklet is not intended to encourage those who are simply unwilling to submit to any church authority or who are given to divisiveness. Our prayer is that this booklet will encourage you to 'find biblical fellowship' that is operating according to the Scriptures rather than what has, for the most part, become the traditions of men." We believe that you will be blessed and encouraged as you read the efforts of godly men and women to find ways to minister to and be ministered by those within their fellowships who are seeking the truth found within the scriptures. The Berean Call, 114 pp.

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Temporal Delusion

McMahon—This book answers pointed questions such as: Are any of the "kingdom-building" efforts bringing eternal life and salvation to the lost? Or are millions of professing Christians merely befriending the world in ways that create enmity with God? If you seek to understand current church trends in the light of God's revealed and perfect Word, you'll find this easy-to-read volume both helpful and heart-pricking concerning the true state of the church today. In the process, you'll discover that what you believe about "controversial" Last Days doctrines should indeed impact the direction and focus of our daily Christian walk—encouraging and equipping us to "redeem the time." The Berean Call, 157 pp.

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BOOKLETS FROM LIGHTHOUSE TRAILS ON CHURCH DISCERNMENT



The Big Picture

Smith—Many years ago, Warren Smith was recruited into the New Age movement to help implement its deceptive peace plan. The same devices used to deceive him into accepting its teachings are the same devices being used today to deceive the world—and the church. This booklet reveals ten of these deceptive spiritual devices. Lighthouse Trails, 19 pp.

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Chrislam

Oppenheimer—"Christianity, Judiasm, and Islam are all part of the Abrahamic tree of faith. We all believe in the same God, and in many aspects we are all trying to accomplish the same goals." That quote is one example of how a movement (and a mindset) called Chrislam is becoming increasingly commonplace in the church. Lighthouse Trails, 19 pp.

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Is Your Church Doing Spiritual Formation?

Editors at Lighthouse Trails—Is your church involved in a Spiritual Formation program? If so, you might want to ask the question, what is Spiritual Formation? This booklet delves into the practices of SF, its mystical elements, ecumenical nature, and its roots in contemplative prayer. Lighthouse Trails, 19 pp.

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How to Know When the Emerging Church Shows Signs of Emerging into Your Church

Oakland—A concise guide to avoiding Emerging Church practices in your fellowship. The booklet also contains a bonus section titled "Who are the 'Change Agents' of the Emerging Church." Lighthouse Trails, 15 pp.

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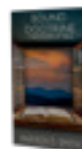


Progression to Deception: How New Age Infiltration Is Destroying the Church

Reid—In just a few short decades, the walls of biblical discernment have been so completely torn down that not only do the majority of church goers seem completely oblivious to the deception that has entered, but many of the church's leaders are actually promoting the various avenues through which the New Age/New Spirituality has come in. Lighthouse Trails, 15 pp.

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Sound Doctrine through It All

Smith—Doctrine has become, for many, a harsh and even hated word. Yet, according to *Strong's Concordance*, the word simply refers to "instruction" and "teaching." Today, spiritual experience is taking precedent over sound doctrine, and it is leading to great deception in the church. Lighthouse Trails, 11 pp.

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Three Vital Questions On Navigating Discernment

Ironside/Proctor—Objection is often raised—even by some sound in the faith—regarding the exposure of error as being entirely negative and of no real edification. But the brethren who assume this attitude forget that a large part of the New Testament is made up of this very character of ministry. Lighthouse Trails, 15 pp.

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Goddess Worship in America and How It's Affecting the Church

Kneas/Lanagan—The worship of pagan goddesses is most obvious with Wiccans. However, it is also common in universities and nursing schools. What's more, it has infiltrated mainline denominational churches, and its influence can be felt throughout our society. Lighthouse Trails, 15 pp.

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DAVE HUNT CLASSIC DVD_s WONDERFUL DISCERNMENT PRESENTATIONS



Seducing Spirits and Doctrines of Devils

The Berean Call—In this informative talk, Dave skillfully dissects and dismantles a number of these false doctrines. As always, Dave's erudite and articulate presentation lays bare the foundations of psychology, quoting Scripture, scientists, and occultists alike to illustrate the Satanic origins of modern self-delusion by seducing spirits. 1 DVD, 105 min.

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The Berean Call Israel Tour

The Berean Call—Follow Dave Hunt during TBC's 1993 tour to Israel. The three presentations, *In the Garden*, *The God of Prophecy*, and *Prophecy vs. Experience* capture a unique visual of Dave on location as he expounds upon powerful scriptures pointing to the imminent return of Christ. 1 DVD, 113 min.

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The Berean Call—This talk, from 1986 at Lakewood (WA) Assembly of God, is a call to return to the sure Word of God! 1 DVD, 105 min.

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Global Peace and the Rise of Antichrist

The Berean Call—Dave recounts: "When I was a boy and I read Flash Gordon and Buck Rogers and so forth...we didn't take it seriously, it was fantasy. Well...we found out that the science fiction writers were prophets. And whatever they imagined, someone would eventually be able to perform....The younger generation sees science fiction in that way today. They are seeing depicted on the screen...something that they realize man can ultimately achieve. And that is why God scattered the human race." Dave proceeds to reveal how leading laboratories were proudly "undoing the Babel effect." More than 20 years later, Dave's talk is still instructive to us regarding Satan's rapidly advancing plans and ability to harness and manipulate technology in order to prepare humanity for the coming kingdom of Antichrist. 1 DVD, 60 min.

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The Gospel of God

The Berean Call—"The Bible is about 30 percent prophecy. We're talking about world-shaking and world-shaping [prophecy]....This is, in fact, the great proof of God's existence [and] that the Bible is His Word." Join Dave Hunt in this talk from a 1996 prophecy conference as he gives example after example of God's prophecy fulfilled. 1 DVD, 76 min.

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Prophecy and World Events

The Berean Call—As Dave explains in this powerful and inspiring teaching, Bible prophecy is, in fact, *the* great proof that God gives for the historicity, authenticity, and authority of the Scriptures. What is anti-Semitism all about? Dave exposes the roots of this pervasive hatred of Jews, from ancient to modern times, as Satan's plan to thwart the Word of God. Why? Because God's integrity is tied to the restoration and blessing of the Jewish people. Dave recounts little-known history of modern anti-Semitism, including the post-Holocaust persecution of Holocaust survivors who were turned away, persecuted and killed, even by those who had opposed Hitler, after WWII. Dave explores dozens of Scriptures concerning the past, present, and future of Israel and our blessed hope in Christ. 1 DVD, 54 min.

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The Bible Gives Dates and Times

The Berean Call—Join Dave for *The Bible Gives Dates and Times* as he speaks on two specific dates given in the Bible and how they prove prophecy. The talk ends with Dave's familiar exhortation to expect our Lord's return at any moment. *In A Specific Timing—Christ and Antichrist*, Dave speaks about the timing of our Lord's return. 1 DVD, 91 min.

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Christianity and Anti-Christianity in Their Final Conflict

Andrews—This book is a stunning work of interpreting biblical prophecies in the light of the times of Samuel J. Andrews, which took place during the late 1800s, but it reads as though it were written today! An understanding of biblical prophecy is critical for every believer. Prophecy is given for the believers' spiritual protection, that they may be aware of events of the darkening days ahead and know what God would have them to do. *The Berean Call*, 345 pp.

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America: The Sorcerer's New Apprentice

Hunt—Due to the occult philosophies embraced and advanced by Oprah, Oz, and countless others, Americans are rapidly "awakening" to what is being hailed as a paradigm shift in global consciousness. Originally written as a tool to educate and inform non-believers of the dangers of the New Age movement, this timely reprint will astound you all over again with its ground-breaking revelations and prophetic implications. *The Berean Call*, 294 pp.

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Game of Gods: The Temple of Man in the Age of Re-Enchantment

Teichrib—We are witnessing a titanic impact at the crossroads of religion, politics, technology, and culture. This book is a comprehensive investigation into the changing nature of Western civilization. It is a journey into the cracks and crevices of big history; an expedition into the expanding realm of transformational movements and ideas—forces of change that are shifting how we think, behave, and relate. *Whitemud House Publishing*, 552 pp.

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Finding Biblical Fellowship

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