

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

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

The Call to Discipleship

Dave Hunt

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WHEN OUR LORD Jesus Christ was on earth He repeatedly said to those who would listen to His Word, "Come, follow me" (Matthew 19:21; Luke 18:22, etc.). Large numbers of the Jews, because they or a relative or friend had been healed or fed by Christ, followed Him wherever He went: "And there followed him great multitudes of people...and he healed them all..." (Matthew 5:1; 8:1; 12:15; 13:2, etc.). So large and eager were the crowds that He and His twelve disciples "could not so much as eat bread. And...his friends...said, He is beside himself" (Mark 3:20-21).

Christ's call to follow Him is extended to all mankind. No hint that Jesus was not sincere in saying, "If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink" (John 7:37). What He still offers to all is the same "living water [of] everlasting life" which He offered to the woman at the well (John 4:10-14).

Jesus wept over Jerusalem (Luke 19:41-42) and mourned, "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem...how often would I have gathered thy children...as a hen...her brood under her wings, and ye would not!" (Luke 13:34). He thereby identified Himself as the God of Israel who had pleaded with His people throughout their entire existence to repent and turn to Him: "Since the day that your fathers came forth out of the land of Egypt unto this day I have even sent unto you all my servants the prophets, daily rising up and early sending them..." (Jeremiah 7:25; 25:4; 26:5; 29:19, etc.). "But my people would not hearken to my voice; and Israel would [have] none of me.... Oh that my people had hearkened unto me..." (Psalm 81:11-13).

The multitudes who followed Him were called disciples. Some were genuine, but most had selfish motives and eventually forsook Him. Yes, even Christ himself had a very high dropout rate. Jesus said, "Have not I chosen you twelve, and one of you is a devil?" (John 6:70). He was referring to Judas, who would betray Him.

The number of supposed disciples who remained true to Christ was comparable to the low percentage of true disciples today among those professing to be Christians. If we were to add up all of the millions whom Robertson's CBN, Crouch's TBN, Billy Graham, Benny Hinn and other evangelists and major denominations declare they have won to Christ in the last twenty years, the total would indicate that all of America had been converted. Knowing each heart, Jesus declared, "...there are some of you that believe not.... From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him" (John 6:64-66).

From the multitudes, Christ "chose twelve, whom also He named apostles" (Luke 6:13) and trained personally. They failed Him often: Peter and Andrew began to follow twice before they finally remained with the Lord. The first time was when Andrew, who had first begun to follow Jesus, introduced Peter to Him (John 1:37-42). They soon left Him; Jesus found them "casting a net into the sea" and said, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men" (Matthew 4:18-22). Their partners, James and John, who were "mending their nets," also began at that time to follow Christ. It wasn't long until once again they all went back to the old life, but Christ persisted and

found them a third time, discouraged and "washing their nets" after fishing all night and catching nothing. He got into Peter's boat, told him where to throw his net, and so many fish were caught that the net broke. Peter fell down before the Lord, acknowledging his sinful unworthiness, and Peter, Andrew, James, and John finally "forsook all, and followed him" (Luke 5:1-11).

The insincere throng of signs-and-wonders seekers of Christ's day has its modern counterpart in the huge crowds attracted by "miracle crusades" and televangelists promising prosperity for "seed faith" offerings.

The Bible calls Christ's followers "disciples." That plural word is found 244 times in 232 verses; "disciple," 29 times in 27 verses. Thirty-one of these are found in the book of Acts. Quite clearly "disciple" is the biblical designation of a true believer. The word "disciple" is related to discipline and identifies one who is seriously committed to learn, obey and follow.

Today, however, the word "disciple" has fallen into disuse in favor of the word "Christian"—a rather vague designation which almost anyone can adopt and which, as a result, has become almost meaningless. Multitudes who think of themselves as "Christians" live undisciplined lives without any intention of obeying the One whom they insincerely call Lord. Even heretical cults claim to be Christian.

Many consider America to be a "Christian nation." The word "Christian" appears only twice in the Bible; the word "Christians," once. This label was actually invented by the world as an accusatory and derogatory nickname marking Christ's disciples for persecution and often for death.

Thus Peter wrote, "...if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf" (1 Peter 4:16). Knowing that choice would cost him everything, King Agrippa said to Paul, "Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian" (Acts 26:28). In those days there were few pretenders. Churches then were not filled with hangers-on gathering for social or business reasons (that began with Constantine 200 years later) or because they liked the choir, or the pastor's sermons were uplifting or the people were all so friendly and made one feel welcome and important.

In much of the church today, there is little fear of God, little conviction of sin, and hardly the mention of God's holiness and His dreadful justice with which one dare not trifle. Unfortunately, salvation is frequently presented without explaining why it is needed. One cannot get saved without realizing one is lost. There must be conviction of sin, sorrow and repentance toward a holy God who hates sin but loves the sinner.

Referring to a good shepherd, Christ declared, "The sheep follow him: for they know his voice. And a stranger will they not follow... for they know not the voice of strangers" (John 10:4-5). As the Good Shepherd who gives His life for His sheep, Christ said, "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish" (John 10:11, 27-28).

How can anyone claim to be one of Christ's sheep and to have received the eternal life He gives, yet not heed His voice and follow Him? He said, "Why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say? Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord.... [Then I will say,] I never knew you" (Luke 6:46; Matthew 7:22-23).

Most of what is called Christianity today has been made too popular to be genuine. Church growth is sought through surveys and worldly marketing techniques. Of course, worldly methods breed worldly people. Judging by some churches today, one would think that when someone offered to follow Him, our Lord would have called out to His disciples: “Peter, sign him up quick! John, get her into the choir! James, make him an elder, he’s got money.” To remain popular with this unregenerated crowd, many pastors offer inoffensive and pleasing sermonettes which create only Christianettes.

We entertain our youth, instead of calling them to take up the cross and follow Christ. We’re afraid that if we set the standard too high we’ll “lose” them—and thereby we lose them for eternity! Rather than those who give up their lives for Christ, the heroes and heroines held up to “attract” today’s youth are mostly professional athletes, pop musicians, or movie stars, paraded on stage as though to say, “Look who Jesus has on His side! Doesn’t that make Christ appealing?” The Christianity represented by most of the contemporary Christian entertainment industry would shock the early disciples, who would also consider today’s popular gospels of prosperity to be heresy.

In his book, *True Discipleship*, William MacDonald quotes an American college student, converted to communism and writing from Mexico to his fiancée to break off their engagement:

We communists have a philosophy of life which no amount of money can buy. We have a cause to fight for, a definite purpose in life. We subordinate our petty personal selves into a great movement...compensated by the thought that each of us...is contributing to something new and true and better for mankind. The communist cause is my life—my bread and meat. I work at it in the daytime and dream of it at night.... Therefore, I cannot carry on a friendship, a love affair, or even a conversation without relating to this force which both drives and guides my life. I evaluate people, books, ideas, actions, according to how they affect the communist cause.... I’ve already been in jail for communism...if necessary I’m ready to go before a firing squad.

Isn’t the cause of Christ far better and greater? Why don’t we drop entertainment and challenge our youth with something worth living for, even dying for, if need be? Dying? Yes, Christ expected that His disciples’ lives would be expendable for Him and that each take up his cross, ready if need be to die (Matthew 10:38-39; 16:24; Luke 14:26-27). The most repeated verse in the New Testament is “whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it” (Matthew 16:25; 10:39; Mark 8:35; Luke 9:24; 17:33; John 12:25).

When Christ was arrested in the Garden, “all the disciples [like many today] forsook him, and fled” (Matthew 26:56). Peter even denied his Lord with cursing and swearing (Matthew 26:74; Mark 14:71). But the Lord forgave and restored him (Mark 16:7; John 21:15-19; 1 Corinthians 15:5), as He graciously does for us.

In giving up our lives in exchange for the life Christ would live through us, we find true life—a life of joy and fruitfulness. C. T. Studd wrote,

I had known about Jesus dying for me, but I never understood that if He died for me, then I didn’t belong to myself.... If I belong to Him, either I had to be a thief and keep what wasn’t mine, or else I had to give up everything to God. When I came to see that Jesus Christ had died for me, it didn’t seem hard to give up all for Him.

I was raised in a very devout family and a sound fellowship of believers. Yet discipleship was not considered to be for every-one; it was only for the more spiritual who aspired to a deeper commitment. Biblically, however, if one is not a disciple, one is not a Christian: “the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch” (Acts 11:26). We need to return to this biblical identification and its reality.

Christ commanded the original twelve to go “into all the world, and preach the gospel...” (Mark 16:15) and thereby to make more disciples, “teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you” (Matthew 28:20). Obviously the “all things” new disciples were to be taught included that they also make disciples and teach them “all things” Christ had commanded the original twelve. In other words, each new disciple is responsible to make other disciples and to teach them to observe all things Christ commanded the original twelve (Matthew 28:20). One can hardly tell others to do what one neglects to do oneself.

Paul warned the Ephesian elders that some of them would teach perverse doctrines in order to “draw away disciples after them” (Acts 20:30). The same problem confronts us today in church leaders who compete with each other to establish a following. Tragically, all too many who call themselves “Christians” are more willing to follow a popular leader than to follow Christ.

Christ didn’t promise His disciples financial prosperity or popularity, but persecution: “Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven...” (Matthew 5:11-12). “Woe unto you, when all men shall speak well of you! for so did their fathers to the false prophets” (Luke 6:26). “If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you.... If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you...” (John 15:18-21). Does not the absence of the persecutions that Christ promised raise serious questions concerning today’s Christianity in America?

Has Christianity become a brief game called “church” that we play on Sunday morning and then our duty is done? And unlike other more popular games (NFL, NBA, NHL, etc.) where overtime makes it all the more exciting and enjoyable, woe to the preacher who extends this game into even a brief overtime! How many churches find very few at their midweek prayer meeting because priority is given to more important matters? In a recent survey of teenagers, eight out of ten called themselves Christians. Yet, of 19 goals, they ranked highest the establishing of relationships and achieving a comfortable lifestyle! Being deeply committed to the Christian faith ranked fourteenth and being personally active in a church ranked sixteenth.

Following Christ is not a trial subscription but a commitment for eternity. Discipleship has nothing to do with joining a church but everything to do with knowing, loving, and following Christ.

Christ didn’t say, “Follow someone or some church claiming they represent Me.” He said, “Follow me.... Learn of me” (John 1:43; Matthew 11:29). We go to His Word to learn of Him. Each of us is expected to know it thoroughly. Yet many who think of themselves as Christians scarcely study the Bible seriously, expecting the pastor and Bible teachers to do that for them.

Along with Christ’s “follow Me” was His promise, “and I will make you fishers of men” (Matthew 4:19). Yet many who call themselves Christians have little concern for winning the lost to Christ, instead letting days and even weeks go by without telling another person about Christ and the salvation which He procured at Calvary and offers to all.

May the Lord stir each of our hearts to follow Him fully. It is our prayer that this newsletter not be mere information but that it ignite us all to devotion and action.

TBC

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Submit your own questions to: PO Box 7019 • Bend, OR 97708

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QUESTION: Are the Jews automatically saved? Without going into a lot of detail, can you explain the relationship between Jews, Gentiles, and the “church” as we get closer and closer to the End Times?

RESPONSE: Judaism is as invalid for automatic salvation as Islam. No one is saved simply because he is Jewish. The gospel “is to the Jew first,” so the Jew must need to be saved through the redemptive work of Christ just like the Gentile. That’s basic.

The church is made up of both Jews and Gentiles who have been made into one new man through the cross of Christ. But again, that does not do away with either Jews or Gentiles, so Paul reminds us that there are now Jews, Gentiles, and the church of God.

On the other hand, as a nation the Jews remain God’s chosen people—with a special place in God’s plan and special promises to them that pertain to the land of Palestine and the coming kingdom. Jesus was born King of the Jews, and, as the Messiah of Israel, He must reign upon the throne of His father David, as Gabriel stated to Mary. This didn’t happen when He was here the first time, and it will be fulfilled when He returns. Read Zechariah chapters 12-14. Christ returns to this earth, not to Washington, DC or London or Paris, but to Jerusalem, where His feet come down on the Mount of Olives.

Why? To rescue His people Israel, not to rescue the church! Those who survive to this moment (about two-thirds of Israel will have perished) will see Him whom they have pierced and will realize that He is indeed the Messiah for whom they have waited, and will believe that He died for their sins, and be saved and enter into the Kingdom—and He will rule that Millennial Kingdom from Jerusalem.

Granted, some have said it is nonsense to maintain that there is some kind of special provision for the Israelites as a nation and as a people, even when they continue to reject the gift of the cross, but anyone who says that obviously needs to read the Bible more carefully. Israel has had a long history of rejecting God, all through the wilderness and even in the promised land, and God has had to judge them for it, but He has not repudiated His promises to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob concerning their land, and He has sworn that He will not.

QUESTION: Although I understand that miracles are possible even today, why is it that we so rarely encounter what might be called “true miracles”? The Bible says that John the Baptist didn’t do any miracles of his own. But Jesus did many, many miracles when He walked on earth. The Apostles also were enabled to perform miracles, including bringing someone back to life. And Stephen, we are told, “full of faith and power, did great wonders and miracles among the people.” Have Christians become so weak in the faith that we don’t see true miracles anymore?

RESPONSE: One thing we must remember is that miracles are not necessarily the sign of a true prophet of God. There could be no question about the numerous miracles that Jesus did, but even these did not convince the Jews of the truth He proclaimed. In fact, the convincing quality of His miracles only hardened the hearts of the Pharisees and made them all the more determined to do away with Him! In contrast to the “healers” who are exposed as frauds today, the religious leaders wanted to kill Jesus because

His miracles were *genuine*! John 11:47, 53 states, “Then gathered the chief priests and the Pharisees a council and said, What do we? For this man doeth many miracles. Then from that day forth they took counsel together for to put him to death.”

While it is true that genuine miracles have been a means of helping some people to believe, true faith is a matter of the heart and not the head. Submission to God is a moral issue, not an intellectual one. The “devils [demons] also believe and tremble” (James 2:19), but they still persist in their rebellion. No one needs a miracle to believe in God: Conscience and the witness of creation have already convinced even the professed atheists of that. What we need to be convinced of is that God really loves us and that therefore His way is best. This deep conviction will cause us to surrender willingly and completely into His hands and to love Him with our whole heart. Only then will we obey God for His sake alone and not for what we hope to get out of that relationship. Oswald Chambers quotes Jeremiah 45:5—“Seekest thou great things for thyself? Seek them not” and states, “There is nothing easier than getting into a right relationship with God except when it is not God whom you want but only what He gives.”

No miracle, no matter how spectacular and convincing, can cause any person to love God or to submit to His will. In fact, miracles very often have just the opposite effect. It was because Jesus did miracles that the multitude wanted to “take him by force, to make him a king” (John 6:15). They had no intention of submitting to His lordship. They wanted a figurehead “king” who could overthrow the Romans, heal them when they were ill, and feed them miraculously when they were hungry. Today this carnal attitude is encouraged by the fund-raising appeals emanating from computers and so many “faith” teachers who would sanctify covetousness by offering “miracles” from God in exchange for “seed-faith” offerings to support their ministries. One expects unbelief from atheists and agnostics, but not from Christians.

There were no doubt many people in the crowd who cried, “Away with him, crucify him!” that fateful day, who had been healed and fed by Jesus but would not accept His indictment of their sin nor His remedy for their souls. Those who once followed Jesus for His miracles eventually turned back and “walked no more with him” (John 6:66) because they would not accept His teaching concerning the giving of His flesh and blood for them.

QUESTION: Many scholars from non-Christian religions (with the obvious exception of Islam) teach that “eternal truth” can be found in all religions. How do you respond to that?

RESPONSE: Did God in the Old Testament ever suggest that Israel be open to hearing or seeing “rays of light” among worshipers of Baal? Did Jesus in the New Testament, or Paul or Peter or anyone else in Scripture, ever suggest that there is “truth” in any religion that worships someone other than the one true God? No! In the Old Testament, God constantly warned the Israelites against intermarrying with the heathen tribes and corrupting their worship with false idolatry. In the New Testament, Christ, Paul, and others warned that they “come out” from the world, renouncing and avoiding corrupting influence. Much of the deception in the world today by Satan begins with small kernels of “truth” that seem harmless, but eventually require a step in the wrong direction, leading one away from the true God.

LETTERS

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Dear TBC,

I'm in a Baptist church and the pastors preach Calvinism every week and in all their studies. Something doesn't feel right, and although I would happily go on believing as I have for years that God so loved the WORLD...the persistent predominance of this one doctrine above all others every week is grinding me down.

There is much good in the people and the fellowship, but it is frustrating that my path to being useful in ministry is so obviously barred until I acquiesce to the T.U.L.I.P. Anon (email)

Dear TBC,

Thank you TBC [for The Word of God, part 1]. I understand what this means now. In my prior life as a professing Christian who did not live according to the word, I can fully attest to what the sufficiency of God's word means. Everything for life as a Christian is contained in the word. I always believed in the inerrancy of the word but I never submitted to the authority of God's

word and thus did not believe in the sufficiency of it. I do now. I now understand what it means to fear him who can destroy both the body and soul in hell. JT (email)

QUOTABLE.....

"It is to be remembered that although the apostasy may seem to be very general, yet that even in this darkest hour there are many who preserve their faith in God and in His Son, and who constitute the true Church.... We are told that at a certain juncture of affairs the cry is made: 'Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sin, and that ye receive not of her plagues' (Revelation 18:4). Those who heed this warning cry are God's true witnesses during the antichristian tribulation...even if all outward rites of worship may be forbidden."

—SAMUEL J. ANDREWS (1899 A.D.)

TBC NOTES

Latter-day Idolatry

I'm sure most of us have heard that the idolatry of our day involves our personal possessions. For some, that may be their cars, their homes, sports trophies they've won, or some other object that glorifies themselves. Webster's dictionary of 1828 (in which many of its definitions are taken from the Bible) defines idolatry as "the worship of a physical object as a god" or an "immoderate attachment or devotion to something." Whereas there's not a great amount of physically bowing down and worshiping an object as a god in our Western culture (yet!), there is a surplus of attachments or devotions that displace the devotion God's created beings are to have for their Creator. Nevertheless, there is an increasing idolatry in our day that is more akin to what we find in the Old Testament. What is it? It's the idolatry of *visual imagery*.

The Scriptures give us a very clear example of visual idolatry in contrast to the written Word of God. When Moses met with God on Mount Sinai he wasn't given a picture book. God himself gave him tablets upon which He wrote words. The Israelites, on the other hand, craved a physical object, something visual, so they had Aaron make a golden calf for them to worship. The difference between the idol and the words of God need to be understood. An idol is a creation of humans and is completely subjective. Its worship is manifested through the emotions and feelings of its worshippers, no instruction manual was included.

The *words* of God, however, are commandments and instructions that directed the Israelites in exactly how they were to worship the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Any input from anyone else other than God, or is not specifically directed by God, is a corruption of His words, and constitutes both blasphemy and idolatry. That's why Proverbs 30:6 declares: "Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar." Additions are lies. That should be obvious, especially when the additions are visual.

Words have meanings and their definitions are normally understood. Not so for a painting or sculpture, for example.

Let's say three people are discussing a work of abstract art and each one differs in his evaluation of a painting. Each person's view is based for the most part on his or her subjective feelings. One likes the use of color, another the composition, and another how the shapes interact. Next to the painting is a sign with directions to be followed should the fire alarm sound. Should the alarm clang, the people would not likely stand around discussing their feelings about the sign's typeface or the boldness of its instructions. They would follow what the sign says and head for the exit.

The subjective nature of visual imagery rarely, if ever, constitutes objective instructions. That's one reason why the Bible is not a picture book, but rather a book of words, God's objective communication to humanity in words that can be defined and readily understood.

What then of translating the content of the Bible into the visual and emotionally predisposed medium of film? Such a translation is what *The Chosen* is all about. One only needs to consider the favorable responses to the film series to recognize its subjective influence. Many declare they now have a better understanding of the character of Jesus. They love his sense of humor, his humility, his love of children, his humanity. All of that which *The Chosen* supplies was supposedly lacking in the written Word inspired by the Holy Spirit. They are responding to the power of the film medium that's designed to manipulate the viewers' emotions. That's accomplished through cinematography, camera angles, lighting, music, dialogue, acting, directing, and much more. Each component often plays a significant part in influencing the movie's audience.

Consider then the latter-day idolatry of *The Chosen*. It is a man-made visual reworking of the characters found in the Bible (and some not found there), including Jesus Christ who is God manifest in the flesh (1 Timothy 3:16). Those movie characters, fashioned in the imagination of screenwriters, did things and spoke things not found in Scripture, and in contradiction to the teaching of God's Word. The Apostle John's exhortation needs to be our prayer for those who are being seduced by *The Chosen*: "Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen" (1 John 5:21).

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.

MANDELA'S GRANDSON BLAMES ISRAEL FOR WAR

ROBERTSPENCER.ORG, 3/24/22, "MANDELA'S GRANDSON BLAMES ISRAEL FOR THE UKRAINE WAR" [EXCERPTS]: Nelson Mandela's grandson, Nkosi Zwelivelile Mandela (known as Mandla Mandela), is a convert to Islam, and a man obsessed with the evils of Israel. He's also a member of South Africa's National Assembly, where he frequently fulminates against the Jewish state.

Nkosi Zwelivelile Mandela blamed "neo-Nazis," Israel and NATO for the Russian invasion of Ukraine during a conference held by the Pan African Palestinian Solidarity Network in Dakar, Senegal on Saturday, March 19.

There is much for black Africans to do, working in "solidarity" with one another, that has nothing to do with distant "Palestine." In three African countries—all in West Africa, none very far from Senegal—hundreds of thousands of black Africans remain enslaved to Arab masters. In Mali, there are 200,000; in Mauritania, there are 680,000, and in Niger, there are 900,000 black slaves.

None of this interests Mandla Mandela, who would not want to bring the world's attention to black slaves and Arab masters. It would only confuse people, who should save their indignation for the Palestinians and their tormentors, the Jews of Israel.

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

ICE AGE VOLCANISM FITS BIBLICAL MODEL

ICR.ORG, 3/24/22, "INTENSE ICE AGE VOLCANISM FITS BIBLICAL MODEL" [EXCERPTS]: Evidence continues to accumulate that the Genesis Flood caused an ice age lasting hundreds of years.

Creation scientists maintain there are two significant climate factors needed for an ice age. First, warm oceans are needed to increase evaporation, which ultimately generates extra rain near the equator and heavy snowfall in higher latitudes. Such conditions would build ice sheets atop the continents. Second, Earth's atmosphere must contain enough very small airborne particles and droplets called aerosols to reflect sunlight and keep the ice from melting during warm summer months. These aerosols would be provided by explosive volcanic eruptions, which are known to be capable of causing cooler summers.

Hence, it is interesting that a recent

news story stated, "Ice cores drilled in Antarctica and Greenland have revealed gigantic volcanic eruptions during the last ice age."

In addition, "Eighty-five of the volcanic eruptions identified by the researchers were large global eruptions. Sixty-nine of these are estimated to be larger than the 1815 eruption of Mount Tambora in Indonesia—the largest volcanic eruption in recorded human history. So much sulfuric acid was ejected into the stratosphere by the Tambora eruption that it blocked sunlight and caused global cooling in the years that followed."

By the way, volcanic cooling is well known. So is there a reason mainstream paleoclimate scientists can't make better use of it to explain an Ice Age? Yes, there is. Because they believe these volcanic eruptions were separated by many thousands (and even millions) of years, any cooling they caused would be so diluted as to be inconsequential. It is the Bible's short timescale that makes the straightforward Ice Age explanation possible.

The Biblical Ice Age model requires intense Ice Age volcanism, and these deep ice cores confirm that such volcanism was indeed present.

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

OHIO PRIEST WHO DENIED POPE FRANCIS WENT "VIRAL"

PILLARCATHOLIC.COM, 8/25/21, "WHY AN OHIO PRIEST WHO DENIED POPE FRANCIS WENT 'VIRAL'" [EXCERPTS]: Video of a priest's testimony at the Ohio statehouse Tuesday has gone viral on social media, after the priest told a state legislature committee that he doesn't recognize Pope Francis as the valid pope. . . . In one video clip, the priest said that he doesn't recognize Francis because "you have to be a Catholic to be the pope."

In another clip, the priest said of Francis that "there are many clergy, bishops around the world who have simply looked at the obvious. . . . it's a simple basic principle of Catholic theology—you can't be the head of the Church if you don't profess the Catholic faith."

[TBC: Nevertheless, the "Catholic faith" is works salvation, which is diametrically opposed to the biblical gospel of salvation.]

(<https://bit.ly/38eVLxr>)

THE BEREAN CALL

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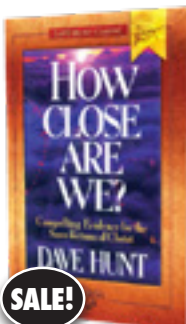
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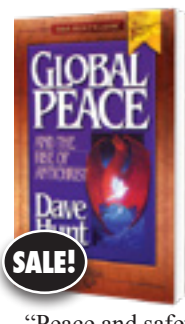
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