

The
Berean
Call

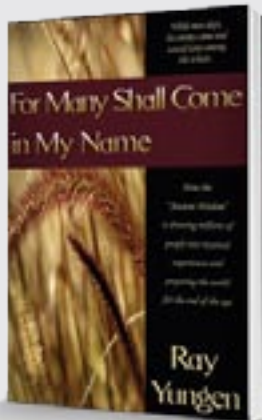
JULY 2007

THE SECRET SEDUCTION

by DAVE HUNT

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Lighthouse Trails Publishing, Second Edition, 248 pp.

B01290

(wt .7) **\$12.95**

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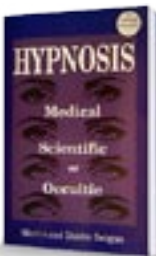


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B04356

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DVD018



(wt .3) **\$20.00**



ABOUT THE COVER: “Your wish is my command....”

“And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods....

And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof,

and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat. And the eyes of them both were opened...” (Genesis 3:5-7). Today, this identical lie is no less seductive and no less attractively packaged. It’s called *The Secret*.

THE BEREAN CALL

"[The Bereans] . . . searched the scriptures daily, [to see] whether those things were so."—Acts 17:11

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— VOL. XXII NO. 7 —

JULY 2007

The Secret Seduction

Dave Hunt

The latest occult scam to capture the imagination of the West is called *The Secret*. The book by that name, a top *New York Times* bestseller, has quickly sold more than 6 million copies and the DVD over 2 million copies. Both contain numerous errors, misrepresentations, false premises, and false promises. Who cares? You should. With the following information, you could rescue someone from hell.

The numerous misrepresentations begin with the title itself. *The Secret* is not a secret at all, but recycled Hinduism, shamanism, and New Age folly. One of many huge lies is its claim: "You create your own reality with your mind." This was the serpent's false promise to Eve—the promise of godhood (Gn 3:5). Embracing that delusion cost Eve and her descendants Eden's paradise—and would have barred mankind from heaven had not Christ died for the sins of the world. In the 6,000 years since Eden, the serpent's promise has not been fulfilled in *even one person's life*.

Misinformation and false claims follow one another in a dizzying parade of absurdities. Sprinkled throughout the book and DVD is the claim that the Secret is scientifically proved to be true. For example, "It has been scientifically proven that an affirmative thought is hundreds of times more powerful than a negative thought."¹ When? Where? How?

No scientific tests ever measured positive and negative thoughts, nor could there be any such tests because thoughts are nonphysical and their "power" cannot be measured. Thoughts exist outside the realm of physical science. Nor is there any such thing as "mental science" or a "science of the mind." That fact is only one of many reasons why psychology could never be a science, in spite of decades of claiming that it is.

The bait on the hook of *The Secret* is stated repeatedly: "*The Secret* gives you anything you want: happiness, health, and wealth....You can have, do, or be anything you want....We can have whatever it is that we choose."² Common sense replies, "Thanks, but no thanks." But millions being introduced to the Secret are excited and eager to make it work for them.

The foundational lies are basically that there is no personal God who created the universe and who makes laws that man

must obey. The universe has always been here, yet we create it with our minds through numerous occult laws that exist to serve our selfish desires. One of the most enticing is "the law of attraction": whatever thought (health, wealth, disaster, gain, loss, pain, joy, etc.) you hold in your mind, you will attract to yourself as a reality of your life. We are all gods who create our individual destinies with our thoughts.

The amorality of the Secret ought to be evident to anyone who stops to think. Hitler was no more responsible for the Holocaust than were its victims who collectively created it with their minds. So it was with the Titanic, the crash of every plane, and the victims of every rape and murder.

The book and DVD are based upon nothing more than statements of a number of supposed experts in the area of success motivation and positive thinking. Who are they? A "nonaligned, transreligious progressive...spiritual luminaries...teacher of spiritual metaphysics...Feng Shui master...successful business leaders...founders of the New Thought movement...a modern-day spiritual messenger, et al." They are certainly not in the same class as Jesus Christ, who proved His deity with His sinless life and miracles, died for our sins, and rose from the dead. The "experts" cited and quoted in *The Secret* are not a group into whose hands anyone should trust their lives, much less their eternal destiny.

In the book and DVD, like a broken record, the same appealing but transparent lie is repeated over and over: "There isn't a single thing that you cannot do with this knowledge...the Secret can give you whatever you want...if you see it in your mind, you're going to hold it in your hand...you create your life with your thoughts...your thoughts are seeds, and the harvest you reap will depend on the seeds you plant...your life is in your hands...what you think about you bring about....You will attract everything that you require. If it's money you need you will attract it...like Aladdin's Genie, the law of attraction grants our every command...the moment you begin to 'think properly'...this power within you that's greater than the world...will take over your life...feed...clothe...guide...protect...direct you, sustain your very existence. If you let it. Now that is what I know, for sure...."

Now this is what I know for sure: while the historic individuals named and quoted in the book and DVD achieved some temporary material possessions and success,

they all failed in that which is far more important: health. Yes, most, but not all, maintained a satisfactory level of good health most of their brief lives, but the health of every one of them eventually failed. One mark of failure they all share: they all died. In the end, the Secret could not keep them alive, though they tried every technique it offered. And those proponents of the Secret still alive today will inevitably suffer the same fate.

According to what these supposed masters of the Secret all declare with great confidence, they should not have died. If the Secret were true and they properly applied it—"The Secret can give you whatever you want"—they should all still be alive. In fact, none of the masters of the Secret even exceeded the normal life expectancy—but they surely should have if the Secret were true. The obvious fact is that the Secret is a deception that offers a false hope, which continues to deceive mankind—and an unconscionably amoral hope at that.

Let's take a quick look at some of these "masters of the Secret." Ralph Waldo Emerson is one of the most highly praised. He declared, "The secret is the answer to all that has been, all that is, and all that will ever be." But Emerson lived in a state of deteriorating health and financial need for his last 10 years. He died at age 79. Surely he wanted to live a longer, healthier, happier life. Why didn't he hold such thoughts and, by the law of attraction, bring what he wanted into actuality? For the same reason that no one else ever has or ever will. "The Secret" is a lie from Satan, "the father of lies" (John 8:44). It keeps those who believe it from faith in the true God and the salvation He provided for sinners through Christ's sacrifice for the sins of all mankind upon the Cross.

What about Prentice Mulford, another of the supposed masters of the Secret and a founder of the New Thought movement, which is based upon the same delusion? He said that there is a material mind and a Spiritual mind; a lower self and a higher Self, and the latter receives thoughts from the "Supreme Power."

But that "Power" failed him. It gave him the thought that he wanted to be a member of the California State Assembly. Mulford was nominated, but lost the election. Why didn't his thoughts bring about his desire? The Secret, and New Thought, its mirror image, didn't work for him, one of the "experts" held up as an example in the book

and DVD. Finally, the Secret failed him entirely: he died at the age of 57—surely a shorter life than he had hoped to live.

Or what about Wallace Wattles, a diligent student of the Secret most of his short life and another founder of New Thought? His most famous book was *The Science of Getting Rich*, yet he lived most of his life in poverty. This crowning achievement of his life was published in 1910. He died in 1911 at the age of 51. Wouldn't he have wanted to live longer to see the success of that book and to write more about the marvelous benefits of "the Secret," though it failed him? But he couldn't add one minute to his life. The Secret didn't work for Wattles, one of its chief proponents.

The book and DVD also contain factual errors. The statement is made that through applying the Secret, the Babylonians, "became one of the wealthiest races in history." No, it was through their military might at the cost of the lives, torture, and slavery of multitudes of victims. Babylon was one of the *cruelest* empires in history. And this commends the Secret? Thankfully, Babylon is no more. Why did it fall? Did the Secret fail the Babylonians, or did they fail to apply it? The evidence is overwhelming: the Secret is a lie.

This delusion that reality is created by the mind has been offering false hope to mankind for thousands of years. It is the standard teaching of Christian Science, the Church of Religious Science, Unity School of Christianity, New Thought, and other Mind Science cults. Never before, however, has it been packaged so attractively and cleverly for promotion to the general public as in *The Secret*. Disillusionment of multitudes will follow.

Most of the quick spread of this new presentation of the ancient and well-known supposed Secret is due to promotion by Larry King and Oprah Winfrey. Millions of their fans bought the book and DVD. On April 5, 2007, Oprah Winfrey discussed *the Secret* with alleged nonphysical entities "channeled" by *Secret* promoter, Esther Hicks. As we have often shown, so-called "spirit communication" with the dead that used to occur in séances (strictly forbidden in the Bible as demonic — Deut 18:11, Lv 20:6) is now called "channeling" and has long been promoted openly on radio and TV.

Anyone with even a small amount of common sense would recognize many moral and practical problems. What *The Secret* promotes is completely amoral and self-centered: "The law [of "attraction"] responds to your thoughts, no matter what they may be.... People who have drawn wealth into their lives... think thoughts of abundance and wealth... nothing else exists in their minds." "You've got to feel good about money to

attract more to you.... Start to say and feel... I am a money magnet. I love money." (The Bible says not money itself but "the *love* of money is the root of all evil" — 1 Tm 6:10).

What about selfless love, kindness, mercy, goodness, charity, compassion, generosity, sharing with others? Such thoughts would interfere with the single-minded goal of drawing wealth to oneself. The Secret, believed and applied, cannot help but increase one's selfishness and bring those applying it into conflict with one another.

Let's say that "Jones" believes that the Secret will give him anything he wants. Wanting to be the president of the X corporation where he works, and using the "law of attraction" to get what he wants, Jones holds in his mind the thought, "I am the president of X Corporation." Will Jones's thoughts oust the current president and put himself in his place? Suppose there happen to be twenty other ambitious and avaricious people, from factory workers to janitors, from secretaries and bookkeepers to the vice president, who also want to be president of X corporation and are each relying upon the Secret's "law of attraction" to fulfill their passion. To help accomplish their selfish desire, they each visualize themselves in the president's chair behind the big desk in his plush office. Will the Secret simultaneously make each of them the president? Who will win this battle of minds in the selfish competition that this ancient, amoral, alleged secret has spawned?

One of the supposedly successful practitioners of the occult principles who is quoted in the book, Lisa Nichols, is described as a "powerful advocate of personal empowerment"—more selfishness. She says, "Thank God that there's a time delay, that all your thoughts don't come true instantly." What "God" does she mean? Where would God fit into a universe He neither made nor controls and that is being recreated by human thoughts continually—a universe that stands ever ready to give mankind whatever selfish desires are directed toward it?

Advocates of the Secret and New Thought do not believe in the personal, living God of the Bible, who asks for man's love and submission to His will. Their god is impersonal, a sort of *Star Wars* Force or universal Mind that has no mind of its own but exists solely to give us whatever we want. Joe Vitale is another one of the expert practitioners of the Secret quoted in the book and DVD. On *Larry King Live* a caller asked, I'm just curious, where does God come into "the Secret"?

Vitale responded, "God is all of us. God is *the secret* and everything about it. This is a law from God."²⁴ This, of course, is nonsense, the ancient religion of pantheism: you're God, I'm God, the tree is God, everything

is God. Then "God" is both good and evil, death as well as life, has no morals, etc. If everything is "God," then "God" means nothing. Pantheism is virtual atheism.

Another ancient occult technique used by shamans for thousands of years is visualization: the belief that a mental picture held firmly in the mind will eventually manifest itself in the physical universe. Of course, this too is a delusion. No one has ever been able to demonstrate this ability. If we all had the power that *The Secret* promises, ours would be a terrifying existence with billions of Darth Vaders and Obe Wan Kenobies zapping one another with mind power!

Many Christians, as we have seen, teach basically the same occultism taught to C.G. Jung by "familiar spirits" (1 Sm 28:9; Is 8:19). Yonggi Cho has taught and practiced the same for years, as have numerous Christian psychologists and charismatic leaders. Visualization to create one's own reality was the heart and soul of all that Norman Vincent Peale taught and practiced: "The idea of imaging... has been implicit in all the speaking and writing I have done...."²⁵ Robert Schuller has long taught the same occultism: "I have practiced and harnessed the power of the inner eye and it works.... Thirty years ago we started with a vision of a church. It's all come true."²⁶

Cho, pastor of the largest church in the world, claims that the Holy Spirit told him that he must visualize a clear picture of what he was praying for, or his prayer could not be answered. But all Cho could hold in his mind was the gross outline of what he wanted; he could not "see" or even imagine the atomic structure of these objects, which was their underlying reality.

Anyone who is willing to believe that mankind creates the universe with its collective thoughts (or that any individual, by visualization, can bring into existence anything that would be part of daily experience) has willfully given himself over to Satan and is susceptible to any other lie he offers. Obviously, the universe was here before man. To believe that the vast expanse of the cosmos with its trillions of stars and moons that no man has ever seen, including the many subatomic particles no one has even imagined, is all being created and held together with the collective thoughts of humanity, is to commit intellectual, moral, and spiritual suicide.

Those who believe such lies as *The Secret* offers have deliberately turned from the true God who has revealed Himself in each conscience and in the universe He made and have opened themselves to demonic delusion that will eventually lead them to eternal separation from the God who loves them and the Christ who died to redeem them. Let's rescue as many as we can! **TBC**

Quotable

If you will but ask yourself why your brand of Christianity is hardly recognizable as related to...primitive Christianity, your own heart will tell you that...you never thoroughly intended to live as they lived and to die as they died....

Did you but have this intention to please God in all your actions, as being the happiest and best choice for life in this world, you would find yourself as unwilling to deny Christ with your life as you are now unwilling to deny Him with your lips.

William Law, The Power of the Spirit, edited by Dave Hunt (See offering list)

Q&A

QUESTION: When Lazarus died, he went to "Abraham's bosom." He "lifted up his eyes," but his body was in the grave. The thief on the cross died and went to "Paradise" with Jesus "in the heart of the earth." Christians who die go to be with Christ in heaven but won't get glorified bodies until the resurrection. In the millennium, a child will die being 100 years old and will go...where? After the millennium, the New Jerusalem descends to earth. This is not for all believers but only the church. Can you sort this out?

RESPONSE: Our spirits that separate from our bodies at death and go to be with Christ to await glorified bodies at the resurrection are not blind, deaf, and dumb until then. God, angels, Satan, and demons are all spirits and can see, think, hear, speak—and so can the human spirit, separated from its body, whether in heaven or in hell. "There is a natural [physical] body, and there is a spiritual body" (1 Cor 15:44). Such was the condition of the rich man, (conscious, in torment, seeing, speaking). Lazarus and Abraham were in the place Christ called "paradise," where He, the believing thief, and Old Testament believers went upon death.

At His resurrection, our Lord emptied paradise and took its occupants to heaven. Since then, at death, believers' souls and spirits have gone directly to be with Christ in His Father's house of many mansions (Jn 14:2). Souls and spirits of all those "who sleep in Jesus" [i.e., died in faith in Christ] are waiting in heaven for the resurrection of their bodies that will be transformed into His likeness at the Rapture.

To speak of a hundred-year-old as a "child" does not mean that person is immature physically or mentally but that to die at 100 during the Millennium would be like being cut off in childhood. Those dying that "young" must be wicked and taken instantly to hell to join the "rich man" and multitudes of others in torment.

Revelation 21 reveals the "new heaven and new earth" after the final judgment of the wicked (Rv 20:10-15). They will then all be in the Lake of Fire, not intended for mankind but "prepared for the devil and his angels" (Mt 25:41). Jews or Gentiles who believed on Christ, but not until they saw Him at the Second Coming, are not in the church but will dwell on earth eternally: in their natural bodies during the Millennium and in new bodies on the new earth with access to the new Jerusalem but not as its residents (Rv 21:24). Jews saved at the Second Coming will eternally dwell in the promised land of Israel on the new earth (Gn 17:8; 1 Chr 16:14-18; Ezk 32:21-28; 39:27-29; Zec 12:10).

Jews or Gentiles who believed on Christ before His visible appearing ("blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed" - Jn 20:29) are the bride, the church. They inhabit the new Jerusalem, are always with Christ, and have full access through Him to the throne of God in heaven.

This is how I "sort this out." But you Bereans must search the Scriptures daily to come to your own conclusions.

QUESTION: How will the world (especially the Antichrist) explain the Rapture—particularly in light of so much publicity around the *Left Behind* series?

RESPONSE: The sudden mass disappearance worldwide of 100 million (or maybe more) of earth's inhabitants will cause a panic beyond anything we can imagine. I believe that all of the babies and small children (of Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists, atheists, etc.) will also vanish, taken to heaven at the same time.

No matter how familiar with the *Left Behind* series, whoever "received not the love of the truth...believed not the truth... God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: that they all might be damned..." (2 Thes 2:10-12). I don't think that necessarily means they have specifically rejected the gospel of Christ. It could also mean they have rejected the witness of creation and conscience.

Neither the *Left Behind* series nor any other books or DVDs will benefit any such person. Of course, hundreds of millions (almost all Muslims, most Roman Catholics, multitudes of followers of other false religions, and atheists) who never knew and rejected the truth will have the opportunity to believe and will be martyred for their faith under Antichrist.

Antichrist's explanation of the Rapture is not important. What is important is the fact that all will be deceived by it who oppose the truth.

QUESTION: One of our staff who reads incoming letters writes, "After reading

your articles, Dave, and responses to letters about Calvinism, a Calvinist writes that your theology confuses him. He says that you don't understand the L in TULIP, that Calvin held the same interpretation as you do on John 3:16—that Christ did indeed die for all mankind but that, of course, His sacrifice on the Cross only benefited those who believed on Him.

He claims that your eschatology says that everything that happens has been predetermined by God based upon His foreknowledge—a contradiction of your view that we act by free will. He also charges that to teach that the Rapture could happen at any moment leads to a "why bother?" attitude, promotes apathy in the church, and results in the deterioration of society because it causes the church to cease from being salt and light as the Lord commanded—and asks you, *what love is this that you approve?*

Referring to Christ's statement that no one knows the day or hour of His return, he asks why you seem so obsessed with trying to figure out exactly that and implies that you emphasize this because it sells books. He asks why you work so hard at dividing God's people rather than uniting them. He is concerned that you cut up those who stand for sound doctrine and says that instead you ought to expose the Benny Hinnns, Copelands, Schullers, et. al., and the *Da Vinci Code*.

RESPONSE: Such letters are helpful. It is discouraging, however, that someone could have been reading my books and articles in our newsletter, yet have missed so fully what I have said. I have *never* tried "to figure out...the day or hour of Christ's return," much less been obsessed with such a pursuit. I have often pointed out how unbiblical and foolish that would be.

His accusation that I have failed to expose and warn the church about the Hinnns, Copelands, Schullers, et al., is most astonishing. I have devoted entire books and newsletters to doing that—so much so that I have been criticized for spending too much time in such exposés.

My teaching that Christ could take His church to heaven at any moment is biblical, as I have often documented. Anyone who knows the Bible ought to agree, so I won't go over that again. Furthermore, how could believing that the Rapture could occur at any moment cause "apathy in the church, resulting in the deterioration of our society"? It does the opposite. It tells us to work day and night, spread the gospel far and wide, oppose apostasy and awaken the church because our opportunity to do that could end at any moment!

Nor have I ever worked "hard at dividing

God's people rather than uniting them." Jesus himself caused "a division among the people" wherever He preached (Jn 7:43, 9:16, 10:19). In fact, Christ said He came to bring division (Lk 12:51)! By teaching sound doctrine, we bring division between those who stand for truth and those who oppose it. And in the process, we endeavor to "keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" in the only biblical way—in the "one body...one Spirit...one hope...one Lord...one faith...one baptism...one God and Father of all..." (Eph 4:2-6).

As for his complaint that I misrepresent John Calvin, perhaps he hasn't read the third and expanded edition of *What Love Is This?* After the first printing of that book, Calvinists threw numerous false charges at me, including that I misquoted Calvin, Spurgeon, Arminius, and others. The third edition responds specifically to each of the Calvinists' complaints, sprinkling my answers throughout the book in the very places where they claimed I was in error (See offering list). I expanded my quotations of Calvin, Spurgeon, Arminius, et al., to show that I had not misunderstood nor had I misquoted any of them.

Yes, at times Calvin said that "world or many" (Is 53:12, Mk 14:24, Jn 3:16, etc.) meant all of mankind. But he so often said the opposite that he could not have meant what this man thinks he meant the few times he seemed to include not just the elect but all mankind (as in his Commentary on John 3:16). For example, Calvin said, "for, (as he [God] hates sin) he can only love those whom he justifies [i.e., the elect]." Then John 3:16 could not mean that in love God gave His Son to die for the sins of the entire world.

I agree that Calvinists deserve credit for much of the Christianity of early America, for founding Christian universities, etc. But one cannot praise Calvinism by contrasting the spiritual condition of the church of that day with the apostasy in the church today without including the apostasy in the majority of today's Calvinist churches.

It is not true that I teach "that everything that happens has all been predetermined by God based upon His foreknowledge." That doesn't even make sense. God wouldn't need foreknowledge to predetermine everything. He would just predetermine it. But God has not predetermined everything that happens in our world. That is Calvinist doctrine. Its denial of man's free will makes a holy God the author of all evil.

Both Paul and Peter link election and predestination with God's foreknowledge but not the way he suggests. Paul writes, "Whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the

firstborn among many brethren" (Rom 8:29). Peter declares, "Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father...unto obedience..." (1 Pt 1:2). Those whom God, by foreknowledge, knew would receive Christ were elected/predestined to certain blessings. The Bible does not teach that God causes some to believe and refuses to give saving faith to others.

QUESTION: In *What Love Is This?* you quoted Tozer on page 102: "So when man exercises his freedom [of choice] he is fulfilling the sovereignty of God, not canceling it out." In the May issue you gave statistics about the moral depravity of American society and said the judgment of God cannot be long in coming upon them....By your definition...are Americans not fulfilling the sovereignty of God? And if so, wherein lies the justification of the impending judgment of God on them? How different is such a God from the Calvinistic God who refuses salvation to some people, only to turn around and condemn them for rejecting the salvation He withholds from them?

RESPONSE: You misunderstand Tozer. He was saying that in exercising free will, man uses the power of choice that God gave him. That does not mean (as you seem to think) that what men choose to do is *caused* by God's will because He sovereignly gave them the power of choice. That can't be true, or the free will God gave to man wouldn't be free after all.

That same misunderstanding of sovereignty and free will (the latter expression is used 17 times in the Old Testament) clouds what you say about God's judgment upon America. You seem to think that *what* Americans do must be *according* to God's will because He sovereignly gave them freedom to choose. Not so. Man is accountable to God for what he willfully does and will be punished for the sin he freely chooses. The fact that God *allows* man to choose does not mean that God is the author of what he chooses.

The huge difference between the biblical God and the Calvinist God is clear. The biblical God punishes men for rejecting the salvation He provided for everyone, which *all could* have accepted by their free will—and punishes them for their sins, which are contrary to His will, none of which they *had* to commit but *chose* to do so.

But the Calvinist God condemns to hell those whom He *could* save if He so desired but for whom He sovereignly chose not even to have Christ die and from whom He deliberately withholds the salvation He pretends to offer them—and punishes them for not accepting. Yes, that's a *huge* difference.

News Alert.....

WorldNetDaily.com 5/21/07: "Have sex, do drugs," speaker tells students. "Men with men, women and women, whatever combination you would like." A guest speaker at an assembly at Boulder High School in Colorado has told students as young as 14 to go have sex and use drugs, prompting school officials to say they will investigate.

The instructions came from Joel Becker, an associate professor of clinical psychology at the University of California at Los Angeles. "I am going to encourage you to have sex and encourage you to use drugs appropriately," Becker said during his appearance at the school as part of a recent panel sponsored by the University of Colorado's Conference on World Affairs.

"Why I am going to take that position is because you are going to do it anyway," he continued. "I think as a psychologist and health educator, it is more important to educate you in a direction that you might actually stick to. So, I am going to stay mostly with the sex side because that is the area I know more about. I want to encourage you to all have healthy, sexual behavior."

Boulder High sophomore Daphne White and her mother, Priscilla White...told board members it's inappropriate for such a message to be delivered by a public school. [Mrs. White] was reading excerpts of the presentation to the board when board President Helayne Jones told her to stop, because the language was inappropriate. "The panel discussion was a completely irresponsible and dangerous invitation to Boulder High students to have sex and take drugs," her daughter, Daphne, told the board.

No student should have been forced to be at that panel discussion, incoming Boulder Valley Supt. Chris King agreed.

[TBC: Too few Christians who are outraged by this event fail to recognize that the view presented by the psychologist represents the amorality (read immorality!) consistent with the concepts of psychological counseling. Psychological training opens the door to that kind of practice under the protection of a license.]

Endnotes

1. Rhonda Byrnes, *The Secret* (New York: Atria Books, 2006), 1.
2. Ibid., 22.
3. Ibid., 194.
4. *Larry King Live*, March 8, 2007.
5. Norman Vincent Peale, *Positive Imaging* (Fawcett Crest, 1982), Introduction.
6. Robert Schuller booklet, *The Power of the Inner Eye*.

Q&A Endnotes

1. John Calvin, *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, III: xi, 11.

Speaking Schedule

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Jul 6-7 (Dave) | Berean Calvary Chapel Kirkville NY (315) 656-7021 |
| Jul 8-14 (Dave) | Word of Life Schroon Lake NY (518) 532-7114 |
| Aug 3-4 (Dave) | Hope for Today Conference Chino Hills CA (800) 752-4253 |
| Aug 9-12 (Dave/TA) | TBC Conference Bend OR (800) 937-6638 |
| Aug 22-26 (Dave/TA) | Hong Kong (852) 2336-7602 |
| Sep 7-9 (Dave/TA) | Great Lakes Prophecy Conf Appleton WI (920) 735-1242 |
| Sep 12-14 (Dave) | Winnipeg Prophecy Conf Winnipeg MB (204) 853-7786 |
| Sep 16 (Dave) | Schoenfelder Mennonite Church Pigeon Lake MB (204) 864-2740 |
| Oct 7 (Dave) | Candlelight Christian Fellowship Coeur d'Alene ID (208) 772-7755 |
| Oct 17-25 (Dave) | Brazil www.chamada.com.br |
| Nov 11-13 (Dave) | Midnight Call Prophecy Conf Myrtle Beach SC (800) 845-2420 |

Letters

Dear Dave,

I received my first *Berean Call* in April 1992. I have been blessed by every one. You are one of a handful of men who are confident enough in hearing from the Lord that you cannot be sidetracked from the message He gives you. Through much criticism, you still persist in revealing the Truth the Lord has spoken to you. Your ministry is MUCH needed to counteract the alternative influence of the "modern" church and the world. JW (OK)

Dear TBC,

I have just finished reading *A Woman Rides the Beast* by Dave Hunt....I have been a Catholic for 35 years...a Bible-believing Christian for 20 years. Everything you write about it is true. I have lived that and I know what it is. Jesus set me free from Catholicism. It is an oppressive and controlling system. I [was] a Catholic for all those years because that system was everything I knew, but I was searching for the truth, and I have found the truth in Jesus and in the Word of God....I am looking forward [to] His second coming. IP (UK)

Dear Dave and Tom,

I have been listening to your programs on psychotherapy. I have been burdened with guilt over a specific issue in my life. I have for too many years been searching for a sympathetic ear at church to help me. I have

found none. Your programs finally made me realize my sin of unbelief. I need to go to the Lord Jesus. He's God. He knows all about me. And most importantly, He loves me...."Trust in Him at all times; ye people, pour out your heart before Him: God is a refuge for us. Selah" (Ps 62:8). I only tell Him now. DV (NV)

Hey Gentlemen,

I found your radio broadcast some years ago and was disappointed to hear you naming other ministries as "wrong," "mistaken," and "misleading." Recently, I found your broadcast again on a new station...and found you are still doing the same old thing. This is...just a loving word of warning. When you decide to publicly criticize a gentleman like James Dobson, you are barking up the wrong tree and causing dissension among the brethren. Dr. Dobson has grown over the years from a Christian Psychologist to a Christian Activist. When you guys start speaking out against the forces that are trying to eliminate Christian freedom in this country and taking action to see they are stopped instead of looking down and pecking at those whose work does not agree with your own denominational interpretation you will truly become valuable in the Kingdom. Until then, be reminded of the scripture which says "touch not my anointed."...God doesn't need your help or mine.... Just a friendly warning, guys. JF (OH)

Dear Friends at TBC,

I've just returned from Iraq, so I'm catching up on my TBC newsletters! I just want to send a short (but long-time coming) note in response to the comment from the New Jersey pastor. First of all—take heart, for there is no shame in being "reactionary and redundant in your words." Even Paul said, "To write the same things to you...is not grievous, but...it is safe" (Phil 3:1), and Peter said "I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though ye know them" (2 Pet 1:12). Repetition accompanies good teaching. With regards to accusations that you "go around shooting our fellow soldiers," I say: Brothers and sisters stop whining, get back to the Bible, and there you'll find the Word of God calling sin "sin," and sinners "sinners," even if those sinners are professing believers. Jesus called the hypocritical religious leaders of the day "thou hypocrites" (Matt 15:7, etc.). John the Baptist called them "generation of vipers" (Matt 3:7, etc.). Jesus and John were speaking to those who knew better.

Is it wrong to share by name those who've erred, have hurt others in the body of Christ, and have given a poor witness to the world? The apostle Paul called Peter out publicly on his hypocrisy and prejudice—even wrote down the account in his letter to the Galatians (Gal 2:11-15). Paul also shared with Timothy, "all they which are in Asia be turned away from me; of whom are Phygellus and Hermogenes"

(2 Tim 1:15); "And their word will eat as doth a canker: of whom is Hymenaeus and Philetus" (2 Tim 2:17); "Demas hath forsaken me....Alexander the coppersmith did me much evil: the Lord reward him according to his works" (2 Tim 4:10, 14). The apostle John said "I wrote unto the church: but Diotrephes, who loveth to have the preeminence among them, receiveth us not" (3 John 1:9). We Christians need to remember that loving God and others does not necessarily mean being [gentle] or silent [concerning heresy]. Much of the New Testament was written to confront and correct. In fact, the entirety of Scripture has been given to us "for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness" (2 Tim 3:16). More often than not, reproof, correction, and instruction are not always nice, but good and right. I hope that when I err (and I do), faithful Christians come alongside of me and carefully point out my sin....And if my ministry is a public one, I know I risk being confronted in a public way (1 Tim 5:20)....I'm so weary of professing Christians who seem to have bought into some unbiblical, non-confrontational Jesus, ignoring the often-uncomfortable calling of reproof, correction, and instruction the Scriptures calls us to...even if it means calling out people by name. Dave, Tom, and TBC friends, keep up the strong work! God be with you and yours. JO (CA)

TBC Notes

Privileged Prayer Time

One of the wonderful aspects of being involved in a Christian ministry is that we have the opportunity to gather together for a time of fellowship (praise reports and prayer requests), prayer, and a brief reading and discussion of the Scriptures. That's how we begin each day here at TBC, and I consider it a great privilege, especially because it occurs at our workplace!

The routine is slightly different on Thursday mornings. That's the day we've dedicated to intercessory prayer. Much of our correspondence contains requests from those who ask for prayer for themselves, loved ones, or others the Lord has put on their hearts.

Not only are we blessed to pray for the specific needs of all who share them with us, we truly covet your prayers for us as well, much as Paul asked, "Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified...."

T.A. McMAHON

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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WHAT IS "SPIRITUAL DNA"?

FROM SERMONS AND BEST-SELLING BOOKS to television talk shows, a growing number of people are conversing about "spiritual DNA." But what is it? Almost unheard of five or ten years ago, a Google search for this phrase now turns up 22,400 pages, with authors ranging from mainstream evangelicals to practitioners of eastern mysticism and the occult. Is the term simply a profound metaphor, or does it convey a literal meaning? Does it refer to a tangibly deeper (or higher) truth—or is it purely metaphysical nonsense? Let's examine a few of the ways in which this phrase is "catching on" and test its legitimacy according to God's Word.

First of all, it has become a popular contemporary metaphor by many who profess Christ. In her article "Discovering Our Spiritual DNA" posted on the North American Mission Board website, Meredith Day writes,

Metaphorically speaking, when we are reborn in Christ, He instills in us a sort of new spiritual DNA that makes us hungry to tell others about Him....

This explanation of spiritual DNA seems fairly innocuous—if there is such a thing. But is there—and if so, what is it? Is it biblical to refer to the drawing and conviction of the Holy Spirit as "a sort of new spiritual DNA?" The question, "What is spiritual DNA?" was posed to Liberty University's website. Their response:

The phrase "spiritual DNA" talks about the new nature that you [receive] from God when you are born again....Paul says we have an old nature...called the old man (Eph. 4:22). And then we put on a new man, i.e., a new nature (Eph. 4:24).

This answer seems straightforward, and it assumes the phrase has its primary use as a Christian metaphor. But other professing Christians have stated (on www.schizophrenia-info.info):

When God adopts us into His family....He now lives in our DNA, in our blood, in our spirit. His blood in us is what operates to do His work in our flesh, NOW. We can do His miracles, signs, and wonders....As in human conception, when sperm unites with egg, His Spirit unites with our spirit to become one spirit.

The exact way in which the Holy Spirit resides in the believer is truly a mystery; but ascribing this miraculous new creation to a change in our physical/spiritual DNA is dangerous mysticism. Furthermore, although believers do become "one in spirit," we do not become "one with God" in the sense of the union of Jesus Christ as fully God and fully human. Scripture is clear: our present bodies are "earthen vessels," temporary "tabernacles," and not in any sense "supernaturalized" by a change in "spiritual DNA." They await the blessed hope of our glorified bodies yet to come.

The popular prophet Bill Yount (famous for his ministry of shofar-blowing, which allegedly has mystical powers to "open the heavens" by communicating on God's "frequencies") recently decreed over the babies of Britney Spears and other Hollywood stars,

While some stars argued over who was the father of their children, I heard one Father cry out, "They are all Mine, every last one of them! They have My DNA and they look like Me!"

This error is even more blatantly a contradiction of Scripture. Humans only become "children of God" when they become spiritually adopted "joint heirs" with Jesus Christ by repentance and grace by faith, thereby inheriting the free gift of eternal life. Babies and young children (to an age of individual accountability that only God knows) are not condemned to eternal damnation if they perish prior to receiving Christ; however, they are not automatically (or even metaphorically) God's spiritual "offspring" from birth, nor do they bear his non-existent "spiritual DNA." This is mystical nonsense—similar to "spirit child" teachings propagated by Mormonism and other religions.

One website titled "spiritualDNA.net" talks about the "transformation of the DNA of Creation" as "another way of looking at evolution":

The impulse creating life is governing our creation and imprinted in our gene-structure: the DNA....Our imprint is an individual one and the result of soul-radiation into earth matter...based upon the total end result of our karma....We shall be able to bring about The New Age ruled by a New Covenant through a...different kind of praying in Wholeness for everything that lives and grows, visible and invisible.

Most believers immediately recognize and dismiss this false utopian hope as diabolical deception. But what of the following quote from a professing Christian "minister" whose alleged visitation from Christ in 1986—and subsequent "flight" to heaven in 1993—spawned his "Eagle Vision Ministry":

DNA is like a computer program that is placed into our cells...Every one of our [cells contains] a program that is not written in electromagnetic form, [but is] written in chemical form....Eight souls came out of [Noah's Ark]....So whether you like it or not that person sitting next to you is related to you.

This mixture of simile and fact sounds plausible. But the writer continues, making a transition from the physical to metaphysical:

Now in the spirit world there is spiritual DNA....The thought realm, *which we [have already] considered and defined to be spiritual DNA*, has a structure. The structure is always in a certain pattern. According to that pattern and structure it will produce after its kind. [Spiritual] DNA will reproduce itself. [Emphasis added]

In what appears to be a sincere effort to expound on the Scriptures, which declare "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new" (2 Cor 5:17), the writer introduces an authoritative, scientific-sounding concept that has *no tangible or biblical basis*. This error is serious! Just as do mind-science "experts" (such as those in *The Secret*), he attempts to take what is useful and understood as physical and apply it "scientifically" to the spiritual realm; but "spiritual DNA," like "thought waves," are only *imagined*. Would that all Christians test the spirits that bring such "new revelations" as this!

An article titled "DNA and God" by Bill Donahue reflects on a 2004 *Time* magazine in which the cover story, "The God Gene," recounts a search by laboratories to find "spiritual receptors" in physical DNA. Intrigued by "the fact that change can be made to DNA through electricity," and since "God is not a man" (Num 23:19), and "God is light" (1 Jn 1:5), Donahue (a researcher of "hidden ancient wisdom") reasons that

...we are created in the image and likeness of God suggesting that we too are light....DNA has two aspects to it. One is the physical DNA which the body we use is equipped with through the heredity of our parents. The other is what the Buddhists suggest is a spiritual DNA....That is why I have such strong feelings against executing people. Their spiritual DNA will go into a new body...and do the same evil again.

Notice that both professing Christians and metaphysical spiritualists attempt to explain invisible, intangible spiritual processes with scientific research, *supposedly* backed up by Scripture. Today, this error is being perpetuated at an increasing rate by two "evangelical" movements, the neo-prophetic "New Apostolic Reformation" (NAR) and the Emerging Church. An NAR prophet, Bob Jones, (no relation to the University of that name) and Paul Keith Davis, who annually issue a "prophetic" proclamation called "The Shepherd's Rod," wrote in 2006:

Many people living in this generation have a unique and holy attribute woven into their spiritual DNA. A predetermined virtue provokes us to move beyond the outer court and into a place of Kingdom expression. [This predetermined virtue] is called "divine destiny."

This alleged "divine destiny" relates more to the Hindu concept of Karma (or even Calvinism) than any Scriptural truth; it suggests fatalism. The idea of a spiritual "New Breed" originates from the Latter-Rain movement (deemed heretical by the Assemblies of God and most evangelicals) and dovetails nicely with the New Age concept of a "paradigm shift" or "quantum leap" in spirituality and the evolution of a "christ consciousness" that is expected to unify mankind and bring restoration of "the kingdom of heaven" on earth.

Bill Johnson, another NAR "apostle" and pastor of Bethel church in Redding, California, says in his book *When Heaven Invades Earth*, "It has been written into our spiritual DNA to hunger for the impossibilities around us to bow at the name of Jesus." This mystical statement sounds lofty, but what does it mean? Could the NAR's Kingdom-Now theology be synonymous with this "new" view below, taken from a book (coincidentally titled *Creating Heaven on Earth*) by Asa Wolfe?

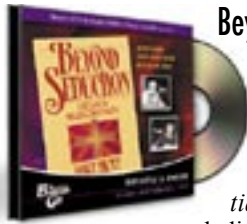
We have been used to thinking of ascension in terms of leaving the Earth to enter a higher plane of being or to reach "heaven." But many now feel...that ascension in our time is really about creating Heaven on Earth, right here and now....This process can be started by activating additional strands of DNA—the spiritual DNA.

Exactly how does one "activate" one's spiritual DNA? By an "inner awakening" experience of some kind—such as yoga, centering prayer, reiki, drum circles, trance dancing, eastern meditation, etc. Even professing Christians are being guided by dozens of "prophetic evangelists" who promise (and deliver) techniques for creating "third heaven visions" and "angelic encounters." Grievously, these spirits are too often untested. In fact, the pursuit of a tangible manifestation of "God" on earth has become a pre-eminent focus for multitudes of spiritually "hungry" believers who have grown impatient waiting for "the blessed hope." Today, increasing numbers are forsaking our Savior's promise to "catch us up" to be with Him, and are instead determined to forge a "golden calf" religion that promises a false rapture of ecstatic encounters "here and now."

While "spiritual DNA" can be an interesting metaphor, its imagined existence breaks down quickly under rational and biblical inquiry. In reality, it appears that the Enemy is using this quasi-scientific explanation to justify a New Breed of spiritual "super-sapiens," brought about by the alleged next stage of human evolution: a global awakening to "christ consciousness"—a harbinger for the "strong delusion" of Antichrist.

—Mark Dinsmore

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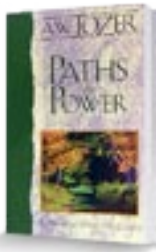
Christ Betrayed by Friends Today

Hunt—In this unique presentation, Dave turns the searchlight on the spiritual landscape of today's church. 78 min.

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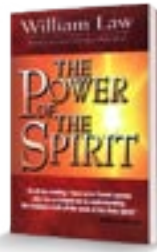


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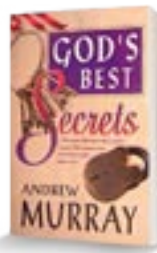


The Warfare of the Spirit

Tozer—Religious ritual is directly opposed to a living encounter with the indwelling Christ. Either one or the other must have dominion, and a constant battle therefore rages between the two opposing forces. An encouraging and edifying volume that will help you wage a good warfare. WingSpread Publishers, 176 pp.

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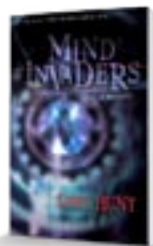
Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.

Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.

1 COR. 2:12-13

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Dave Hunt—Using Scripture and up-to-date information, Dave draws the exciting conclusion that, indeed, time is short. He then outlines a biblical response and reminds the reader of the

hope we have in Christ. This book instructs, encourages, warns, and strengthens readers to “walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil” (Ephesians 5:15,16). The Berean Call, 95 pp.

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Dave Hunt—Hans Kristian was a Bible smuggler to the Soviet Union. As he recounts to Dave, he quickly came to a startling realization: “I was staggered by the relationship these people had with

God, because it raised a devastating question: If this was Christianity, then what was the game we were playing in the West?” It is our prayer that this valuable historical record will inspire a new generation of Spirit-filled missionaries. The Berean Call, 224 pp.

B60361

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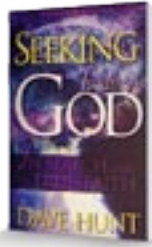
Showtime for the Sheep?

T.A. McMahon—After screening *The Passion of the Christ*, T.A. McMahon set about writing a book evaluating the enthusiasm generated for the film among

evangelicals. The movie was touted as the greatest opportunity for witnessing since the death of Christ. Could that be true? Or could the church be enthralled with something that might have a host of problems beyond just a popular motion picture about Jesus Christ. The Berean Call, 159 pp.

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Seeking and Finding God

Dave Hunt—Readers of Dave’s book, *An Urgent Call to a Serious Faith*, will recognize and appreciate that this handy volume includes revised ver-

sions of the first eight chapters of that powerful work, plus an entirely new chapter, which together serve to make this a powerful tool for evangelism and discipleship. The Berean Call, 160 pp.

B04425

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What Love Is This?

Dave Hunt—Most Christians are largely unaware of what John Calvin and his early followers actually believed and practiced; nor do they fully understand what most of today’s leading Calvinists believe. It is

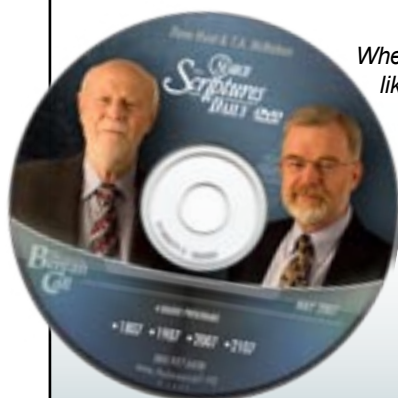
our prayer that this book will enable readers to examine more carefully the vital issues involved and to follow God’s Holy Word—not man. The Berean Call, 590 pp.

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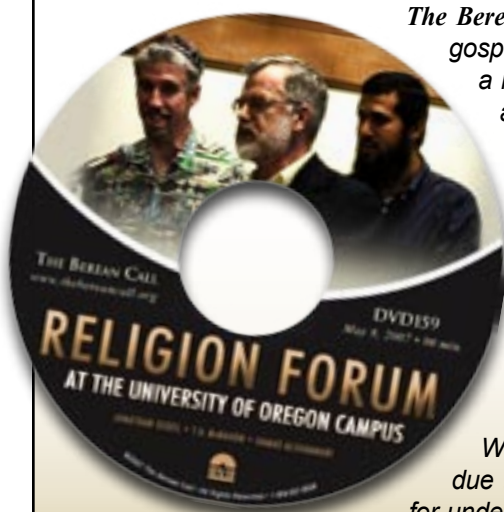




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JULY 2007

NEW! Religion Forum—Islam, Judaism, and the Truth Featuring T.A. McMahon in this uncut presentation at the University of Oregon



The Berean Call—Recently, the Lord opened a rare opportunity to publicly proclaim the gospel in a civil setting on a secular university campus. T.A. McMahon participated in a religion forum at the University of Oregon that featured views of Judaism, Islam, and Christianity.

Although the non-debate format required that the speakers could only address and answer questions regarding their own beliefs, the content is quite informative, even rather startling. Viewers will be better informed on worldviews that oppose biblical Christianity, and, we pray, be inspired and equipped to proclaim the gospel. T.A. presented his perspective as a biblical Christian, Rabbi Jonathan Seidel spoke from the viewpoint of liberal Judaism, and Hamad Alshammari, U of O Muslim Student Association president, offered his view of Islam. A question-and-answer session followed the brief presentation by the speakers.

We were permitted to video the proceedings, and though the audio quality is lower due to unforeseen circumstances, we offer this “value-priced” DVD as a helpful tool for understanding contemporary expressions of Judaism and Islam, as well as a concise presentation of “What a Biblical Christian Believes.”



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