

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

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

Toward the Prize

Dave Hunt

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PAUL WAS A MAN of fervent prayer, with a seemingly endless list of dear ones on his heart. To the believers in Rome, even before he had been there, Paul wrote, “without ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers” (Rom 1:9). Likewise, to those at Ephesus whom he knew well, “I . . . cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers” (Eph 1:16). The number of believers he mentioned by name in his epistles and for whom he daily prayed supported his statement: “Beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches. Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is offended, and I burn not?” (2 Cor 11:28-29).

Of course, Paul’s prayers expressed much that he desired God to provide for various believers. First and foremost in his heart, however, was one passion he had for all believers everywhere and in every time of history—and that would include us today. He expressed it in various ways in his epistles. Here it is in his prayer for the Ephesians:

“That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him . . . [to] know what is the hope of his calling . . . [and] the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead . . .” (Eph 1:17-20)

Paul wanted believers everywhere to know and understand God’s ultimate eternal purpose for them. His prayer was not that this purpose would be accomplished one day in eternity. There was no question about that, nor could Paul’s prayer play any part in its ultimate realization. God had already determined to accomplish this goal for every Christian without fail, and He would do it by the very power with which Christ was raised from the dead. That it will be realized for every true Christian is as certain as our salvation. What was it, then, for which Paul prayed? That we would here and now in this present life know and understand “the hope of his [God’s] calling.”

What is this hope? And if it unfailingly will be realized for eternity in glory, no matter what we may do or not do, why is it so important that we understand it ahead of time? Herein lies one of the key elements in a victorious life of fruitfulness to the glory of God and fullness of Christ’s joy and ours.

The Apostles understood this hope well. Paul declared that we “rejoice in hope of the glory of God” (Rom 5:2). This passage and many others make it clear that “the glory of God” is not only something that will surround us in heaven but it will be revealed in us: “Christ in you, the hope of glory” (Col 1:27). He calls it a “mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints” (1:26). The fact that this promised “glory” is future and as yet unseen is likewise clear: “What a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for? But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it” (Rom 8:24-25).

Paul referred to “the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ” as “that blessed hope” (Tit 2:13). How does that relate to “the hope of our calling?” Why would the hope of Christ’s appearing at last to His own, in glory, be specially blessed?

We don’t look to our own reasoning and speculation in seeking to understand the Christian’s ultimate hope. We search the Scriptures, and the more deeply we understand, the more clearly we see that the Bible is indeed the Word of the true and living God, one integrated love letter to mankind from Genesis to Revelation.

“In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth . . .” On the sixth day, “God created man in his own image . . .” (Gen 1:1-27). That statement has nothing to do with man’s physical body, male or female, for “God is a Spirit” (Jn 4:24). We can only conclude that man was made in the spiritual image of God to manifest to the universe the beauties of God’s holy character: His selfless love, compassion, grace, gentleness, patience, holiness, and moral purity—as well as the power of choice. The latter, of course, was essential if man was to love God and his fellows—but that power, necessarily, opened the door for man to choose for himself rather than for his Creator!

In Adam’s irrational and unthinkable rebellion against the God to whom he owed his very existence, Self (the autonomous self as “god”) had its awful birth and, in partnership with Satan, has been trying to take over mankind’s destiny ever since. Battles rage within and without as each individual Self competes not only with God but with every other Self for supremacy: conflict between husbands and wives, children and their siblings, parents and children, in a cacophony of “I, My, Me, Mine.”

The moment man rebelled, the Spirit of God departed from man’s spirit, and the image of God in which man had been created was shattered. Self was left to the unhappy loneliness of its insane pride. Imagine worms boasting of their power and glory and one gets a picture of the pitiful creature called man, mired deeply in sin, parading his positive self-image and self-esteem before the throne of God!

Jesus declared that the only hope for any man was to “deny himself [that wicked Self born in Eden], and take up his [individual] cross, and follow me” (Mat 16:24-26; Mk 8:31-34; Lk 9:23). In defiance of our Lord’s command, Christian psychology (which is trustingly looked to for guidance by almost the entire evangelical church) declares that man’s great need is, instead, to nourish and cherish the Self. Rejecting Christ’s command, the evangelical church now follows Christian psychologists, who have become the new infallible priesthood. They have brought into the evangelical church the foolish wisdom of the world (1 Cor 1:20) with the excuse that “all truth is God’s truth.” That mantra confuses mere facts of logic or science with “the truth” found only in “the word of truth” (Ps 119:43; 2 Cor 6:7; Eph 1:13; Col 1:5; 2 Tim 2:15; Jas 1:18), which alone “shall make you free” (Jn 8:32).

Rather than denying self, “Christian psychology,” thinking it can improve God’s infallible and all-sufficient Word with the theories of atheistic anti-Christians, coddles rebellious Self with the offer of “self-esteem, self-love, self-acceptance, self-image, self-improvement, self-assertion,” and all the other selfisms, *ad nauseam*. Bruce Narramore admits that these theories are not

found in “the word of truth,” but Christian psychologists have borrowed them from Christ-defying humanists:

Under the influence of humanistic psychologists like Carl Rogers and Abraham Maslow, many of us Christians have begun to see our need for self-love and self-esteem. It is a good and necessary focus.¹

James Dobson’s ministry was built upon this same humanist foundation. We have quoted him saying that Christian psychology is a good career for any young Christian to aspire to, “provided their faith is strong enough to withstand the humanism to which they will be exposed.” So the evangelical church, under the influence of Christian psychologists, has been reduced to reliance upon humanists for instruction in how to provide essential moral and spiritual counsel, which the Holy Spirit somehow failed to include in the Word of Truth, even though it claims to give us “all things that pertain unto life and godliness” (2 Pt 1:3).

How can so many Christians turn from the clear teaching of Scripture to Satan’s lies? There is widespread ignorance of God’s Word in the evangelical church. Even worse is the eagerness to follow the world in contemptuous disregard of what the Bible unmistakably teaches. Much of the blame must be placed upon Christian psychologists, who have led the way in this rebellion. The effect is everywhere. Robert Schuller (who for years has had the largest TV audience each Sunday morning), in a book with an introduction by his mentor, arch heretic Norman Vincent Peale, boldly defies God:

Self-love is a crowning sense of self-worth. It is an ennobling emotion of self-respect...an abiding faith in yourself. It is sincere belief in yourself.

It comes through self-discovery, self-discipline, self-forgiveness and self-acceptance. It produces self-reliance, self-confidence and an inner security, calm as the night.²

Self has taken the place of God. Sadly, the specious belief that humanists can teach us how to counsel from the Bible through psychological techniques is widely accepted among evangelicals today. Church leaders are taking their flocks into one false teaching after another (from the avid pursuit of “signs and wonders” to numerical growth at the expense of sound doctrine). Many such errors have been exposed in these pages. Here again, Self, inflated by Christian psychology, is the culprit. Jesus said, “If any man will [i.e., wills to] do his [the Father’s] will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself” (Jn 7:17). Scripture will not be understood nor sound doctrine valued and defended as long as Self has not been denied in surrender to the will of God.

In our lives, we need God. We need the Holy Spirit. We need Christ as our very life itself, allowing Him to restore in and express through us the image of God in which we were created. We have forgotten heaven and become enamored of this world, living our lives as though the only plans God has for us pertain to earth. Yes, some of our works seem good and spiritual: preaching the gospel and giving out tracts, writing Christian books and making Christian films, building missionary organizations, larger churches, and Christian universities, doing charitable deeds—and on and on it goes, keeping us so busy serving the Lord that we can scarcely find time to love and worship Him.

Believing the lie that one can become so “heavenly minded” as to be of “no earthly good” (surely Christ was the most heavenly minded man who ever lived, yet He was also the most earthly good!), we have lost sight of “the hope of his calling.” I do not minimize the lust, self-indulgence, entrapment in sin, failure to pray, neglect of Bible study, the forsaking of Christian fellowship, and the carnality that is rampant today among those who claim to be born-again evangelicals. These failings, however, are easily recognized by anyone who knows the Lord and has a modicum of conscience.

It is a deadly error, however, to imagine that victory over these sins comes through getting “busy for God.” No matter in what way we are falling “short of the glory of God,” the problem is the

same: we have lost sight of (or perhaps never understood) what Paul says is “the hope of our calling.”

Perhaps no one served Christ as wholeheartedly as Paul. Consider carefully Paul’s explanation of the secret of his life: “Forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus” (Phil 3:13-14). Paul then exhorts, “Be followers together of me...” (3:17). What is this prize that we should all be pressing toward, as Paul did?

Clearly, it is not an individual award given to a “winner” in competition for excelling others. The prize is “the high calling of God in Christ Jesus” itself that Paul desired for all Christians to understand and press toward. This “high calling” is why Christ died and rose again for us! Peter explains that “the God of all grace...has called us unto his eternal glory” (1 Pt 5:10). Falling short of that glory is the biblical definition of sin (Rom 3:23). The restoration of that glory is fully assured in eternity for every true disciple of Christ, yet we are to pursue it even now. Laying everything else aside for this goal was the secret of Paul’s remarkable life!

Of Christ it is written, “Who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God” (Heb 12:2). That joy was twofold: knowing that He had faithfully accomplished what the Father had given Him to do; and “bringing many sons unto glory” (Heb 2:10) in His very image. The “hope of his calling” is the joy set before us: the joy of at last fully becoming all that the Father’s heart of love desires for us so that Christ will “see of the travail of his soul... [and] be satisfied” (Isa 53:11).

The “hope of his calling” is beautifully expressed in this old hymn (excerpted here) written by John Nelson Darby, one of the founders in the early 1830s of the so-called “Plymouth Brethren”:

And is it so? I shall be like thy Son? Is this the grace which He for me has won?

Father of Glory (thought beyond all thought), In glory to His own blest likeness brought!

O Jesus, Lord...myself the prize and travail of Thy soul! Yet it must be!

Thy love had not its rest were they redeemed not with Thee, fully bless’d.

That love that gives not as the world but shares all it possesses with its loved co-heirs.

Nor I alone: Thy loved ones all, complete, in glory round Thee there with joy shall meet;

All...for Thy glory like Thee, Lord: object supreme of all, by all adored...

The heart is satisfied, can ask no more: all thought of self is now, forever, o’er.

Christ, its unmingled Object, fills the heart: in bless’d adoring love its endless part.

Father of Glory, in Thy presence bright all this shall be unfolded in the light!

The angel Gabriel told Daniel, “They that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever” (Dan 12:3). John explained when and how this transformation would occur: “When he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is” (1 Jn 3:2).

Though that transformation will not be fully realized until we see Him face to face, yet even now, though “we see through a glass, darkly” (1 Cor 13:12), we are, as we keep our eyes upon Him, being “changed into the same image from glory to glory...as by the Spirit of the Lord.” Let us lay all else aside to press on toward the prize “of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus!”

TBC

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

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

or e-mail: editorial@theberean.org

QUESTION: First Corinthians 5:11 says, “But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat.” Since Catholics are idolaters, where should a line be drawn in our social, familial, and work relationships with them? I frankly believe (and I used to be a strong Catholic) that we have become far too “chummy” with Catholics. Or am I just going overboard in my new zeal?

RESPONSE: The many Roman Catholics who become Christians find it necessary for conscience’ sake to leave that church very shortly thereafter, as you apparently did. Catholics thus encountered as neighbors or at work are in the same category as Mormons, Buddhists, or atheists as far as your relationship with them goes. No more with a Catholic than with an atheist should you join in a business partnership or marry or otherwise enter into any relationship that could be categorized as being “unequally yoked together with unbelievers.” Such alliances are forbidden (2 Corinthians 6:1-18).

Friendship, however that stops short of being “unequally yoked together” is encouraged in Scripture. We should show God’s love and compassion and concern for all with whom we come into contact, even those who hate us and who make themselves our enemies. God “maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust” (Matthew 5:44-48). Jesus was “a friend of publicans and sinners” (Matthew 11:19, Mark 2:15), and even ate in their homes (Luke 7:36, 14:15; Matthew 9:10). Friendship may assist in winning some to Christ.

The prohibition against eating with fornicators, idolaters, drunkards, etc., is limited to anyone who is “called a brother [or sister],” i.e., one who has been recognized as a Christian by those outside the church. The reason is twofold: to bring about repentance on his or her part, and also to let the world know that such behavior is not tolerated by the church.

QUESTION: Though I’ve read your excellent discussions on eternal security, I still need understanding of the following Scriptures—Romans 11:21-22: “...if thou continue in His goodness” sounds conditional; Colossians 1:22-23, “If ye continue in the faith...” ditto; Hebrews 3:6, 14 have the same idea; 2 Peter 2:20-22 speaks of those who have “escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord... and who were washed...being entangled again and overcome.” If these apparent contradictions could be covered in a future “Q&A,” it would be greatly appreciated.

RESPONSE: The New Testament contains frequent exhortations to godly living, to “continue in the faith” and to “hold fast the confidence firm unto the end” (Hebrews 3:6, 14) and to “walk worthy of the Lord” (Ephesians 4:1; Colossians 1:10), and warns of being “cut off” (Romans 11:22).

The exhortation is to two classes of people: (1) Those who are false professors, in order to show them that their lives demonstrate that they do not truly know the Lord; and (2) Christians who are living in disobedience, to warn them that if they continue to dishonor their Lord, He will severely discipline them. The latter could be “cut off” from fellowship with other believers, or from this life.

Peter completes his argument in the passage to which you refer (v. 22) with these words: “But it is happened unto them according

to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire.” That seems to make it clear that he has been referring to those who claim to be Christians but are not. He is not referring to “sheep,” who truly belong to the Good Shepherd, but to “dogs” and “pigs,” who got in among the flock for a time but didn’t belong and reverted to the behavior dictated by their unregenerate nature.

The Corinthian church was rife with division, disorder, debate, immorality and sacrilege. Never is there a hint in Paul’s epistles to them, however, that such sins had cost any of them their salvation. They were disciplined as Christians: “For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth...for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?” (Hebrews 12:6-8). Some, who gorged themselves and became drunk at the Lord’s table, dishonored the Lord to such an extent, not “discerning the Lord’s body,” that they were cut off in death (1 Corinthians 11:27-34)!

The man who had “his father’s wife”—a terrible sin—didn’t lose his salvation thereby, but, as a brother in Christ, he was cut off from fellowship in discipline (1 Corinthians 5:1-13); and was later restored (2 Corinthians 2:4-11).

QUESTION: If Christ took upon Himself the grave and the Lake of Fire, then there is no need of repentance and trusting Him for our salvation. Wouldn’t both penalties be paid in full?

RESPONSE: We could not be saved unless Christ paid in full the penalty demanded by God’s judgment against our sin. The penalty of sin is death. That is the sentence death has already passed upon man and will culminate in his separation from his body and from this planet and from God forever. God cannot merely make a bookkeeping entry in heaven. The debt demanded by His justice must be paid in full for man to be pardoned.

Why do we need to repent and believe in Christ if the penalty has been paid in full for everyone? The good news of the gospel is that salvation is offered to all.

That offer requires acceptance on man’s part. God does not force His love and grace upon anyone. Even the Calvinist, though denying any volition on man’s part, acknowledges that the offer must be accepted through the work of God’s grace. There is no hint that sin’s penalty for individuals can be isolated from the whole, or that Christ paid for each one’s sins individually. Just as to break one commandment is to be guilty of breaking the entire law (James 2:10), so Christ’s payment for even one sin would necessarily be payment for all.

QUESTION: When will “every eye see Him” (Revelation 1:7) and “every knee bow” (Philippians 2:10)?

RESPONSE: This will not occur at the Rapture, because at that time Christ does not come to earth but catches up His espoused bride to meet Him in the air. Only the redeemed who are taken to heaven will see Him: “Looking for that blessed hope...the glorious appearing of...Jesus Christ...” (Titus 2:13); “When he shall appear, we shall be like him...” (1 John 3:2), etc.

It will be at the Second Coming, when He returns to earth in power and judgment that “every eye shall see him...and all kindreds of the earth shall wail...” (Revelation 1:7). Then “every knee should bow...and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord...” (Philippians 2:10,11), etc.

LETTERS

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Dear TBC,

As long as popular social-media Christians continue to promote fables and invented lore for the sake of internet traffic through likes, shares, and subscriptions, I'm afraid we can expect this trend to continue with further speed. A significant portion of known evangelical influencers, in spite of their claim to encourage biblical discernment, have recently proven that their brand is far more important than biblical integrity. Anon. (email)

Dear TBC,

The Lord led me to one of Dave Hunt's videos on YouTube at a time in my life when I was ready to give up. I started reading my Bible with a glass of wine in one hand and a cigarette in another. Slowly but surely the Lord opened my eyes and heart. The chains of addiction and depression fell off without any effort on my part. Thank you, Berean Call, for putting these videos out. It's been ten years and I still keep coming back to them often. DH (email)

Dear TBC,

The gravest error of the reformers Luther and Calvin was that they did not go back far enough toward the source of truth.

TBC NOTES

"Lord, Help Me."

Growing up as a Roman Catholic, my prayer life was overloaded with supplements to supposedly boost the effectiveness of my spiritual endeavor. To name just a few, there was "the Rosary (including 50 Hail Marys), the Stations of the Cross, the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the Holy Face of Jesus, the various scapulars, the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Our Lady of Guadalupe, Seven Sorrows of Mary, novenas (nine successive prayer days) to various saints, and pilgrimages and devotions to the Blessed Sacrament."

After becoming a born-again believer in Jesus Christ, it took me a while for my prayer life to Jesus to become personal and intimate rather than my former rote and repetitious prayers as a Catholic. Now my prayers are more like conversations that I have with a Person I know and love, which I do.

They also have become shorter and more direct. One of my favorites is the prayer said to Jesus in Matthew 15 by the "woman of Canaan":

"Then came she and worshipped him, saying, Lord, help me" (v. 25).

Did that contain enough for Jesus to answer her request?

"Then Jesus answered and said unto her, O woman, great is thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou wilt. And her daughter was made whole from that very hour" (v. 28).

The Lord knows we all need His help, so I'm never reluctant to pray that simple prayer: "Lord, help me."

T. A. McMAHON
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Even though Luther popularized, and Calvin affirmed, the term "Sola Scriptura," both men relied heavily on Augustine, whose false teachings stemmed from multiple factors, including his reliance on very poor Latin translations of the Bible. His personal foibles in regards to sexuality led him to regard even sex as God intended—that is, exclusive and faithful relations between husband and wife—to somehow be sinful (much as a recovered alcoholic who becomes a militant prohibitionist, and refuses to see that full prohibition of alcohol is not a Biblical doctrine). And his personal hatred and loathing toward Pelagius that led him to import many aspects of his old Manichean religion into Christianity, and make up a "heresy" out of whole cloth and falsely attach the name of Pelagius to it.

To truly be free of Romanism and pursue pure Christianity, one must also reject any extra-biblical source as a basis for doctrine, building theology on the Bible, the whole Bible, and nothing but the Bible, rather than relying on the shaky and often contradictory positions of so-called "Church fathers." DN (email)

Dear TBC,

[Concerning more recent videos and movies:] "Creative license"!!! I wonder if that's what Satan called it when he twisted God's words to Adam and Eve as he deceived Eve in the garden? It seems to be a term that gives writers the excuse to lie incessantly to their audience under the guise of providing them with a more "interesting" narrative. CD (email)

Dear TBC,

I get your daily email, which I appreciate very much. Today's "Confronting Lenin's Dilemma" [see—<https://bit.ly/3NftxDq>] was outstanding! My wife and I have been missionaries in Kenya for the last 17 years, and I always look forward to reading your emails and monthly newsletters. I pass them along to pastors that I know. I have also downloaded a number of Brother Dave's books and pamphlets, and I share these as well. Thanks for all that you do! Come quickly, Lord Jesus! FC (email)

NOTE: Our purpose in this section is to simply show what kind of feedback we receive. We may respond to some of them in private whether or not we agree with their views.

QUOTABLE.....

"Christian expectation in the average church follows the program, not the promises. Prevailing spiritual conditions, however low, are accepted as inevitable. What will be is what has been. The weary slaves of the dull routine find it impossible to hope for anything better.

We need today a fresh spirit of anticipation that springs out of the promises of God. We must declare war on the mood of non-expectation, and come together with childlike faith. Only then can we know again the beauty and wonder of the Lord's presence among us."

—A.W. TOZER

END NOTES.....

1. Bruce Narramore, *You're Someone Special* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1978), 22.
2. Robert H. Schuller, *Self-Love, the Dynamic Force of Success: Learn to Love Yourself—the secret of happiness in life, in love, in everything you do* (New York: Hawthorn Books, W. Clement Stone, 1969), 32.

NEWSWATCH

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

REVIVING AN OLD-SCHOOL TEACHING METHOD

INTELLECTUALTAKEOUT.ORG, 5/8/23, "GEORGIA AND ARKANSAS REVIVE AN OLD-SCHOOL TEACHING METHOD" [EXCERPTS]: In his rousing keynote address at The Heritage Foundation's 50th anniversary gala last month, then-[former] Fox News host Tucker Carlson offered an unexpected piece of advice: "Don't throw away your hard-copy books."

Unlike digitized books, films, and albums that can be canceled, rewritten, or vanished altogether, physical copies are "the enduring repository that cannot be disappeared."

With their resurrection of poetry recitation requirements, educators in Georgia and Arkansas are protecting that repository in more ways than one, steeping students in a reality they can affirm, trust, and love.

Both states' recently proposed revised K-12 English language arts standards that would require that students recite "all or part of significant poems and speeches as appropriate by grade level," as the Georgia standards put it.

Against the incessant barrage of screens, images, and headlines that seems inescapable, leisure requires the silence, space, and attention to apprehend reality.

Hence, while no child needs to be taught how to be outraged or entertained, children must be taught how to occupy their leisure. That has always been the case...but is especially vital in a day and age in which children—indeed, all Americans—are constantly bombarded by different forms of entertainment totally at odds with genuine leisure.

(<https://bit.ly/3Cace1E>)

BULLET PROOF SPIDERS

CREATIONMOMENTS.COM, 5/9/23, "BULLET PROOF SPIDERS" [EXCERPTS]: The silk produced by spiders is very different from the silk produced by silkworms in some very important ways. While silkworm silk is strong yet not prone to stretching, spiders make silk that is both strong and stretchy.

In fact, spider silk is stronger than an equal amount of steel and yet it stretches. Spider silk is made of nothing more than proteins. However, scientists are finding it extremely difficult to study the chemical structure of spider silk because it resists most of their efforts to break it down into its chemical parts. Scientists have finally resorted to hot, concentrated acids to break

down the silk. They are learning that one type of spider silk is made up of lengths of very stiff amino acids, separated by segments of amino acids that form a springy helix. Together they contribute to the strength and stretchiness of spider silk.

Scientists are exploring how spider silk is made, because this wonderful material promises new methods for creating stronger and lighter materials for human use. One possible use would be making cloth that is both comfortable and bulletproof.

God has done all things well. The fact that we can learn to design better things by learning how He designed things is a witness for His wisdom as well as a witness against claims that the creation designed itself by trial and error. However, there is much more to God's plans for us, as you can learn from the Bible.

(<https://bit.ly/43tHip1>)

KING JAMES BIBLE BANNED FROM SOME SCHOOLS

TODDSTARNES.COM, 6/2/23, "KING JAMES BIBLE BANNED FROM SOME UTAH SCHOOLS" [EXCERPTS]: The King James Bible is being removed from elementary and middle school libraries in Davis County, Utah, after a complaint that it contained passages describing sex and violence.

High schools in the county will still be able to keep the scriptures on their library shelves. A three-person committee, appointed by the county school district to determine if the Bible is appropriate for students to see, found it contained vulgarity or violence, *The Salt Lake City Tribune* reported.

Davis County School District Communications Director Christopher Williams said that while the committee did not find that the book contained "sensitive material" as defined in Utah law, some vulgarity and violence was found to be inappropriate for younger readers.

The complaint against the Bible was filed by an unknown person in March, according to ABC4. It came after a state-wide law passed in 2022 permitted challenges to books found in school libraries.

ABC4 noted that...Davis County has removed 33 books for material deemed inappropriate for younger readers, including sex, vulgarity, and violence.

Meanwhile, Williams said an individual has already filed an appeal of the decision in an attempt to make the Bible available to all age levels in schools in the county.

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

THE BEREAN CALL

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President & Executive Director: T. A. McMahon

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RESOURCES ON PSYCHOLOGY AND COUNSELING BY THE BOBGANS



James Dobson's Gospel of Self-Esteem and Psychology

M&D Bobgan—There are pluses to Dr. James Dobson's ministry. However, after all the pluses and minuses are added together, it is concluded that Focus on the Family is an organization that too often honors man and his opinions over God and His Word. Contrary to what he claims, this book demonstrates that some of Dobson's basic assumptions and many of his specific teachings actually originated from secular psychological theorists whose opinions are based on godless foundations. Thus, Dobson uses the Bible as a sanction for dispensing unbiblical ideas to unsuspecting readers and listeners. The use of psychology to help people eclipses the Scriptures at Focus on the Family. Self-esteem and psychology are the two major thrusts that too often supersede sin, salvation, and sanctification. They are another gospel. —EastGate Publishers, 247 pp.

B00160

wt .8 **\$15.00**



Christian Response to Mental Illness

M&D Bobgan—The Christian response to mental illness is one of the great tragedies to ravage the church today. This tragedy began with the rise of the medical model of mental illness. The medical model used in the world of medicine has been hopelessly hijacked by those in the field of mental illness. The implications threaten the very foundations of psychiatry, as they depend on the medical model for diagnosing and treating mental disorders. These implications also threaten the foundations of psychotherapy and the biblical counseling movement as they follow the psychological counseling format. The purpose in writing this book is to encourage believers to minister to all who seek biblical, spiritual care, including individuals who are suffering from mental illness or who are suffering from other mental-emotional-behavioral issues, known in Scripture as trials and tribulations. —EastGate Publishers, 230 pp.

B17281

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Stop Counseling! Start Ministering!

M&D Bobgan—*Stop Counseling! Start Ministering!* tells why Christians should be opposed to counseling and literally Stop Counseling!

and Start Ministering! Central to ministering is helping individuals in need to overcome their fixation on their problems and encouraging them to become Christ-centered on a daily basis. —EastGate Publishers, 325 pp.

B17229

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Hypnosis—Medical, Scientific, or Occultic

M&D Bobgan—The Bobgans examine hypnosis from scientific, historical, and biblical perspectives. They explore and answer such questions as:

What is hypnosis? Is hypnosis a natural experience? Is all hypnosis the same or are there different types or varying degrees? Hypnotism is potentially dangerous at its best and is demonic at its worst. —EastGate Publishers, 142 pp.

B00186

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Person to Person Ministry—Soul Care in the Body of Christ

M&D Bobgan—This book reveals the innate sinfulness of problem-centered counseling, shows how it leads Christians into feeding the flesh and quenching the Spirit, and gives reasons why Christians must abandon this approach. —EastGate Publishers, 250 pp.

B07212

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The End of "Christian Psychology"

M&D Bobgan—"Christian" psychologists have simply borrowed their theories and techniques from this world's wisdom. Packed with biblical and scientific evidence, this book thoroughly demonstrates that professional psychotherapy, with its underlying psychologies, is questionable at best, detrimental at worst, and a spiritual counterfeit in any event. —EastGate Publishers, 290 pp.

and Start Ministering! Central to ministering is helping individuals in need to overcome their fixation on their problems and encouraging them to become Christ-centered on a daily basis. —EastGate Publishers, 325 pp.

B00127

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Competent to Minister—The Biblical Care of Souls

M&D Bobgan—What can believers do to help individuals suffering from problems of living? What should churches do for suffering souls? This

book calls Christians back to the Bible and to the biblically ordained ministries and mutual care in the Body of Christ that have effectively cared for souls for almost 2000 years. —EastGate Publishers, 251 pp.

B00119

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Christ-Centered Ministry

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

B80500

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12 Steps to Destruction—Codependency Recovery Heresies

M&D Bobgan—*12 Steps to Destruction* is written for those who are suffering from the trials of life and for those who want to help. It is for those who have tried Twelve-Step programs and recovery treatment centers and found them lacking. And, finally, it is to encourage Christians who offer such programs to return to the faith once delivered to the saints. —EastGate Publishers, 260 pp.

B00054

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Psychoheresy

M&D Bobgan—*Psychoheresy* exposes the fallacies and failure of psychological counseling theories and therapies; reveals the anti-Christian biases, internal contradictions, and documented failures of secular psychotherapy; and explodes firmly entrenched myths that undergird these unholy unions. —EastGate Publishers, 468 pp.

B00003

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Against Biblical Counseling

M&D Bobgan—The authors have provided a readable, challenging, controversial, and thought-provoking book about the rapidly expanding biblical counseling movement. —EastGate Publishers, 203 pp.

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Hunt—Overflowing with fantastic, fast-moving visuals spanning centuries of history and biblical prophecy to clarify current and future events, this powerful, compact history lesson documents how the current peace process is fraught with peril and why it is impossible for Jerusalem to know true peace in our age. —62 min.

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Living Hope Ministries—This presentation leaves no question as to the truth and accuracy of the Word of God and the falseness and inaccuracies found in the Book of Mormon. —66 min.

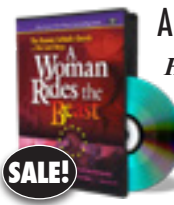
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M&D Bobgan—This 2-part discussion with Martin and Deidre Bobgan explains to viewers how psychotherapy, with its underlying psychologies, is one of the biggest and most demonic deceptions in the church today. —98 min.

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Hunt—Join Dave Hunt on this hour-long journey through history as he presents an overview of end-times prophecy and explains why he believes that a revived Roman Empire and the Church of Rome are major players in what lies ahead. —56 min.

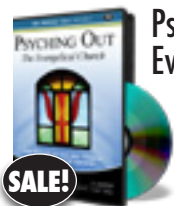
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Hunt—Using a number of different examples from history and Scripture, Dave expounds on Jeremiah 17:9, which is key to understanding our past, present, and future as individuals—and for believers, as the Body of Christ. —107 min.

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Psyching Out the Evangelical Church

McMahon—The Christian church in the United States has become a major referral service for clinical psychologists and psychiatrists. The critical question raised by these developments is: Why? T. A. McMahon takes these issues head-on. —51 min.

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Hunt—At TBC's 2008 Conference, Dave Hunt encouraged the saints with one of his most heartfelt exhortations on record to "love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength" (Mark 12:30)! —61 min.

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Hunt/McMahon—Two hours of Dave Hunt and T. A. McMahon, filmed in our radio studio for the video broadcast of *Search the Scriptures Daily* radio. These program segments are the most-requested of 2007, selected and organized by viewer popularity, making this one power-packed DVD. —121 min.

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Hunt—Dave's enthusiastic and factual response to "the new atheists" (e.g., Richard Dawkins, Sam Harris, Stephen Hawking, et al.) is a must for battling the evolutionists' indoctrination of our schools and society. —83 min.

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Connolly—Producer and narrator of the moving documentary on the life of George Müller titled *Obstacle to Comfort*, Ken Connolly delivers this stirring two-part examination of the Revival of 1859, including important historical examples and a biblical definition of true revival. —67 min.

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Hunt—Four exceptional talks from Dave Hunt: *The Cross in the Life of the Believer*; *Seeing Things the Way They Really Are*; *Love, Justice, and Truth*; and *What Is the Real Spirit-Filled Life?* —279 min.

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Connolly—The Scriptures were banned, burned, and ridiculed by rulers of every age, from Roman emperors to English monarchs. Many who dared to read and share the Word met horrible deaths. Yet God's truth could not be crushed. This four-volume video commentary by Ken Connolly is a spectacular sweep of history. —222 min.

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