

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

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

God’s Plan for the Clueless—A Personal Testimony

T. A. McMahon

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WHEN I SPEAK to young Christian adults, whether they are in the workplace or in college, a message that I hope encourages them concerns God’s willingness to guide their lives if that is their desire. I use His involvement in my own life throughout my 78 years as an example. The following is an abridged version of God’s gracious guidance, much of it well before I came to know Him personally.

I was born in Brooklyn, N.Y., and baptized Thomas Aloysius McMahon in the Roman Catholic Church. In my early grade-school years, my family moved to Apple Creek, Ohio, where my dad was a psychiatrist at the state mental health facility. Our home was on the 2,000-acre grounds of the institution. That aspect of my background came to light during the times when Dave Hunt and I were both speakers at conferences. Dave enjoyed mentioning to the audience that “Tom grew up in an insane asylum, so you really need to be Bereans in checking out what he says.” They thought he was joking until I admitted that he was correct on both accounts. My psychiatrist father was a director of a large mental institution and our family lived on the grounds.

My education was mostly under Catholic instruction, including elementary school, military school, and high school, as well as a brief time in a Catholic fraternity. I enjoyed my Catholic upbringing and looked upon many of the nuns and priests in my life as extended family members. Those fond memories remain.

I attended The Ohio State University, which brings to mind two quotes from my parents. When asked by friends what I was majoring in, my father noted with a touch of amusement, “The path of least resistance.” (I was a Fine Arts major in undergraduate school.) My mother, years later, surmised that my career objective seemed to be to “stay in school.” There’s little doubt that my sense of humor sprang from both parents, although I’m not sure that Mom was kidding: I was entering my seventh year at Ohio State at the time of her comment!

To be fair to myself (sort of), my last years there were in graduate school. I stayed on the “path of least resistance” by majoring in film, which primarily entailed watching lots and lots of movies. If I read a book during that time, I don’t remember it. My goal from there was to “earn” a Ph.D. and settle into a teaching position, perhaps at The Ohio State University. Although it looked like a straight shot to achieving my final academic degree, I was troubled by a lack of actual movie experience on the part of those who would oversee my dissertation and thesis project. Only one of my professors had actually worked in the theatrical movie industry. So I decided to head for Hollywood, get some big-time experience, and then return to campus as a “professor.”

Prior to that adventure, another “adventure” took place: I got married. There were complications, however. My bride-to-be, Peggy, was an Episcopalian. My plan was for us to be married in a ceremony co-officiated by a Catholic priest and an Episcopal priest. The Church of Rome side, however, had some conditions to which Peggy had to conform. I was hopeful that the Paulist priests on

campus would supply me with reasons that would make sense to my first-year law student fiancée. What they offered, however, was basically the same response that I had received throughout my own days in Catholic elementary and high school: “...because the Church says so!” Consequently, we were married in an Episcopal church, and that was the beginning of the end of my life as a practicing Catholic.

Our trek to Southern California in our VW bus began with Peggy’s transfer from Ohio State to UCLA to begin her second year of law school (which she gave up the first day of class in favor of surfing, an activity that we both greatly preferred at the time over our potential career choices). Nevertheless, as our financial resources were thinning, I doubled my efforts to gain employment at any of the major film studios and, amazingly, was soon hired by 20th Century-Fox (TCF). This was surprising because my film education had no bearing on their hiring me. It was rather my design background in fine arts! I worked in TCF’s Advertising/Publicity department for a number of years, all the while trying to get a job on an actual movie production. Although I had met many film producers, they all said pretty much the same thing. Any movie position for which I was qualified was always meted out on the basis of nepotism, i.e., reserved for sons, daughters, nieces, and nephews—and no one was interested in adopting me.

One producer who showed some interest in my dilemma offered a suggestion: write a script, sell it, and make a production position part of the deal. Great idea! It worked for Sylvester Stallone and his *Rocky* series. Yet there was a problem for me. I couldn’t put two sentences together—and I had the English Comp. grades to testify to that fact. Nonetheless, it was my only hope. On the studio lot at TCF, there were a number of young “wannabes”: aspiring actors, directors, producers, scriptwriters, etc. In that group was a young lady who got “stuck” in the accounting department. She was a gifted writer. We teamed up. She supplied most of the writing and I learned how to write scripts in the process. My role, for the most part in the beginning, was to take our screenplays and try to sell them to the producers whom I knew at TCF. After a few “good try, but not commercial enough” rejections, I got a few directors interested in a couple of scripts and then had the opportunity to translate an epic novel to the screen: James Michener’s *Caravans*. The movie starred Anthony Quinn and was shot on location in Iran, a country where the seeds of an Islamic revolution were being sown at the time by the Ayatollah Khomeini and eventually resulted in the overthrow of the Shah.

By that point in my life, between my studio experience and film production involvement, I had accomplished my “Hollywood experience” teaching objectives and considered returning to school as a professor. But some dramatic events in our household now complicated that decision.

Peggy was pregnant with our first child, and she had also become “one of those born-again Christians.” I was very excited about the former, and perplexed—even put off—by the latter. Although I had ceased to practice the faith of my youth, my attitude was: “I was born a Catholic and I’ll die a Catholic.” That mantra, of course, had no basis in reason, logic, or any value whatsoever, particularly for someone like me, who hadn’t been in a Catholic church in nearly a decade. Nevertheless, I stuck to it as my main defense

when evangelicals—including many of my former Catholic family members—began to witness to me. The onslaught at times seemed fierce, particularly when my three-year-old niece would call periodically and ask with a zeal well beyond her age: “Uncle Tommy, have you asked Jesus into your heart yet?” I managed rage control as I sweetly asked to speak to her mother, my sister. Then I let it fly.

I rejected every effort on the part of one and all to influence me spiritually. I rejected offers to attend church, lectures, special speakers, Bible studies, and so forth. I did attend Peggy’s baptism, which only confirmed my bias against those non-Catholics. Not only was she “dunked”—she was dunked in a swimming pool! How spiritual could that be? The most difficult part of maintaining my wall of resistance, however, was the group of evangelical friends that Peggy had met. I liked them a lot and enjoyed socializing with them, except for the annoying witnessing part.

Of course, they and all my believing family members and their friends were praying for me, and God was working in unexpected ways. Peggy and her friends got me to go to an evangelical church for the first time by telling me that I could bring my surfboard. Surfing was not part of the service, but the meeting did take place at a beach. Initially, only the waves and the other aspects of beach life that might attract and distract a young guy captured my attention. But gradually, I spent more time listening to the message. That led to questions, an exercise that had often gotten me into trouble during my childhood catechism classes and that the priests had answered with the usual: “because the Church says so!”

As I listened to the preaching, I began to ask our evangelical friends questions, just as I had the nuns and priests throughout my life. Rather than giving me a Church’s authoritarian response or some “expert’s” declaration, they had me read what the Bible had to say on the subject. That was different, even encouraging. Although not a believer yet, I participated in a couples Bible study, which for my new evangelical friends, it was at times a bit like having a Michigan Wolverine in attendance at a Buckeye pep rally. For me, however, the Lord broke down my pride-stiffened heart and opened it to much information that helped me understand that my sins had separated me from God, and the only way I could be reconciled to Him was to accept by faith the reality that Christ had paid the full penalty for my sins—past, present, and future. I came to understand that there was no other way to be saved, yet my lingering Catholic works-salvation background kept me at bay.

I had a lot to think about during that time period: a baby on the way, a potentially life-changing commitment to Christ, a trip to Iran for the filming of *Caravans*. The last item was resolved quickly. It all came down to the star of the movie and the producer’s wife’s alterations to the script versus this young writer’s objections—and consequently, someone had to go. I was unceremoniously put on the next plane to London and then back to the U.S. The good news in that experience was that it showed me I shouldn’t trust in circumstances but rather that I needed to put my complete trust in the Lord, which I did by faith shortly after my return home.

What followed can only be truly understood as God’s further orchestration of my life. I was soon introduced by a Christian documentary filmmaker to a man who had a story idea for a movie. The story treatment included UFOs, psychic phenomena, Eastern mysticism, and other rather bizarre ideas, entertaining but bizarre. I returned to his house and told him that I had no clue as to what any of those things had to do with Christianity. I added that I didn’t know the Bible that well, so I was sorry that I couldn’t help him. His response was that he could teach me how those things related to the Bible, and if I was willing, I could teach him how to write a screenplay. (The script eventually became the basis for the novel *Mind Invaders*, formerly *The Archon Conspiracy*.) Thus began forty-some years of my helping Dave Hunt to do what God had called him to do. I had no understanding of what a biblical calling was, but I knew in my heart that I was to help this man whom I had just met by God’s leading.

Equipped with simply a calling and the gift of helps (1 Corinthians 12:28), I saw by faith God’s amazing guidance in my life for His own purposes. The Berean Call (TBC) is a fairly complex, international ministry involved with newsletter publishing, book publishing, audio and video production, radio broadcasting, broad resource material sales and production, an extensive website, etc. It began 30 years ago, with me, nearly computer illiterate, working at a card table in Dave’s make-shift bedroom-turned-office.

It was *The Seduction of Christianity* that motivated us to begin TBC. After Dave had written *The Cult Explosion* and *The God Makers*, and I had been involved in the production of the film documentaries of the same name, we received numerous letters from Christians who were concerned that many of the cult teachings that we had exposed were coming into their charismatic and evangelical churches. *The Seduction of Christianity* was written to address those biblically erroneous teachings and practices, which have grown exponentially over the last half-century.

To underscore the point of this article, that God guides (in my case) the clueless—also known as the “foolish things of this world” (1 Corinthians 1:27)—here is a likely interview if the world were to consider hiring me today for the position of executive director of TBC based upon my background, education, and resume: “Let’s see, you grew up Roman Catholic...you spent a portion of your childhood at a mental institution...you have a degree in Fine Arts...you majored in film in graduate school.... Hmm...I see no business education or experience. I see no formal theological training. No seminary or Bible school.... You worked for a major Hollywood movie studio. You wrote screenplays for movies. So, Mr. McMahon, why do you think any of that could possibly qualify you to direct a Christian ministry?” The way the world thinks, I’m sure I would hear... “Are you sure you didn’t wander into this interview by mistake?” No, I wandered into Dave Hunt’s house about 40 years ago by God’s providence and direction, and I knew that I was supposed to help Mr. Hunt do what God had called him to do. That was the only part about which I was not clueless.

I had no other game plan, no vision, no marketing strategy—but what I did have was a willingness to be used of the Lord in Dave’s life. The Lord has orchestrated all the rest over the last four decades or so.

Would you like some examples of the Lord’s “practical” orchestration? My Catholic background has helped me to write extensively about the unbiblical teachings of Roman Catholicism. I was one of the co-founders of a co-operative ministry called Reaching Catholics for Christ, which was supported by The Berean Call. My growing up in the mental health community helped me to write first-hand about the pseudo-science of psychological counseling. My Irish heritage has blessed me with “a kiss of the blarney” that has enabled me to do radio. My Fine Arts and film background have helped me to produce Christian documentaries and videos such as *The Godmakers; A Woman Rides the Beast; Israel, Islam, and Armageddon; and Psychology and the Church*. My screenwriting experience in Hollywood helped me to learn a craft that was terribly foreign to me. It’s called...writing.

I tell young people that for the first 30 years of my life I wasn’t a believer, yet who can deny that God was orchestrating my life? How much more so, then, will He do the same for those who know Him and are desirous of and pray for His will in their lives? All that a believer needs to be fruitful in his or her life in Christ is to be willing to be used of the Lord. God supplies the rest through the Holy Spirit, who leads, guides, directs, corrects, gifts, and enables.

“For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God has chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: That no flesh should glory in his presence” (1 Corinthians 1:26-29).

TBC

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

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

or e-mail: editorial@theberean.org

QUESTION: How can you believe both in God’s foreknowledge and that man has the power of choice? If God knows ahead of time that Mr. A is going to do something, how can Mr. A decide for himself? Isn’t foreknowledge the same as predestination?

RESPONSE: The biblical doctrine of foreknowledge simply states that God knows everything that will happen before it happens—which, as God, He must know. Prophecy, in which God reveals His foreknowledge, is the major part of Scriptures, the great proof that God exists and that the Bible is His Word (Isaiah 42:9; 43:10; 46:9-10; 48:5, etc.). Prophecy is also the foundation of the gospel (Romans 1:1-3; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4, etc.). Scripture never says or even implies that God knows all beforehand *because He has caused it*—much less that He must cause it in order to know it. The future is as plain to Him as the past.

The future is part of time, which is part of this physical universe. God is not part of the universe (which He created out of nothing), but He is separate from it. Perhaps He observes the universe from the outside including past, present, and future time, seeing it all at once. It is not necessary for us to know *how* God knows the future but we know He *must*.

Scripture makes it clear that God is no passive observer, entirely disinterested in events taking their own course in the universe He has created. He keeps a watchful eye and plays an active part because He has an eternal purpose for all creation. He exerts His influence upon men and events in order to create the future that He desires. He makes no last-minute emergency adjustments but has eternally foreknown whatever He would do to implement His plans: “Known unto God are all his works from the beginning of the world” (Acts 15:18).

Predestination and foreknowledge cannot be the same. God’s foreknowledge doesn’t make things happen. To know something in advance is not the same as predetermining that it will happen. Nor does God need to predestine something in order to know it will happen. Were that the case, God would not be infinite in His knowledge. There is a vast difference between saying that God fully *foresees* everything that will happen and *allows* much that is not His perfect will—and saying that God *predetermines* everything that occurs and is therefore all just as He would have it. The latter view makes man a mere puppet and God the cause behind all wickedness and sin.

Luther asserts that “God foreknows and wills all things.” He argues that if this is not true, then “how can you believe, trust, and rely on His promises?” The answer is, “Quite easily. We rely upon God’s promises because He is God and cannot lie.” Furthermore, it is neither logically necessary nor biblical to proclaim that unless God wills all things He cannot make and receive promises. Clearly, what God promises and determines to do He will do regardless of the will or actions of man or nature. That He is able to protect us and bring us to heaven does not require that He must will every event that swirls about us—only that He must have known them and taken them into account in effecting His eternal purpose.

You ask how God’s foreknowledge and man’s free will could both be true. Surely whatever God foreknows will happen, *must happen*, or His foreknowledge would be wrong. Nothing can prevent what God foreknows from happening, so a person might ask how man could be a free moral agent. Even though God may be looking in upon time from outside, doesn’t the fact that He knows the future eliminate man’s choice? If the future must happen, as God knows it will, isn’t everything predetermined?

Claiming that the issue of free will was the very heart of the Reformation and of the gospel itself, Luther dogmatically declared that it was impossible for God to foreknow the future and for man at the same time to be a free agent to act as he wills. Believing firmly in God’s foreknowledge, Luther wrote *The Bondage of the Will* to prove that the very idea of man’s free will is a fallacy and an illusion. In fact, *Bondage* itself is full of fallacies, both logical and biblical, as we pointed out in *What Love Is This?* (Dave’s book in defense of God’s character).

Calvin states no less dogmatically than Luther that foreknowledge leaves no room whatsoever for free will. Period. We are astonished that Calvin repeatedly makes fallacious, unbiblical statements; and doubly astounded that so many leading evangelicals continue to praise him for being so logical and such a great exegete. If God cannot know by His foreknowledge what every person will think and do by their own free will, then He is not God. Moreover, the fact that God is able to allow man freedom of choice while still effecting His eternal purposes unhindered is all the more glorifying to His sovereign wisdom, power, and foreknowledge.

What is future to us may not be future to God: He sees not only our past but our present and future as already having happened. From this understanding, God’s knowledge of what in our experience hasn’t yet happened would have no effect upon its occurrence and therefore would leave us free to choose.

Even Augustine (known as the father of modern Catholicism), whom both Calvin and Luther admired, clearly affirmed that there is no incompatibility between God’s absolute sovereignty and foreknowledge and man’s free will.

Therefore, we are by no means compelled, either, retaining the prescience (foreknowledge) of God to take away the freedom of the will, or, retaining the freedom of the will to deny that He is prescient of future things, which is impious (disrespectful). But we faithfully and sincerely confess both.

We don’t accept something because someone, no matter how great their reputation, says it. The Bible is our authority. We believe that what we have said here is scriptural, but each reader must be a Berean and come to his or her own conclusions on the basis of Scripture.

QUESTION: How could it be possible for Noah and his family to have collected and housed and fed and cleaned up after all of the literally millions of different species of “every creeping thing of the earth” as well as birds and animals and the different species that dwell only in specific areas of the world, like kangaroos or penguins? How can I tell my kids this was possible when it obviously is not? And how did all the different races come about? They are so distinct—Africans, Asians, Chinese, Japanese, etc. Could you shed any light on this subject?

RESPONSE: There would have been far fewer animals and birds 4,500 years ago, from which came all of the ones we have today. For example, we have scores of kinds of dogs today, but all of them, including the wolf and coyote, are a common species and would have come from a single pair in Noah’s day.

As for races of human beings, there is only one race, not many. The very foundation of racism is false. According to the Bible we all descended from Noah and his family, who descended from Adam and Eve. The different characteristics of skin color and physical features developed over time. Rather than attempting an explanation in limited space, let me recommend an excellent book that goes into this subject in detail: *The Answers Book*, by Ham, Snelling, and Wieland.

LETTERS

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Dear TBC,

Brother Dave Hunt left a legacy of preaching the Word of God accurately without compromise. Just like the wonderful men and women of God in the Bible we can still learn and be blessed by the many wonderful and biblical messages of the late Dave Hunt. I am thankful for this wonderful ministry who has continued to provide their listeners with timeless and biblical truths from the Holy Word of God. Anon. (email)

Tom,

I so agree with you about how the world reacts on sacred holidays [TBC: See—<https://bit.ly/44sQFG9>]. And people who don't know the Truth eat it up and think they have found something new and better. Jesus said, "Don't be deceived." But it's real easy when they won't allow the Truth to set you free indeed. CP (email)

Dear TBC,

As a Protestant I've listened to sermons about why the Catholic church is wrong. But to be fair I like to see what people (the church) have to say for themselves. So I've been listening to a Catholic radio station. I've listened to converts like Scott De Hahn and a couple of others. I've listened to lectures by a priest. He's an excellent speaker. He is part of a Marian congregation. I have to say so far he's had a lot more to say about Mary than anything else.

To be honest the more I listened the more horrified I've been. Right now I am reading *Total Consecration to Jesus through Mary* by Louis De Montfort. There is a lot of Mary so far, not much of Jesus. One of the most horrifying things I read was that Mary is the daughter of the Father, mother of the Son, and spouse

of the Holy Spirit. So therefore because she loves them, they want to please her, it's best to go through her. God the Father is so high up and all judgy but we have Jesus as our mediator. But he's still God so He can still be cold and judgmental. So it's best to go through Mary, she's mostly human and so loving you don't really want to bother God but Mary is happy to help. She is already being called Mediatrix and co-redemptrix, so the next step would be at least to be a demigod. PC (email)

Dear TBC,

In the last 3 years of my life it seems my husband and I have been hit with a four pronged spiritual "attack." I put "attack" in quotes, because I try to avoid Christianese speaking or over extending Biblical concepts into my personal life. I think phrases like "the Holy Spirit told me" and "I was called to" are greatly abused. Still, we completely believe in the spiritual part of life as presented in the Bible.

But back to the recent struggles: As I look back, all of these issues have been around and simmering in various ways, though not always by the same names or vocabulary, but they had not impacted us so directly or openly before. The four things are the perversion of the gospel in 1. *The Shack*, 2. Theophostic prayer, 3. Calvinism, 4. *The Chosen*. In brief, some long time friends succumbed to *The Shack* and tried to introduce that way of thinking to everyone in our fellowship. It took months before we truly understood where they were headed, because they were subtle in how they used language and tried to change meanings.

My husband and I confronted the now obviously false, anti-Biblical perspective and they withdrew from our fellowship. After the fact we found out that they had been speaking more openly with others in the fellowship, trying to persuade them with further books, such as *Ten Lies We Are Taught About God*, also by Paul Young (I think that's the title). It was a position we had never been in before, where we needed to so openly expose and confront false doctrine. Anon. (email)

Dear TBC,

Thank you so much for this sincerely, from one who is in Canada, a born again remnant believer, who has been witnessing...our nation continue to become taken over by the spirit of the Antichrist, and thus witness our nation (and all others) as being part of the rise of the final kingdom, the Antichrist kingdom. I truly pray that the Lord may grant us what He knows we require to finish the race, amen. May He bless you as He wills. L (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.....

"Salvation comes on God's terms and by His grace, and we negotiate the gospel neither with God nor with one another. 'The Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world' (1 John 4:14). Salvation is a work of God and His Son. We either believe it or reject it. We don't 'dialogue' about it. Nor does a church or religious organization have a franchise for dispensing it. Salvation is free from God without any 'middleman.' It is granted to 'whosoever' will take God at His word and accept His pardon by faith."

—DAVE HUNT

TBC NOTES

Rai-son d'ê-tre

I took three foreign languages (French, Italian, and Latin) in my school days and it was only by an incredible act of mercy by each of my teachers that they moved me on after literally suffering my inept participation for a year. It wasn't that I didn't want to learn those languages, there was just a mental blockade that I couldn't get past. How hard did I try? The staff at my college language listening center didn't believe I was registered in a dorm. Why? I always had a sleeping bag with me that sustained me through hours, and I mean hours, of listening to language tapes.

Yet, there was one French term that stuck with me then, and is wonderfully significant for me today. I'll let you figure out how to pronounce *rai-son d'ê-tre*. It translates as a person's purpose or reason for living. It's why they do things. It's the most important thing in his or her life.

Jesus is my *rai-son d'ê-tre*. I pray He's yours.

T. A. McMAHON
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

NEWSWATCH

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

THE REAL REFORM OF EDUCATION

INTELLECTUAL TAKEOUT.ORG, 4/6/23, "THE REAL REFORM OF EDUCATION" [EXCERPTS]: Unlike any other point in the prior four decades, the push to reform the education system through school choice has serious political support and is likely to be passed in many states in the coming years.

[Education] reformers have met with success in showing how the education system, despite sucking up ever more taxpayer funds, has declined so precipitously that many teachers and schools fail to achieve the mission of educating America's youth.

The great catalysts to change, though, were not the work of education reformers but rather the combination of lockdowns and woke teachers revealed through social media.... The COVID lockdowns allowed parents to see what is passing for education these days [with many] troubled by the apparent leftist cultural framing of nearly every subject.... Libs of TikTok revealed the radical LGBTQ+ propagandizing taking place in classrooms.... Parents were horrified and rightly so.

Due to what they saw, many parents made dramatic changes.... Homeschooling has skyrocketed while private schools find their student populations growing. With parents getting more engaged and shouldering the responsibility of pulling their kids from the public schools, it [is] no surprise that they look at the current education situation as unfair and want education reform.

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

CHILDREN UNDER ASSAULT

MIDWEST OUTREACH.ORG, 5/18/23, "CHILDREN UNDER ASSAULT" [EXCERPTS]: The sweeping away of Judeo/Christian morality left the gates wide open to devalue humans, especially children, and use them in the most important pastime for progressives, sex! The current administration, in collusion with the institutions of "higher learning" and progressive media, has staged a united assault on children. For example, the name you cannot trust, "NYT Publishes 'Shameful' Article Dismissing Kids Who Regret Chemical Castration"; [The author] "...also noted that while the NYT article touted sex changes for minors as medically approved treatments for gender dysphoria, it made no mention of the myriad of European countries moving to limit sex changes and classify those offered to minors as "experimental."

"So I think this was a shameful paper because it shamed and it criticized these children. It really was a very dishonest article. It was hardly journalism. It was advocacy," [the writer] continued.

Kara Dansky, a self-described feminist who campaigns for sex-based rights for women, blasted the *NYT* article on Twitter.

"You paint detransition as a rare occurrence. You couldn't bother to mention that the detrans subreddit [online discussion] has greater than 47,000 members as of today?"

While the Progressives are busy experimenting with and harming the minds and bodies of the children, "The Next Frontier For The Hypersexualized Left: Normalizing Pedophilia": "As *The Federalist* has recently reported, it's becoming increasingly clear that the left is pushing toward social and legal approval of pedophilia. A failed effort in the Minnesota legislature to extend state-law protection to pedophilia as a sexual orientation should remove any doubt about where we're headed."

(<https://bit.ly/44uJY5T>)

DID BEETLES FEED ON DINOSAUR FEATHERS?

ANSWERS IN GENESIS.ORG, 5/4/23, "DID BEETLES FEED ON DINOSAUR FEATHERS?" [EXCERPTS]: What you believe about the past becomes the lens through which you interpret the evidence in the present. Another great example of that was in the news recently under the headline "Beetles fed on dinosaur feathers 105 million years ago."

In a chunk of amber...researchers discovered bits of downy feathers and larval molts from beetles that are very similar to beetles that live today. Now, our beetles today often live in bird's nests, nibbling away at shed bird's feathers. But what was the headline announcing the discovery of these beetles with a few feathers? "Beetles fed on dinosaur feathers."

Is there any evidence these feathers came from "an unknown theropod dinosaur," as the article states? No, none at all—they look like feathers that come from birds. But because of the scientists' assumptions about the age of the amber, the evolutionary history of birds, and the belief that dinosaurs were birds, we get a silly headline stating that beetles ate dinosaur feathers. This is a reminder that you can't believe everything you read in science articles and need to carefully check things out for yourself.

(<https://bit.ly/44rcwxd>)

THE BEREAN CALL

Founder: Dave Hunt
President & Executive Director: T. A. McMahon

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JOIN US! FOR OUR 2023 ONLINE BIBLE CONFERENCE – SEPT 6-8

FOR THOSE WHO aren't able to meet with us in Bend this year, we hope that you will consider joining our online 2023 Conference.

Invite friends, family, your Bible study group, or even your whole church! Everyone will be able to watch the conference while it's "live" or anytime thereafter. All of the conference talks will be posted to various platforms online, and DVDs will be available also, so no one needs to miss out on anything!

We're very excited about our lineup of godly speakers this year—Carl Teichrib, Jay Seegert, Lee Brainard, T. A. McMahon, Randy Guliuzza, Brad Huddleston, Terry Webb, Dave Hunt, and Mike Warren. All of the speakers' bios, topics, and speaking times can be found on our website. Go to www.thebereancall.org/conference.

"When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the LORD shall lift up a standard against him" (Isaiah 59:19).

We hope to see you soon!

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE AND TALKS:

Wednesday - September 6

1:00 pm Dave Hunt - *Faith*

2:30 pm Carl Teichrib - *Interfaithism: Uniting Religions for One World*

4:00 pm Jay Seegert - *Who Am I?*

5:30 pm Brad Huddleston - *Digital Addiction: What the Neuroscience Shows*

Thursday - September 7

1:00 pm Randy Guliuzza - *Answers to Three Key Questions about Creation and Evolution*

2:30 pm Terry Webb - *The Love of God*

4:00 pm Brad Huddleston - *Technology vs. Intimacy with God*

5:30 pm Lee Brainard - *Seven Strong Arguments for a Pretrib Rapture*

Friday - September 8

1:00 pm Carl Teichrib - *Desert Encounters: Evolutionary Culture and the Christian Message*

2:30 pm Jay Seegert - *Faith is Not a Four-Lettered Word*

4:00 pm Randy Guliuzza - *Getting from Darwin to Engineered Biology*

5:30 pm Mike Warren - *The Five Foundation Stones of the Early Church*

7:00 pm T. A. McMahon - *Where Are We... and Where Do We Need to Be?*

All times are Pacific Daylight Time.

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Please sign up at www.thebereancall.org/conference • Or call 800-937-6638

“LET THE WORD OF CHRIST DWELL IN YOU RICHLY...”



SALE!

Seeking and Finding God

Hunt—Readers of Dave’s book, *An Urgent Call to a Serious Faith*, will recognize and appreciate that this handy volume includes revised versions 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. It is astonishing how many millions of otherwise seemingly intelligent people are willing to risk their eternal destiny upon less evidence than they would require for buying a car or even a low-carb food item—yet the belief of so many, particularly in the area of religion, has no rational or factual foundation. With well-researched arguments and compelling proof, this book demonstrates that the issue of where one will spend eternity is not a matter of preference. In fact, there is overwhelming evidence that we are eternal beings who will spend eternity somewhere. But where will it be? There is no more important question to be faced—and answered. The Berean Call, 156 pp.

B00082 “Intercession” cover design wt .4 **SALE \$8.50**

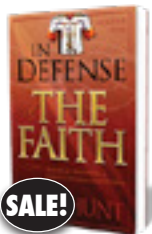


Food for New Believers

Tatham—Every human being needs food and water and fresh air. No one can live and grow without these things. New believers have been born again, and they have life, but they need food and drink, the truth of God.

They need the Bible. *Food for New Believers* points out some of the truths which the new believer must know. Everyday Publications, 48 pp.

B58618 wt .2 **\$3.50**

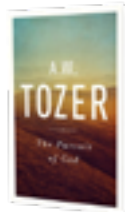


SALE!

In Defense of the Faith

Hunt—When confronted with uncomfortable questions, are you able to stand firm and “earnestly contend for the faith”? With the keen eye of an experienced treasure hunter, Dave helps readers probe and unearth the incredible wealth of guidance found in God’s Word. The resulting adventure will not only strengthen your faith, but it will equip you to live “godly in Christ Jesus” in an increasingly hostile world. The Berean Call, 373 pp.

B60668 wt 1.1 **SALE \$15.00**



The Pursuit of God

Tozer—Whether you are thirsting for more of God or do not yet know of the “mighty longing after God” that so consumed A. W. Tozer’s life and ministry, *The Pursuit of God* will draw you into a deep, abiding relationship with the One who “nourishes the soul.” This spiritual masterpiece exposes the roadblocks that keep us from fully knowing God, reveals our responsibility of the pursuit, and ultimately leads us into the very presence of God himself. Moody Publishers, 131 pp.

B93663 wt .3 **\$12.00**



The Disciple's Manual

MacDonald—*The Disciple's Manual* is pure, undiluted Christianity. What every disciple is called to is as radical as it comes. For more than half a century, practicing and proclaiming biblical discipleship was the late William MacDonald’s heart-beat. This is that life’s ministry captured for you in a book. Hundreds of practical helps on key issues: The Challenge of Personal Evangelism • Keep Yourself Pure • Your Daily Time with Jesus • One-On-One Discipleship, and much more! Gospel Folio Press, 427 pp.

B01860 wt 1.4 **\$19.50**

SUMMER READING FOR YOUNG BEREANS!



God Never Changes

Mackenzie—Did you know that God never changes? Read this book and you will learn that God is the same God always! Part of the *Learn about God* collection. Christian Focus Publications, Full-color, board book, 12 pp.

B53787 Ages 0-3 yrs wt .2 **\$4.00**



God Is Everywhere

Mackenzie—Did you know that God is everywhere? Read this book and you will learn about how amazing God is! Part of the *Learn about God* collection. Christian Focus Publications, Full-color, board book, 12 pp.

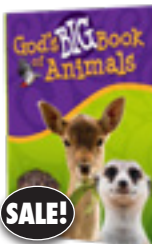
B24800 Ages 0-3 yrs wt .2 **\$4.00**



God Is Kind

Mackenzie—Did you know that God is kind? Read this book and you will be amazed at how kind God really is! Part of the *Learn about God* collection. Christian Focus Publications, Full-color, board book, 12 pp.

B24763 Ages 0-3 yrs wt .2 **\$4.00**



SALE!

God's Big Book of Animals

Kashtan—In this book you’ll read about 60 of God’s amazing creatures, from the tiny shrew to the mighty elephant. Enjoy a book that makes studying animals both fun and educational! Captivating, full-color photographs of all the animals • Conversational tone that kids find engaging • Presents animals and their origins from a strong biblical, young-earth creationist worldview! Master Books, HB, 247 pp.

B05960 Ages 5-13 wt 3.6 **SALE \$25.00**



Jesus the Way

Hammond—Edward Payson Hammond spent much of his life and ministry traveling the world to preach the Gospel, with a special emphasis upon children. This volume will capture the attention of the youngest children as Hammond relates his experience of first entering his journey to the city of Jerusalem. Each of the first four chapters is a moving appeal to children to turn from sin to trust the Savior of sinners. The final chapter is addressed to those who have come to saving faith in Christ. Solid Ground, 108 pp.

B50359 Ages 6-12 wt .3 **\$11.00**



SALE!

The Work of Your Hand: Fingerprints, God, and You!

Rivera—There is one part of you that is completely and unmistakably unique—your fingerprints! Discover loops, arcs, whorls, and whys of God’s remarkable designs! Nothing reveals the individual nature of ourselves more than our own fingerprints. Creatively reinforces each child’s connection to God with activities, science facts, and points of faith. Master Books, HB, 46 pp.

B01489 Ages 4-12 wt .8 **SALE \$12.00**



A Very Present Help

Ruth Hunt—“God, where are you?” From Adam and Eve to Samson to David and beyond, we may catch glimpses of ourselves in the feats and foibles and even the deep loneliness of these very human characters through whom God chose to work amazing acts. With great skill and Spirit-filled insight, Mrs. Hunt ties each Bible story back to mankind’s only source of help and beautifully reveals how Christian love and compassion can banish loneliness and despair forever. Her sensitive approach to her subject gives special impetus to all who yearn to solve personal problems of loneliness, and to those who, in the spirit of Christ-like love, wish to respond to the needs of lonely people around them. The Berean Call, 179 pp.

B60798 wt.5 **SALE \$8.50**

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