



THE TEMPORAL DELUSION—PART 2

by T. A. McMAHON

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#### The Temporal Delusion Pt. 2

T. A. McMahon

Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him....And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

— (1 John 2:15-17)

This series addresses a troubling trend within Christendom today. Our concern is that if professing believers in Jesus Christ are hung up on the temporal aspects of life on earth, then they are caught up in a delusion at best. They are missing the heart of what God wants for them, and, at worst, they could be unwittingly contributing to the kingdom and religion of the Antichrist.

As was indicated in part one of this series, this earthbound focus is not a new condition in the history of the world—or the church, for that matter. From the tower of Babel on, humanity has attempted to create a utopia and build a kingdom, either independent of God or, allegedly, in the *name* of God but for its own end. For those who call themselves Christians, there is a simple test to discern whether they have fallen prey to such a delusion: are their thinking and actions consistent with what the Word of God says about the kingdom of God, the rapture of the church, the prophetic endtime warnings of the Word, the final plight of the world in rebellion, and the eternal destiny of those who love the Lord?

The mark of a true Christian is that he or she conforms to what the Scriptures teach. Those who conform to the goals or agendas of the world, either personally or by participating in organized programs that compromise what the Bible teaches, although they may indeed be believers, are nevertheless drifting away from the faith (Hebrews 2:1). This means that one's temporal fruitfulness in Christ and eternal rewards will be adversely affected—but not one's eternal future with Jesus, which was secured by our Lord's full payment for all our sins.

The Bible doesn't make an esoteric issue or a cryptic mystery of what lies ahead for life on this planet. It simply and clearly informs us as to what has taken place in ancient times and what will take place in the future.

From the time of man's first sin against God in the Garden of Eden to our present day, the effects of that sin spawned a progressive evil among mankind. Early on, in response to the proliferation of wickedness, God destroyed all but eight people in a worldwide flood (Genesis 6). Sin has not abated as it continues to separate man from God. Since the days of Noah and his family and their repopulation of the earth, there have been few instances of collective obedience to God. Even among a people chosen of God to whom He would send His Messiah to save the world from sin's consequences, obedience was only sporadic, concluding initially with the rejection and crucifixion of God's anointed Savior, Jesus Christ.

All of that was known to God before the beginning of time, as well as what He would do for mankind in keeping with His unfathomable love for His created beings. His solution for reconciling man to Himself was first indicated after the fall in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3:15,21) and then foretold by the prophets throughout the Old Testament. God's Savior would become a man through a virgin birth. He would be the God-Man and a suffering Servant, whose sacrificial death would pay for the sins of mankind. His resurrection from the dead certified that the infinite penalty He suffered for a condemned humanity was acceptable in satisfying God's perfect justice.

In the Book of Acts, after commissioning His disciples to share with the world the good news of His salvation, we read of Christ's ascension from the Mount of Olives to heaven and of His future return to that same place (Acts 1:8-11). Both Old Testament and New Testament prophets tell us about significant events that will take place here on earth prior to the Lord's return—and afterward: the destruction of Jerusalem and the dispersion of the Jewish people (Deuteronomy 28:64; Leviticus 26:33); the re-gathering of the Jews to the land of Israel from their worldwide dispersion (Isaiah 11:11-12; 43:6; Ezekiel 20:33-38; 36:24) the return of Jesus for His bride, the church, and His catching believers up to Himself to take them to the wedding in heaven (John 14:1-3; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18); the seven years of the Great Tribulation, involving worldwide catastrophes that will follow the Rapture of the saints (Jeremiah 30:7; Matthew 24:21-22); the Antichrist's rise to dictatorial leader of the world (2 Thessalonians 2:3-4; Revelation 13); the pouring out of God's wrath upon the earth during the seven years of tribulation (Revelation 6-19); the nations of the world turning against Israel to destroy it (Joel 3:1-2,9-15; Ezekiel 38); the return of Jesus from heaven with His saints, and the destruction of those who have sought to annihilate Israel (Zechariah 12); Jesus' setting up of His throne in Jerusalem and ruling the earth from there for 1,000 years (Revelation 20; Isaiah 65:17-25), and the healing of the earth from the devastation that took place during the Great Tribulation (Isaiah 11:1-10; Ezekiel 47:1-12). At the close of the Millennial reign of Jesus. He will put down a worldwide rebellion led by Satan (Revelation 20:7-9). All those who have rebelled will be cast into the Lake of Fire (Revelation 19:20; 20:10, 14-15; 21:8). The heavens and the earth will dissolve, and God will form, in perfection, new heavens, a new earth, and a new Jerusalem for those who love Him, and where righteousness dwells (2 Peter 3:7,10-13).

Just as all the prophecies related to the first coming of Jesus were fulfilled in the smallest detail and with 100 percent accuracy, we can be absolutely sure that the biblical prophecies regarding the future will be just as accurate. Furthermore, they spell out spiritual and physical conditions that will take place. One thing that should be obvious from the prophetic scenario above: this world has a temporal purpose that is incredibly brief compared to eternity. To miss that is to lose sight of the fact that a believer is a "sojourner" here whose "[citizenship] is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ" (Philippians 3:20).

Our responsibility then, as Bereans (Acts 17:11), is to search the Scriptures and compare the movements, programs, agendas, and so forth, that are being promoted today in the world—and especially in Christendom—with what is foretold in God's Word. That will tell us what we may support and what we need to disregard—or even stand firmly against (Ephesians 5:11)

Certainly the world is all about solving its problems without the God of the Bible. Yet many professing Christians are rushing to remedy the world's troubles in ways that are without the support of Scripture, some even in contradiction to what the Scriptures teach. Rick Warren's global P.E.A.C.E. plan is one of many programs and teachings that, for the most part, cannot be reconciled with God's prophetic Word. It is Warren's "50-year plan" to cure global issues such as "pandemic diseases, extreme poverty, illiteracy, corruption, global warming, [and] spiritual emptiness" (see www.thebereancall.org). He claims that his social-works agenda developed from his reading of the Gospels—that Jesus gave him the model that was the antidote to the five biggest problems on the planet (see www.thebereancall.org). Warren subsequently expanded that model from an exclusive endeavor of Christianity to one requiring the support of *all* religions. The "P" in his P.E.A.C.E. plan originally stood for "Planting Churches" as the key antidote for curing the world's ills. Later, however, before a panel and audience of representatives of the world's religions, he changed the "P" from "Planting Churches" to "Promoting Reconciliation" (see www. thebereancall.org).

Warren announced unequivocally that the universal problems *cannot* be solved "without including people of faith and their religious institutions" [Ibid.]. He told his audience at the World Economic Forum at Davos, Switzerland (1/24/08) that the various houses of worship are needed for distribution centers of resources to help eradicate global problems. His shift, however, to an ecumenical program that includes Islamic mosques, Hindu temples, Jewish synagogues, and other religious establishments as participants in meeting social needs may impress the world. but it is contrary to what God says in His Word. The God of the Bible is an exclusive God: "I am the LORD, and there is none else, and there is no God beside me" (Isaiah 45:5). There is to be no participation with the purveyors of false gods. The Apostle Paul tells us we are not to be "unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? And what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? Or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?" (2 Corinthians 6:14-15).

Rick Warren's "ill-curing" ecumenical agenda is illogical as well as unbiblical. How can his game plan for remedying "spiritual emptiness" work with those who promote a false spirituality? Peter tells us, "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name [Jesus Christ] under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved" (Acts 4:12). Jesus himself declared, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (John 14:6). If there is no other true God but the God revealed in the Bible, and if salvation comes only through Jesus Christ—as the Scriptures declare—then all other gods and all other ways of salvation are false, with no hope for their followers. Yet Warren told his Davos religious audience that he was not concerned about their *motivation* in doing good, "as long as you do good." Tragically, he reinforced the very lie that keeps billions of religious people blinded to the truth and from turning to Jesus Christ: works salvation.

The influence of this fix-the-earth program is staggering. Warren's best-selling

Purpose Driven Life (30 million copiesplus sold worldwide) introduced his "50-year" global P.E.A.C.E Plan and has been translated into 52 languages. According to his website, more than 500,000 evangelical churches are partnering with him in his unbiblical ecumenical effort.

Although Warren's attempt to solve the world's problems is more than misguided, it's not the only prophecy-denying, earthbound enterprise that's gaining followers today. Rob Bell, in his book *Velvet Elvis*, reflects the "fix the earth" eschatology of nearly all Emerging Church leaders: "Salvation is the entire universe being brought back into harmony with its maker....But we can join a movement that is as wide and as big as the universe itself. Rocks and trees and birds and swamps and ecosystems....God's desire is to restore all of it....The goal isn't escaping this world but making this world the kind of place God can come to. And God is remaking us into the kind of people who can do this kind of work."

Brian McLaren, arguably the best-known emergent leader, has a low, if not distorted, view of biblical prophecy, as do most of his peers in the Emerging Church Movement. He regards the Book of Revelation as "literature of the oppressed" to inspire "each generation," rather than God's warning of future events and judgments to come upon mankind.

Those future events and judgments are clearly at odds with the agenda of solving the world's problems and turning it into a paradise. McLaren declares: "In this light, [that is, removing the prophetic aspect of the Book of Revelation Revelation becomes a powerful book about the kingdom of God here and now, available to all." He believes, as does Rick Warren (who also has a low view of prophecy), that it is necessary for all the religions of the world to work together for the greater good of society: "I think our future will also require us to join humbly and charitably with people of other faiths—Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist, Jewish, secularists, and others—in pursuit of peace. environmental stewardship, and justice for all people, things that matter greatly to the heart of God." That sentiment, although pleasing to the flesh, is far removed from the "heart of God" and His Word.

Restoring or preserving this planet as a rallying cause in the church has far exceeded the biblical principle of stewardship today and has become an *earthbound* mindset. Scripture is quite clear that any *abuse* of what God has provided for mankind is sin. Yet some are using the Bible erroneously to support their unbiblical agendas. Eugene Peterson, in his 10-million-bestselling *The Message* Bible, has no qualms about

distorting the Scriptures for "the cause." He translates John 3:17 to say that Jesus "came to help, to put the world right again," rather than "that the world through Him might be saved" (meaning the salvation of *souls*–KJV). He then promotes the ecological Green Movement by adding the adjective "green" to Romans 15:13: "Oh! May the God of green hope fill you up with joy...."

Marketing Bibles is big business today, and where there's a "cause," there's usually an attempt to come up with a Bible that implies that the agenda is supported in Scripture. The Green Bible is just one example. It is presented in conjunction with the Sierra Club, The Humane Society, and the National Council of Churches' Eco-Justice Program. It features an introduction by arch-heretic Archbishop Desmond Tutu and contributions by emergent leader Brian McLaren and theologian N. T. Wright, both of whom preach "redeeming the earth." Sales promotions claim that because the Bible mentions the earth twice as often as "heaven" and "love," it "carries a powerful message for the earth." That rationale is both delusionary and deceptive. The "powerful message" of the Bible is the "good news" of what God has accomplished to reconcile man to Himself that we might spend life everlasting with Him. This present earth plays a very minute part in God's eternal plan.

The next issue in this series addresses other promoters of the temporal delusion such as Shane Claiborne, Jim Wallis, and Glenn Beck, as well as *The Hole in Our Gospel*, a very popular book advancing the cause of the social gospel.

Sadly, increasing numbers of believers are attempting to secure their lifeboats to our *Titanic*-like earth for the purpose of redeeming it. Instead, our "agenda" needs to line up with the biblical mandate of evangelist and soul winner John Harper (see TBC Extra, p. 8). We are told that he was guided of the Lord to change his passage and sail a week later to America on the *Titanic*, knowing that that was where God wanted to use him. Remembered as "the true hero of the *Titanic*" and "God's minister to the perishing," he ran to and fro on the deck helping those in need, giving up his life jacket to another, and asking all that he encountered to turn to God for salvation through Jesus Christ. As the huge ship began to slip beneath the icy Atlantic waters, Harper leaped from the deck and began swimming toward everyone within sight, pleading with them to come to Christ.

There is no redemption for this earth—only for its people.

Lord, give us that same love for the perishing that You gave to Your servant John Harper, and, by Your grace, use us according to Your Word.

#### Quotable .....

Referring to the Parable of the Sower (Mt 8:4-15), John Nelson Darby wrote: "If, on hearing, I possess that which I hear, not merely have joy in receiving it, but possess it as my own, then it becomes a part of the substance of my soul, and I shall get more; for when the truth has become a substance in my soul, there is a capacity for receiving more."

Cited in *Believer's Bible Commentary*, William MacDonald

#### O&A

QUESTION: At a Bible study, the subject of who can understand the Bible came up. I said that a person who is born again and is depending on the Holy Spirit can understand it. My pastor said that we are too depraved and sinful to fully understand the Bible on our own and that we need a "consensus of teachers." He then said that anyone who thinks they can understand the Bible without this consensus of teachers is "Satanic and arrogant." I believe that teachers are important, but with all the false teaching going around, it is not only possible but necessary that we arrive at an understanding of the Bible independently of people, or how would we know who is a false teacher and who isn't? What about Psalm 119:98-100 and 1 Corinthians 2:14-16?

RESPONSE: We agree with you. The idea that we need a "consensus of teachers" sounds much like a Catholic Magisterium. Who are the chosen ones? Further, "consensus" is an agreement that may or may not be true. Moreover, how does one correct an authoritative magisterium?

In words applicable to all saints, Paul exhorts Timothy *the individual* to "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (2 Tm 2:15). Are we not all workmen?

In Scripture, the Lord exhorts to "...take heed to thyself, and keep thy soul diligently, lest thou forget the things which thine eyes have seen, and lest they depart from thy heart all the days of thy life: but teach them thy sons, and thy sons' sons" (Deut 4:9).

Second Timothy 3:16-17 is often rightly cited as evidence for the sufficiency of Scripture. We may sometimes forget that immediately preceding that portion is verse 15, which states that "...from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus." Paul is speaking of Timothy's familiarity with the Word of God.

Was this familiarity the result of exposure to a "consensus of teachers"? On the contrary, Paul wrote, "I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also" (2 Tm 1:5). According to Romans 10:17, "so then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."

It is true that the Lord has gifted individuals as teachers (Eph 4:11) "for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ" (v. 12). Yet in Acts 8:1, "there was a great persecution against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered abroad throughout the regions of Judaea and Samaria, except the apostles." These ordinary believers subsequently "went everywhere preaching the word" (Acts 8:4). Certainly these folks understood the Word of God!

Consider, in Acts 18, the case of Apollos (who was "mighty in the scriptures"). He was preaching the "things of the Lord," but he knew only the baptism of John (v. 25). He did not know that the Messiah had come, lived, bled and died on the Cross, been buried, and then raised again in power. Two disciples, Aquila and Priscilla, took him aside and "...expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly" (v. 26).

In conclusion, yes, there are those equipped to be teachers, but even teachers can go astray, regardless of any official consensus. Paul wrote that the saints were to "prove all things, hold fast that which is good" (1 Thes 5:21).

QUESTION: I do not recall your ever having addressed the subject of cremation. Is it unbiblical? Isn't it a heathen practice? Also, don't our bodies belong to the Lord?

**RESPONSE:** Everything we have and everything we are is the Lord's. There are a number of ideas on the subject of handling human remains. We'll comment on some of them, then give our position.

In Genesis 50:25, we see that Joseph wanted his bones kept specifically so that he might be buried in the Promised Land when God's people returned there (Ex 13:19, Josh 24:32). This wasn't intended as a requirement for everyone but as an assurance to the people that God would be faithful to release them from exile. According to the scriptures, Joseph commanded the embalming of his father, Jacob. Later, Joseph's body was also embalmed (Gn 50:26). For other examples of bones being left intact, see Jeremiah 8:1.

The "dust and ashes" as used in Genesis 18:27 is simply a figure of speech expressing Abraham's humility and reverence before the Lord. Job 30:19 similarly uses the term.

(Note: People in biblical times and lands would sometimes express their sorrow and mourning by throwing ashes over their heads. Or they might speak of being "on the ash heap." Neither of these has any implications concerning cremation or embalming.).

What we're trying to point out is that a word study of "bones" and "ashes" might be edifying but may not apply nearly as much as what seems far more important: understanding that *God will do what He says He will do*, which is to raise us in our glorified bodies at the last day. There is nothing in the Bible to indicate that regardless of how one dies (even if in an explosion or, as in Hebrews 11, sawn in half), the Lord would have any difficulty in resurrecting our bodies. "I am the LORD, the God of all flesh: is there any thing too hard for me?" (Jer 32:27).

Yes, pagans often dispose of bodies through burning. They also embalm (the Egyptians, for example) and surround the dead with great wealth. Today, there is a unique argument that "morticians make an idol of our bodies"! Any mortician (or mortician's client, for that matter) is accountable for his own spiritual condition. Whether someone else (pagan or otherwise) worships his own (or someone else's) body need not and should not apply to one's decision; it is the heart upon which the Lord looks.

"To dust we shall return" doesn't require or command that we do anything in order to reach that state. The Bible speaks of the body being sown a natural body and raised a spiritual one. We cannot oppose cremation on scriptural grounds; neither does the Bible recommend it. There may be some practical considerations, as, for example, bodies that were burned during the bubonic plague. Although there is plenty of scriptural precedent for embalming the body, there is not for cremation. Insofar as embalming is a practical consideration, we can also see that cremation may on occasion be a practical choice. In New Orleans, the water content of the soil does not allow the burial of coffins. and above-ground tombs are limited.

Let me encourage you to be at peace about the subject, since the Lord is far more concerned about what you do while you live in your body than after you leave your "earthly tent" to meet Him face to face.

QUESTION: To "repent" means to "change one's mind." Where do you or anyone get the idea that it means to "turn away" from sin? I realize that a lot of Bible experts teach that repentance means turning away, but shouldn't Christians go to the Bible themselves and not rely on what the "experts" tell them? I'm not interested in modern day retranslations of words. I believe that "repent" has

been redefined over the last 2,000 years, because changing your mind and believing the Gospel is all that is necessary for salvation. "Turning away from sin" is a work, and adds work to the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

RESPONSE: You are correct that the meaning of words is of paramount concern. It is also true that context and implication play a role in proper biblical interpretation. Paul wrote in Acts 20:21 of "Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ." This certainly implies a "turning" on our part.

When Jesus told the parable of "the prodigal son," He gave the following sequence of events. The prodigal son was brought to a teachable point in his life: "And when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger!" (Lk 15:17). He is in the process of changing his mind, but it is instructive that the change of mind is followed by this action: "I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee" (v. 18). Repentance begins in the mind and the heart, but it affects the course of our life.

Salvation clearly is by faith alone. With the prodigal son as an example, we can readily see that his "repentance" was accomplished with a change in his heart or mind. His repentance was *demonstrated*, however, when he purposed to "arise and go" to his father. His acceptance by his father prior to even uttering a single word of repentance is shown as "he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him" (Lk 15:20). He still "repented" before his father (v. 21), but he certainly wasn't working for his forgiveness.

Some attempt to create a conflict between Paul (Ti 3:5) and James and have James 2:14-26 saying "not by faith alone, but by works also." On the contrary, it says that works should follow faith. "...I will shew thee my faith by my works" (Jas 2:18). This agrees with Ephesians 2:10, "for we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus *unto good works*" (our emphasis). If we are truly saved by faith, there should be visible works showing that our repentance and consequently our salvation is real. Otherwise, "...faith without works is dead also" (Jas 2:26).

QUESTION: After Jesus was crucified, what happened to His body? The gospels claim that Jesus was buried in a tomb and on the third day ascended into heaven. I believe this is only partly true. Jesus was not buried in a tomb, but He did ascend into heaven. Biblical scholars agree that the gospels were written 35 to 70 years after the crucifixion of Jesus. Moreover, they assert, based on surviving manuscripts, that the gospels were written in Greek by educated Greeks, not by uneducated Jews. They also maintain that the authors didn't reside in the Holy Land. How do you explain this?

RESPONSE: In other words, you recognize that the Scriptures tell us that Jesus was buried in a tomb, but you do not believe what is written. In Mark 15:46, Joseph of Arimathea "...bought fine linen, and took him down, and wrapped him in the linen, and laid him in a sepulchre which was hewn out of a rock, and rolled a stone unto the door of the sepulchre."

We don't need to be intimidated by generalizations. Many skeptics strive to "late date" Scripture in order to get around very clear prophetic claims such as those in the book of Daniel. It sounds very authoritative to say "Bible scholars agree," yet this must be subject to careful examination.

In Matthew 24:2, Jesus said unto the disciples, "See ye not all these things? verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down." All through Matthew's gospel, the apostle recognizes the fulfillment of prophecy. Yet, if the gospels were written "35 to 70 years" after the crucifixion, why then is the fall of Jerusalem not mentioned in Matthew or any of the gospels?

In Acts 1, the learned physician Luke wrote to Theophilus, citing his earlier writing (the Gospel of Luke). Luke mentions his "former treatise...of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, until the day in which he was taken up, after that he through the Holy Ghost had given commandments unto the apostles whom he had chosen" (Acts 2:1-2). Again, although Acts was written after the events of the Gospel, there is still no mention of the fall of Jerusalem.

Acts records events that are dated by secular history, such as the appointment of the Procurator Festus (Acts 24:27), sometime between A.D. 55 and 59 (Mays, James Luther, Ph.D., Editor, *Harper's Bible Commentary*, Harper and Row Publishers, 1988, cited in Slick, "When were the gospels written and by whom?"). The book itself ends prior to Paul's death at the hand of Nero, which indicates that it was written no later than A.D. 63 (Robertson, A.T., *A Harmony of the Gospels*, Harper & Row, 1950, 255-56).

#### News Alert .....

Christianity Today, 9/24/10: To remain relevant, many evangelical pastors are

following the lead of hipster trendsetters. So what happens when "cool" meets Christ?

Here's a riddle: A young man walks into a building. From the outside, it looks like a nondescript, run-down, abandoned warehouse. Inside he finds mood lighting, music with throbbing bass, and young people wearing skinny jeans and superfluous scarves. A bar off to the side offers drinks of some sort, and a frenetically lit stage is shrouded in fog. Jumbo screens display what appear to be music videos. Everywhere people text on their iPhones.

A young woman with a nose ring and a vaguely Middle Eastern tattoo comes up and introduces herself. She makes awkward (but refreshingly earnest) small talk about her passion for community gardens and food co-ops. She asks him if he has heard Arcade Fire's new album, and compliments him on his bushy beard and lumberjack look. Beards like that are cool, she says. Eventually she asks him for his contact information.

Question: Is the man in a bar? Or is he in a church? It could go either way.

Welcome to the world of hipster Christianity. It's a world where things like the *Left Behind* book and film series, Jesus fish bumper stickers, and door-to-door evangelism are relevant only as a source of irony or nostalgia. It's a world where Braveheart youth-pastor analogies are anathema, where everyone agrees that they wish Pat Robertson "weren't one of us" and shares a collective distaste for the art of Thomas Kinkade.

The latest incarnation of a decades-long collision of "cool" and "Christianity," hipster Christianity is in large part a rebellion against the very subculture that birthed it. It's a rebellion against old-school evangelicalism and its fuddy-duddy legalism, apathy about the arts, and pitiful lack of concern for social justice. It's also a rebellion against George W. Bush-style Christianity: American flags in churches, the Ten Commandments in courtrooms, and evangelical leaders who get too involved in conservative politics, such as James Dobson and Jerry Falwell.

The new subculture of young evangelicals grew up on Contemporary Christian music (CCM), Focus on the Family's *Adventures in Odyssey*, flannel graphs, vacation Bible school, and hysteria about the end times. Now all of that is laughable to them, as they attempt to burn away the kitschy dross of the megachurch Christianity of their youth—with its emphasis on "soul-winning" at the expense of everything else—and trade it for something with real-world gravitas.

[TBC: Christianity Today is not merely observing and reporting this. It has for decades made its own contributions to this antichristianity development.]

#### Speaking Schedule

Feb 7-8 (TA) Fellowship of Bible Churches Men's Retreat

Mercersburg, PA (717) 597-8127

Apr 8-9 (TA) **Discerning the Times Bible Conf.** Saskatoon, SK (306) 384-9611

#### TBC Holiday Schedule

Our office will be closed the following days:

Nov 25-26 Dec 24 Jan 3

#### Letters .....

#### Dear Brothers Dave and T. A.,

I'll start out with the end of a verse, Esther 4:14: "...you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this." Maybe it's a little out of context, but we fully believe you both were saved and called into the Lord's service to minister to us suffering saints at the most crucial time in the history of Christianity.... Thanks to your ministry, bold and fresh and outspoken, we have "weapons" to thwart the enemy's attacks....Thank you so much for doing what you're doing.... G & DP (PA)

#### Dear Teacher in Christ,

Greetings...in the Holy Name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. I do thank you for the *TBC* newsletter of June 2010 on "Cosmos, Creator, and Human Destiny." [It] was more than educational and informative on the subject....We came to know about occultism in Christian movements...from what we learn in the...newsletter....Thank you...I am with you all in prayers. God bless you. RN (Kenya)

#### TBC.

Not enough space here to thank brothers Dave and Tom plus staff! Was once a Roman Catholic, now a born-again believer! Thanks be to God for His grace and mercy! The "TRUTH" never changes and He is faithful!...We have much to be thankful for and to share with a lost and dying world. The other day I stopped at a gas station and was looking around. There were police in there and [I] was wondering what was going on. The girl behind the counter asked if I was lost. I told her that I was saved! That opened up a great conversation and she wanted to take a gospel tract from me. Praise the Lord! God bless! WS (WI)

#### Dear Dave,

Thank you for the wonderful job that you do in producing the newsletter. I have learned so much from reading it over the years and look forward to each new issue.

I have been incarcerated for about 20 years now, and the Lord has been faithful in every way-always looking out for what is best for me. Recently I enrolled in a Christian pre-release program....Some of the curriculum is great and [is] really encouraging growth in all of us, while other parts are somewhat questionable, in my opinion....One of the books that seems to bother me is titled Celebrate Recovery *Inside*, a supposed Christ-centered recovery program based on the Beatitudes.... My problem is that it seems to embrace a lot of secular psychology....It is similar to the twelve steps of AA but only has eight steps....Wouldn't it be better to reflect on Christ and to grow in the grace and knowledge of Him than to spend the rest of your life working the steps of these programs? We are being told that recovery is a lifelong process. To me, getting to know Christ more through the Word and our day-to-day experience of walking in dependence upon Him...seems far more beneficial than doing these inventories of your whole life....CL (CO, prisoner)

#### Dave, T. A., and Staff,

I have read your newsletters and books for over 15 years. I am now purchasing this book [Cosmos, Creator, and Human Destiny] for myself as well as [for] my 17-year-old daughter who is heading off to college next year and wants to be prepared for the onslaught of ungodly teaching that she will endure in her "education." Thank you for the time and effort you put into this ministry. God has used it to bless my family. CO (TX)

#### Hello!

I would like to send a thank-you message to Dave Hunt for writing *What Love Is This?* I cannot express how relieved I am to have found this book, and I would love to be able to tell Mr. Hunt how much I appreciate it. CF (email)

#### Dear Tom,

I am shocked by your "Christianity Today's Anti-Christianity" article [8/10]. The selections you quoted from Mark Galli are horrendous and revolting. It is virtually impossible to believe this garbage is featured in Christianity Today and written by the magazine's senior managing editor. To refer to a perfect, righteous, and holy God as "the crazy uncle in the family" [that] you'd like to "avoid having to introduce' is absolutely unacceptable and deplorable. Galli likens God to an insane person and repeatedly disparages Him throughout the article. Christianity Today should fire Galli and ask for forgiveness from the Lord for their waywardness. JP (email)

#### Dear Dave.

I praise God every time I think of you. Thank you for your loyalty to God's call on your life and your example of true Christian love. You are indeed equipping the body for what is to come and your work must make God smile! God bless you and Berean Call. BR (AZ)

#### Dear Mr. Hunt and Contributors,

I ordered a book through Amazon. This apparently came through The Berean Call. I have been receiving your newsletter ever since. Serendipity for me! I have moved often, across several states, and your newsletter always finds me. I love how you address modern Christian movements with sound scriptural doctrine. I save and file these for reference. I am grateful that I get this newsletter! TS (email)

#### Dear Dave & Tom,

I really appreciate your publishing those occasional extras by Mark Dinsmore. He is right on target in his view of the Christian Patriot movement. No other movement in Christian America is gaining so much ground so fast among conservative Christians as that one, and Dinsmore's critique, while perfectly scriptural, is rarely heard. I really appreciate your willingness to publish those views that are so poorly represented elsewhere. You can find other articles that say what Dinsmore is saying if you search for them on line, but few people are searching for them. Your putting them in your monthly print publication will introduce many such to a perspective on this modern-day zealot movement that they will not find elsewhere. SB (MI)

#### TBC Notes

#### **Upcoming Conference**

Thank you to all who visited us in Bend last summer. The 2010 conference was such a blessing that we hope to hold another one in 2011!

We will not be able to announce specifics until early next year, but the tentative dates are August 12 and 13. Please don't make travel arrangements until we confirm the location.

We covet your prayers as we work out the details.

T. A. McMahon
Executive Director

The Berean Call is a nonprofit 501 [c] [3], tax-exempt corporation registered in the State of Oregon. It is overseen by an independent board which has full and final authority over all corporate assets, personnel, and affairs. (11/10)

## WUNLIKELY HERO

— by Paul Wilkinson —

ohn Harper [a Baptist pastor from Glasgow, Scotland] had...spent three months ministering at Moody Church in Chicago, during which time the church had experienced "one of the most wonderful revivals in its history." He had not been back in Britain long, however, when

he was asked to return and continue his ministry. Harper quickly made arrangements for himself and his six-year-old daughter, Nana, to travel back to America on board the *Lusitania* but decided to delay their departure for one week so that they could sail on a new ship which was about to make its maiden voyage—the *Titanic*.

The *Titanic* struck an iceberg at 11:40 pm on April 14, 1912. As the call was issued for passengers to vacate their cabins, Harper wrapped his daughter in a blanket, told her that she would see him again one day, and passed her to one of the crewmen. After watching her safely board one of the lifeboats, he removed his life-jacket and gave it to one of the other passengers. One survivor distinctly remembered hearing him shout, "Women, children, and the unsaved into the lifeboats!" Harper then ran along the decks pleading with people to turn to Christ, and, with the ship sinking, he called upon the *Titanic*'s orchestra to play, "Nearer, My God, to Thee." Gathering people around him on deck, he then knelt down, and "with holy joy in his face," raised his arms in prayer. As the ship began to lurch, he jumped into the icy waters and swam frantically to all he could reach, beseeching them to turn to the Lord Jesus and be saved. Finally, as hypothermia set in, John Harper sank beneath the waters and passed into the Lord's presence. He was 39.

Four years later, a young Scotsman by the name of Aguilla Webb stood up in a meeting in Hamilton, Canada, and gave the following testimony:

I am a survivor of the *Titanic*. When I was drifting alone on a spar that awful night, the tide brought Mr. John Harper of Glasgow, also on a piece of the

wreck, near me. "Man," he said, "are you saved?"

"No," I said, "I am not." He replied, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved." The waves bore him away; but, strange to say, brought him back a little later, and he said, "Are you saved now?" "No," I said, "I cannot honestly say that I am." He said again, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved," and shortly after, he went down; and there, alone in the night, and with two miles of water under me, I believed. I am John Harper's last convert.

In a tribute to Harper, which was published in 1912 under the heading, "The Three Themes of a Hero," William Andrew of Glasgow noted that the three themes of John Harper's preaching had been "the Cross of Christ, God's marvelous grace to man, and the soon coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."

- 1. George Harper, "My Brother As I Knew Him," in Moody Adams, *The Titanic's Last Hero* (Belfast: Ambassador, 1998), 55, cited in Wilkinson, "You Shall Be My Witnesses."
- 2. See, for example, "A True Story from the *Titanic*," http://www.corkfpc.com/14.html, cited in Wilkinson.

#### ALSO FROM PAUL WILKINSON:

Though unrelated to the Titanic account above, we are pleased to offer and recommend Paul Wilkinson's excellent book, For Zion's Sake.

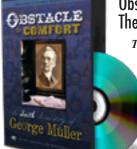


#### For Zion's Sake

*Wilkinson*—Christian Zionism has been described by Hamas as "the greatest danger to world truth, justice, and peace," and by the church as "a powerful force" that "fuels the Arab-Israeli conflict." How sustainable are these charges, and is there a case to answer? By locating Christian Zionism firmly within the evangelical tradition, Paul Wilkinson takes issue with those who have portrayed it as a "totally unbiblical menace" and as the "road map to Armageddon." Charting in detail its origins and historical development, he argues that Christian Zionism lays the biblical foundation for Israel's restoration and the return of Christ. Paternoster, 308 pp.

**B00696** (Retail \$40.00) wt 1.2 **\$35.00** 

## OBSTACLE TO COMFORT DVD with FREE Müller autobiography



#### Obstacle to Comfort: The Faith Ministry of George Müller

The Berean Call—George Müller became a legend in his own generation. He was the builder of schools, a supporter of missions, and a father to some 10,000 orphans. The amazing issue of his life does not lie in what he did but in how he accomplished it: by faithrefusing to tell anyone of his needs, mentioning them only to God in private, on his knees. In reviewing the 63 years he spent in a faith ministry, the results are staggering. The schools collectively had 121,683

students. The orphanage had five mammoth buildings. He accommodated the needs of 10,000 orphans. It is believed that 2,813 orphans left the institution as believers, and they in turn led thousands more to Christ. 55 min.



#### The Autobiography of George Müller

Müller—These excerpts from his diary allow Müller to tell his own story. Join him on his journey from a life of sin and rebellion to his glorious conversion. Share his struggles and triumphs as he establishes orphan homes to care for thousands of English children, depending upon God's response to his prayer

of faith to supply all things. Whitaker House, 238 pp.

B81595

(\$8.99 retail) wt .3 \$7.50

\*Autobiography of George Müller FREE — WITH PURCHASE OF Obstacle to Comfort DVD!

## BIOGRAPHIES AND TESTIMONIES OF FAITH



#### Three of Ching's Mighty Men

Lvall-There are many heroes in the Chinese church, but three men stood out in the 20th century: Wang Ming-Dao,

Nee Duo-Sheng (Watchman Nee), and Yang Shao-Tang (David Yang). Leslie Lyall knew all three as friends. He writes about their different personalities, analyzes the effect they had on the church, and compares their views in some key areas. Their stories are inspiring, terrifying, thought provoking, joyous, and an encouragement to us all. Christian Focus, 160 pp.

B24930 wt.3 \$7.00



#### Robert Chapman Biography

Peterson-Robert Chapman was one of the most respected Christians of his generation. His car-

ing and humble attitude had a marked impact on the lives of such men as George Müller, J. Hudson Taylor, John Nelson Darby, and Charles Spurgeon. These notable men agreed that Chapman was a giant among them. Known for his great love, wisdom, and compassion, he is an excellent role model for all who wish to be servants in God's church. Hardback, Lewis & Roth, 210 pp.

B97915

\$13.00 wt.6



#### Amy Carmichael of Dohnavur

Houghton—Early in her life, Amy Carmichael was called to the Lord's work. After extensive mission work in her

native Northern Ireland, Amy set off to distant shores, ending up in India, where she fulfilled her lifework and was used by God in marvelous ways, rescuing many young girls from temple prostitution and preaching the gospel to the natives. Her life is a model of selfless dedication to the Savior, a life of discipleship and abandonment. She lived for one reason, and that was to make God's love known to those trapped in utter darkness. Christian Literature Crusade, 434 pp.

B80847

wt 1.0 \$14.00



#### The British Josiah

Wovchuk-The remarkable story of King Edward VI, the young prince who became king when he was only nine

years old. He was soon known among the people of the nation as "The British Josiah" not only because of his age (like the biblical king Josiah, who became king at age 8) but also because of his desire to seek after the Lord while still very young. SMF Press, 208 pp.

B00455 \$12.00 wt.9



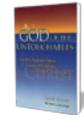
#### Here I Stand

Roland—"We highly recommend this excellent biography of the monk who triggered the Protestant Reformation. Although Berean Call read-

ers will readily recognize instances where Luther strayed, the book runs the gamut of Luther's fearless crusade against the corruption of the Roman Church and his stand for the sole authority of the Scriptures." -Dave and Ruth Hunt. Meridian, 336 pp.

B11465

\$14.00



#### God of the Untouchables

Hunt-Dave Hunt tells the poignantly human, true story of a young Hindu raised in the heart of India, who found the Salvation that all

men seek! A brilliant student, Paul Gupta failed in school. A devoted son, he stole from his father. A devout Hindu, named for a god, he succumbed to debauchery. And now, here he was, enrolled at the Bible Institute of Los Angeles! Where was the God of the Untouchables leading him? God of the Untouchables proof that Jesus Christ is still the only answer to the world's problems. Straight Street Publishing, 140 pp.

\$9.00

B01279 wt.7

#### William Tyndale: A **Biography**

Daniell—This major biography traces the dramatic life of William Tyndale, the

first person to translate the Bible into English from the original Greek and Hebrew, and discusses the profound religious, literary, intellectual, and social implications of his immense achievement. Tyndale's Bible formed the basis of all English Bibles and made significant and lasting contributions to the English language. Yale University Press, 430 pp.

B08808

wt .9 \$18.00



#### By Searching

**Kuhn** — I s o b e l Miller gave up God for worldly pursuits, but as graduation approached and her wedding engagement was broken,

she questioned her decision. "If You will prove to me that You are, and if You will give me peace, I will give You my whole life." God heard Isobel's prayers and responded. He reached out to her, ending years of searching, and He equipped her for decades of fruitful missionary service with her husband, John Kuhn, in China. Moody Press, 160 pp.

B00536

wt.2 \$6.00

## NEW! CHOICE GLEANINGS wall or desk calendar

2011 Daily devotional calendar - with KJV scripture quotations and inspirational quotes from people like John Bunyan, Isaac Watts, S. Townend, and more!



Gospel Folio Press—With the uncertainties of the future as we enter another new year, it's nice to know there is a "lighthouse" to guide us through the stormy seas of life. Contributors to this beloved devotional calendar have prayerfully submitted their thoughts on God's Word, providing light to our pathway and comfort and guidance for each day. Choice Gleanings (originally named The Remembrancer) has been bringing inspiration and encouragement to Christians since 1940! Now available as a wall calendar or spiral bound for use on a desk, table, or windowsill.

**7** CA01

Wall-style Calender - 365 Days (Retail \$9.99) wt 1.0

\$9.75

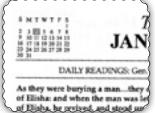
2 CA02

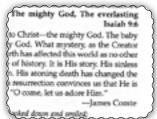
Desk-style Calender - 365 Days (Retail \$9.99)

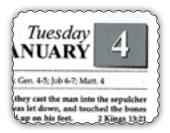
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\$9.75

NOTE: Calendar images differ slightly from actual product. Inside details (shown right) have been reduced in size.







## New! Choice Gleanings ~ Daily Planner or Journal



## Choice Gleanings 2011 Daily Devotional Pocket Planner

Gospel Folio—Now the Choice Gleanings Devotional Calendar is also available as a convenient pocket planner! Contains the same devotions as the desk and wall calendar, but is small enough to fit into your purse or pocket! Features include:

- MONTH AT A GLANCE
- Daily readings
- PAGE PER DAY
- Inspiring Devotional
- Appointment & to do list
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- Dimensions: 4.0 x 7.0 in.

CA04

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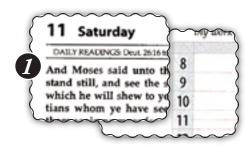
wt .5 **\$9.75** 

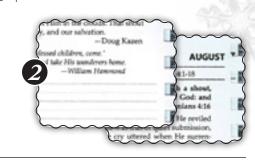
# Choice Gleanings 2011 Daily Devotional Journal Gospel Folio—Enjoy Choice a year-long journal! Along w to take you through the Bible

Gospel Folio—Enjoy Choice Gleanings as a year-long journal! Along with daily verses to take you through the Bible in a year, you will gain insight and comfort from the devotional messages. Ample space is included to record your notes and prayers every day of the week! Features include:

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- Daily readings
- Inspiring devotional
- APPOINTMENT & TO DO LIST
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- Dimensions: 8.5 x 6.0 in.

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NOTE: Choice Gleanings images

## KING JAMES BIBLES Loose-Leaf, Giant Print, and MP3 Audio!



actual size sample text

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B99700 \$60.00

## CHAPTER 3 was heal NOW Peter and John went up all the p together into the temple at them in



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Thomas Nelson—One of the bestselling Bibles from Thomas Nelson, this edition features compact styling with easy-to-read type, helpful references, and many more features. Available in black bonded leather, the Personal Size Giant Print Reference Edition is popular with those who want to reduce eyestrain when reading. 1,960 pp.

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BT007 (1 MP3 disc • Retail \$24.95) wt 0.4 \$20.00

## BIBLE STUDY GIFT PACK includes FREE DVD!



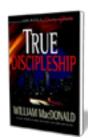
#### One Day at a Time

MacDonald—These invigorating meditations on the Scriptures from the crisp, Christ-exalting writings of William MacDonald are not intended to replace the daily reading of the Word, but to stimulate your think-

ing in Scripture, and, by God's grace, to help you apply the truth to your daily walk. Gospel Folio Press, 384 pages.

B00490

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#### True Discipleship

MacDonald—"Those who are constrained by the love of Christ...will do because of love to Him what they would never do for worldly gain. They will not count their lives dear unto themselves. They will spend and

\$11.00

be spent if only men might not perish for want of the gospel....When men go forth aflame with devotion to Christ, no power on earth can stop the onward sweep of the gospel"—William MacDonald. Gospel Folio Press, 204 pages.

**B96508** wt .6



## FREE! How to Study Your Bible\*

MacDonald—This TBC exclusive packs three powerful presentations onto two DVDs to create a truly remarkable set. A proven

Bible expositor and prolific author, MacDonald takes viewers through the Scriptures, all the while pointing them toward Jesus. (Remastered from VHS; quality will vary). DVD includes: How to Study Your Bible (46 min.), The Song of Solomon (46 min.), and Heaven's Cure for Troubled Hearts (50 min.). 2 DVDs.

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#### Believer's Bible Commentary

*MacDonald*—An invaluable, easy-to-use resource for students of Scripture! Rich, practical exposition of both the Old and New Testaments in one hardbound volume, written from a soundly conservative viewpoint. Combines profound spiritual insights and relevant practical application. Verse-by-verse explanation of the Bible—one of the best investments you can make in your study of the Word of God. Hardcover, Thomas Nelson, 2,492 pp.

B19728 wt 5.0 \$29.00

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## NEW! CARL KERBY RESOURCES Books and DVDs



CARL KERBY is one of the founding board members of Answers in Genesis and now one of its speakers and writers on the topic of Genesis. Carl says that the Answers in Genesis ministry "is not just about creation/evolution. It is all about being able to trust God and His Word without reservation."



#### War of the Worldviews

Kerby et al.—What do aliens, dinosaurs, and gay marriages have in common? They are all part of the culture war—a war between two worldviews. One view is based on a biblical understanding of history,

the other on pure naturalism. Our educational institutions and the media are on the front-lines of evolutionizing our culture. From Biology 101 to World History, from *The Learning Channel* to *SpongeBob*, subtle and not-so-subtle evolutionary messages bombard us. In this powerful book, you will find ammunition for the war: answers to some of the most common arguments for evolution, analyses of Christian compromise positions, and a call for a return to true biblical authority. Master Books, 184 pp. Retail \$12.99

**B00470** wt .7 **\$12.50** 



#### The Bottom Strip—DVD

Kerby—Carl Kerby draws audiences to the issues of the heart unlike any other AiG speaker! In this life-changing DVD that relates stories from his colorful past, the former air traffic control-

ler explains the importance of following the "bottom strip" if you are to succeed in living a life of purpose and honor to the Creator. You don't have to be a "professional" Christian to be effective in your service to God. You only have to concentrate on the next step...the "bottom strip"! Answers in Genesis, DVD, 49 min. Ages 12 & up. Retail \$12.99

DVD196

wt .2 **\$12.50** 

\$15.00

## What Is the Best Evidence That God Created?—DVD

Kerby—The most popular talk by one of AiG's most popular speakers! Audiences nationwide have been thrilled with this colorful, eye-catching presentation on

some of the most astounding evidences of God's handiwork. Answers in Genesis, DVD, 45 min. Ages 12 & up. Retail \$12.99

**DVD197** 

wt .2 \$12.50



#### **Absotively Posilutely**

Kerby—Designed for children ages 8 to 14 and written in an entertaining style, the book tells the story of a search for answers by students in a Sunday School class. They

learn that the best evidence isn't always what can be seen—and that the answer was there in front of them all along! Full-color. Master Books, 24 pp. Ages 8-14. Retail \$13.99

**B04948** wt .9 **\$13.00** 



#### Racism—DVD

Kerby—Carl Kerby masterfully reveals why racism continues to infect our culture. Kerby shows scores of rare images and statistics that reveal that once we understand the

Bible's historical teaching on "races" and the basics of the science behind the differences, we can easily change the way we think about people. Answers in Genesis, DVD, 54 min. Ages 12 & up. Retail \$12.99

**DVD198** 

wt .2 \$12.50

\$14.00

# EMOTE CONTROL

#### Remote Control

Kerby—How many of us understand the pervasiveness of the evolutionary philosophy that runs through movies, television, and books? Popular AiG speaker Carl Kerby has researched the impact of evolution on entertain-

ment for more than a decade and challenges audiences everywhere to understand and guard against the faith-challenging messages that permeate today's entertainment. Children and teens are fascinated by the examples that Kerby illustrates. Also excellent for youth pastors, the parents of your children's friends, grandparents, and others. Master Books, 126 pp. Ages 12 & up. Retail \$9.99

B04917

wt .3 **\$9.00** 



#### Carl Kerby -TBC 2010 Conference

Kerby—Filmed live at the 2010 TBC Conference in Bend, Oregon, Carl delivers two power-packed presentations: "How to Keep Teens

from Leaving the Church," and "God Said." Retail \$15.99

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to explore this fascinating subject in-depth. Master Books, 160 pp.



#### Flood by Design

**Oard**—A thorough and educational exploration of the Genesis flood's effect on the earth's surface from *Frozen in Time* author, Mike Oard. Discover if there

really was a flood on the scale described in the Bible. Master Books, 130 pp.

B05235 wt 1.0 \$14.00

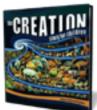
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## DAVE HUNT'S "TO RUSSIA WITH LOVE"

Exclusive TBC documentary of Dave's 2006 trip to Russia

#### Dave Hunt's "To Russia With Love" — Exclusive DVD

*The Berean Call*—In 2006, Dave traveled 180 kilometers north of Moscow to Vladimir, Russia, to speak to a gathering of pastors and young men and women who desired to minister throughout that area of the country. He was accompanied on this mission trip and assisted by

TBC's executive director, T. A. McMahon, who brought along a video camera to record the event. This video documentary provides glimpses (some of them quite humorous) into what Dave experiences when he ministers around the world. The central message he gives, titled *At What Cost the Bride?*, will touch your heart. Dave underscores the overwhelming love of God, reflected in Christ's payment for the sins of mankind. T. A. McMahon notes: "I have listened to most of Dave's messages over the last three decades and I can't think of one that is more

powerful or more perceptive in revealing God's heart for those whom He has created. It's not just about what redemption cost Jesus but also what it cost His Father. Dave gives us a wonderful insight into that 'unfathomable love' which the believer will be pondering and enjoying for eternity." A sneak preview of this production at TBC's 2010 conference last July drew much praise. We're pleased to announce that the finished DVD is now available—and it's one you'll want to view and share again and again. For a limited time, get a FREE copy of the exciting, true-story account, *To Russia With Love* (see right), with each DVD purchased. Get 2 or more DVD-book packs for just \$16 each!

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